

# Prepare to Meet Thy God



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**Exodus 19:1-25**

If we were to give this a title this morning it would be, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." Israel is getting ready to meet their God. Wow!

## **Scripture:**

**Exodus 19:1-6 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."**

Many of us realize that Memorial Day Weekend is not only the weekend we pause to remember those who have laid their lives down for many people, but it is also the start of summer. It is the start of traveling season and as we can see this morning, we have a lot of folks gone this morning. Inevitably, when you are traveling, if you are going very far at all,

somebody in the group will ask that famous question- "are we there yet?" Well, if you listened to the scripture reading this morning, if you followed along with the daily devotions, you know that Israel has been traveling almost three months since they came out of Egypt. They have been through the wilderness. It is the third new moon and finally, when the children of Israel say to Moses... are we there yet? ... Moses can say... yep, we are here!

Now, I know that we have all been programmed to think that the exodus event is about getting Israel out of Egypt so that ultimately they can get to the land of promise. But the book of Exodus is not about God getting Israel out of Egypt so that he can ultimately get them to the land of Canaan. The book of Exodus is about God getting them out of Egypt so he can ultimately get them to Mount Sinai. Before God takes them into the land of promise in the book of Joshua, he must first get them to Mount Sinai. Before he can get them to Mount Sinai, he must get them through the wilderness. But before he can get them through the wilderness, he must get them out of Egypt and he has. They are out of Egypt. They are through the wilderness. And they finally arrive at Mount Sinai.

Now, get this picture. Moses gets out of the bus, probably off the camel, he is checking in with God on the mountain, and the children of Israel unload their campers and they set up camp. Now, remember back earlier when the children of Israel camped at Rephidim, the Bible just says they camped. Now, the Bible says two times they don't camp; they are encamped. It is an intensive word. See, once they check in with God at Mount Sinai, after this three-month travel through the wilderness, if we look ahead to Numbers chapter 10, verse 11, the Bible is actually going to teach that they are going to be at Mount Sinai almost 11 months. Wow! So, they are unpacking, they are setting up camp, and Moses goes up on the mountain. Now, inevitably, here is going to be the question... *Moses, where is God? We have not seen God yet!* What we are going to see in this passage, Exodus chapter 19, is going to actually take place over 3 days. From the time they check in at the mountain, on the third day, they will meet God. So, the big story of Exodus chapter 19 is going to be about

Israel preparing to meet their God. And what we are going to discover is they are closer than they have ever been and yet, once they meet God, they are going to understand they are still far, far, far away from him in the book of Exodus.

Now, if I was to divide this chapter and teach it to you, which I have the responsibility to do this morning, I think it divides this way: verses 1-6, then verses 7-15, and then verses 16-25. Now, if you like to take notes and you keep an outline of these studies, here is what I believe verses 1-6 of Exodus chapter 19 is teaching us- it is teaching us about God's covenant. Once we walk through the first 6 verses and we leave the first 6 verses, we will hopefully know a little more about God's covenant than we knew before we came today. But once we start verses 7-15 it is going to be about Israel's response to the covenant. Then, once we have covered that, we are going to close out the message by looking at verses 16-25 and there we are actually going to see the arrival of God. Israel is going to meet their God and it is going to be awesome!

Is everybody ready? Moses checks in and when he checks in with God on Mount Sinai, God immediately tells Moses he has got a message for the house of Jacob and the people of Israel. Please note this. Do you remember that time in Jacob's life when God changed his name from Jacob to Israel? In the preamble to this covenant, for some reason, God introduces himself to Moses and reminds Moses that he is to speak to the house of Israel, but he also calls them the people of Israel, so he uses both names. The first thing that he does is remind Moses that the children of Israel, when he speaks to them, remind them that they have seen what he did to the Egyptians, they have experienced how he brought them through the wilderness on the wings of eagles, and how he brought them to himself. So, here is the picture of Exodus chapter 19- God has brought them out of Egypt, he has brought them through the wilderness, and they are now where he is on Mount Sinai.

Now, if you will remember when God revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush, he told Moses that the way he would know God had spoken

to him was one day God would bring him back to this very spot, Mount Sinai, and he would meet God on the mountain. Can you imagine what is going through Moses's heart, what is going through Moses's mind as he is now standing back on the very mountain where he used to graze his sheep and goats for his father-in-law? And somewhere in this region, God appeared to him in the burning bush. Now God is telling him to go speak these words to the children of Israel...*Remind them what I did to the Egyptians!* Now, we remember what God did to the Egyptians, right? He took on their Gods. Do you remember Kory's message about how each one of those plagues was a personal defeating of a god by Israel's God? If you remember, when the life of the firstborn was taken, the Egyptians were so glad for the Israelites to leave that they actually gave them their property. They gave them their wealth. They gave them of their livestock. They gave them of their gold, silver, and garments. So, they literally plundered the Egyptians. Then, to ultimately set them free of their past, to ultimately get them out of bondage, God drowned all of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. They personally experienced that. God brought them out of Egypt. But then he said, "I bore you on eagles' wings." Now, I don't know about you, but I think if we asked Israel, I don't think Israel quite saw it that way. Amen? I don't know about you, but if I were riding with God from Egypt through the wilderness on the wing of an eagle, it would be a first-class ticket! I would be in first class service! Amen? I would not be griping. I would not be complaining. I would not be talking about the flight or complaining about the food or lack of water. If I were riding on the wing of an eagle, whoa, I would be taking in all of the sights! Amen?

Do you remember that J.R. Tolkien movie, The Hobbit? All of a sudden, there is the hobbit and the dwarfs. All of a sudden, someone says. "THE EAGLES, THE EAGLES, THE EAGLES ARE COMING!" The eagles sweep in and take all of those little fellers on the back of their wings. That is the wilderness journey from God's perspective and Israel complained and griped the whole journey. Yet, God said he had them on the wing of an eagle. What is God trying to teach here? Please hear me, if you are new to the faith and you have just come out of a life of sin, that is your Egypt. Please don't ever picture in the Old Testament, Canaan as Heaven. No,

Canaan is ultimately God getting you to a place of full maturity in him where you are using your spiritual giftedness through the local church with a kingdom vision. You are being used of God in full service and full maturity. But please note, before you ever get to the land of Canaan, once you come out of sin, God has to get sin out of you and he has designed a wilderness journey for you. That wilderness journey is trying to teach you how to walk with him. Or, if I can use the words of this scripture, God is trying to teach you how to fly with him. Amen?

See, the picture here is of the mighty eagle, the symbol of America. My family is so fortunate we get to farm on the north end of LBL. Many times when we are farming the eagles have laid their eggs, the birds have hatched, and we get to see them in nests with their heads peering out and the eagles feeding them. It takes a while, but they finally get large enough to where the eagle actually forces them out of the nest. You know what happens in nature, right? Many times when that eagle forces her eaglets out and they first spread those wings, it doesn't go very well; they start spiraling down. And as they spiral down those parents will come underneath them and swoop them up on their wings and either soften their landing or bring them back to the nest. Did you know that? That is what this is a reference to. It is a reference to the work of the mighty eagle for her young. Get this picture. When you first come to know Christ and you start walking with God, you don't know much about it. You stumble, you fall, and you trip. But please know that God has always been there for you to break your fall. For most of us, we would have never learned to walk with God if he had not nudged us out of the nest. Amen? We would have wanted to stay in that moment where we crossed the Red Sea, we realized we had been set free from sin, and we had been focused on Heaven. But no, God has a plan! And his plan of a wilderness route for us is to teach us how to fly with him, or as we call it, walk with him.

We have been so blessed at our house. We have 4 grandchildren now and from time to time we have all 4 of them at the house. When we do get little Evie Kate she still has to be packed. Garnett, he is old enough now

that he runs across the yard and runs out to the barn, but occasionally he still trips and falls. When we are going to the barn I can still hear Garnett saying, "Papaw! Papaw! Wait for me! Wait for me!" At the same time Garnett is saying "wait for me", I am having to scream to Crider and Fin, "boys, wait for us! Wait for us!" See, Crider and Fin no longer have to be packed. They are no longer having to learn how to walk. Crider and Fin know how to fully run and once they know where we are going, they are full steam ahead, ahead of Memish and Papaw. Garnett and Evie are still young enough that they need extra care, and that is the picture here of God with you. He bore Israel on eagles' wings. Can I just say this? Quit complaining about the food! Quit complaining about your drink! Quit complaining about the enemy that you face. God has you on his wings and he has designed your journey to break your dependence on what you learned when you were in sin to now fully learn to depend and trust in him and walk with him. Wow!

We have a bird at home that has made a nest on our door because Ms. Celisa has a wreath. And the last few years, this bird has been making a nest and 2 little birds have just recently hatched. Yesterday Memish would not let me pressure wash the front porch; I had to hand wash it so that we didn't disturb the baby birds. Now, we have one of those front doors that has glass. So, you have to understand that wreath and where she made the nest is right on the glass. So, from the inside we are eye level with that nest. We have a little stool for the boys when they come over to stand and look at the nest. Yesterday those 2 little birds had their mouths open every time they saw us. It is amazing when you are looking from the inside out at the nest. There are worms, insects, and all kinds of things all over the nest where momma has brought them for those birds. Pretty soon though those birds will be gone and that is what God is doing with you. That is what God is doing with me. Why? Because he has a plan for our lives. God said I brought you to myself. Did everybody hear that? *I got you out, I got you through, and I brought you to me.*

See, the picture of Exodus is not about getting to the land of Canaan. The picture of Exodus is getting to Mount Sinai. Why? Please don't miss this!

Before God ever wanted Israel to get to Canaan, he wanted to bring them to Sinai because he wanted them to know how to live once they got in the land. But they would not learn how to live until they got to Sinai. So, this 11-month mountain experience, where they are going to receive the law and build a tabernacle is not about learning how to walk with God. Israel should have already learned how to walk with God. What is going to happen at Mount Sinai is they are going to learn how to live **FOR** God. Did you catch that? In the book of Exodus, the wilderness journey is about learning how to walk with God, but when we actually come to Mount Sinai and we camp out for 11 months, when we spend 9 weeks this summer studying the 10 commandments, we are learning that God wanted them to be there before they got there so that when they got there they would know how to live. But they would not know how to live until they got here. That is what God is doing in your life if you are a new believer. He is getting you through to get you to the mountain where you can check in with him, you can camp out with him, and learn how to live for him once you get in the land. Is that cool or is that cool?

So, do you know what he does? He gives them a covenant. He makes a covenant with them. In the Hebrew, he actually cuts a cutting because that is what the word covenant means. It means, "to cut." Now, if you have studied your Old Testament, you will know that we already have a covenant and this whole story is about God fulfilling a promise to a man named Abraham because he made a promise to him, made a covenant with him, an unconditional covenant that from his loins would come a seed who would bless all the families of the Earth. The sign of that covenant would be that his descendants would be in Egypt for 400+ years, but they would come into the land of promise. Now God has them at Sinai, getting ready to get them ready for the land of promise and now we have a second covenant. It is called the Mosaic covenant. It is not Moses' covenant, that is just what we call it, it is God's covenant that he gives to Israel through Moses. But you will notice that the nature of this covenant is different than the first covenant. The first covenant was unconditional- it was not based on anything that Abraham did, it was based on God and God's faithfulness to Abraham. This covenant is not unconditional; it is

conditional. Obedience is required in this covenant. God actually says to Israel in verse 5, "if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

In this covenant that God made with Israel, he gives them his plan for them. And what was his plan? It was for them to be his treasured possession. This word "treasured" was a word that was used of kings and what was most precious to them. It was their most valuable assets, so to speak. Later on in the Old Testament, the Bible is going to use this very word to talk about King David and how he wants to build a house for God, but he knows he is not going to get to build a house for God. His son is going to get to build the house and he wants to give so he gives his most prized possessions. He goes into his vault as a king and pulls out his most precious gold and his most precious silver. Please hear this. Israel is now going to enter into a relationship with God where Israel will be, out of all of the nations on the planet, God's treasured possession. See, God is going to have an intimate love for them that is going to differentiate them from all of the other nations. But he reminds Israel that all the earth is his. So, God's plan in electing Israel unto himself is so that ultimately he can use them among all the people groups of the planet because from them he is going to bring forth the birth of a Messiah. And when the Messiah comes, he is going to bring salvation to all the nations of the earth.

God chose Israel. I read a man who actually wrote in a book, "how odd of God to choose the Jews." I would hate to have in print "how odd of God to choose the Jews" and me stand before God on the day of judgement and God say to me...*why did you write that down?* Can you imagine someone questioning God's choice of Israel? How odd of God to choose the Jews. No, it was not odd at all. See, God's choice of Israel was not based on anything in Israel. God's choice of Israel was not based on anything in them, but it was based on him. So, it was not odd for him to choose the Jews. As a matter of fact, if you are trying to wonder why he chose the Jews, in Deuteronomy God basically tells Israel this...*the reason I chose*



*you didn't have anything to do with you. I just loved you and that is why I chose you. Wow.*

You know that is why God chose you, right? It was not anything in you that caused him to choose you. He chose you because he loved you and with his sovereign grace he set his sovereign affection on you and made a choice of you, not based on anything you do for him, but based on who he is as your God. Wow. Amen? Wow!

Now, what was his ultimate plan for his treasured possession? It was so that they would be a kingdom of priests. It was so that they would be a holy nation. See, God's plan originally for Israel was not just for there to be a tribe of priests or not just for the eldest son to be a priest, but his plan was for every person in the nation to be a priest. When we think about priests, we know priests represent man to God, but they represent a certain aspect of our relationship with God. See, we have a prophet and a prophet stands between man and God representing God and bringing God's word to man. But then God has set aside priests and priests represent man to God. And in representing man to God, we don't focus on the word as priests; we focus on worship. So, the prophet brings the word and the priest brings the worship.

So, here is what God designed. God designed for Israel to be a kingdom to where the world around them learned how to truly worship the one and true God. But they were to be a nation of people. They were a community. Just as Egypt was a nation, Syria was a nation, and Edom was a nation, Israel was a nation, but they were not to be like the other nations of the world where they self-govern themselves and decided what was right and wrong. They were to be a theocracy and they were to be a holy nation. They were to be in a class all by themselves just as God is in a class all by himself. So, they would be a unique nation. Wow.

Do you know what is amazing about this story? When we turn to the pages of the New Testament, the Bible actually takes this very language- a treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation- and applies

it to the church. But not with the language where it says "if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be." In the New Testament, it is just "you are." You see, in the fulfillment of God's covenant to Abraham and the coming of the Messiah, when the Messiah came, he broke down that middle wall, a partition between Jews and Gentiles, and God began to create a new body and that new body is the church. Do you know what the church's responsibility is? It is to be God's treasured possession among all the peoples of the earth, to be a kingdom of priests, and to be a holy nation of people. Not a nation within itself like the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, China, or Taiwan, but in each nation they are to be a nation of people called the church who live out the very life of God so that we bring to the world the very word of God, we bring to the world the very worship of God, and we bring to the world the very will of God. You know what this means, right? In your relationship with God through the church as the church, God has an intimate love for you that is different than the way he loves the people of the world. Yes, he loves the people of the world, but the people of the world who don't know him, who are not a part of his church, don't have the intimacy with him that you and I have with him. See, we don't know him just a creator; we know him as savior, we know him as redeemer, and we know him as Father! That is his plan for his church. Wow!

Now, God told Israel this is the way it is going to be-obey my voice, keep my covenant, and here is who you will be. Do you know what they said to Moses when Moses told them? They said, "All that the Lord has said we will do." Dumb! Dumb! Dumb! Amen? Kory and I have been talking about this, but somebody in that group of two million people plus should have said...*Moses, no way! We can't obey his voice. We can't keep his covenant. There is no way we, on our own, can ever be his treasured possession. There is no way we can be a kingdom of priests. There is no way we can be a holy nation. We give up right now! What we need is some grace here!* That's not what Israel said. They said...*Sure, we can do this! We got this one! It is ok, Moses, tell God we will do it.* And they enter into a covenant with God.

What we are going to see now in verses 7-15 is the people preparing to meet who they have just entered into a covenant with. You and I, living on this side of the cross, know they didn't keep the covenant, right? Can I just remind you of this, God didn't give Israel the mosaic covenant to get them out of Egypt; they were already out of Egypt. They were already passing through the wilderness and they were already on their way to the promise land. So, somebody just has to ask this question: if God knew they could not keep it, why did he give it to them? Can I answer with the New Testament? Can I caution you to be careful about reading your New Testament through the lens of the Old Testament? You better read your Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament. Did you catch that? The New Testament is clearly going to teach that when God gave the mosaic covenant it was never meant to be permanent. It was temporary at best. Paul is actually going to teach in the book of Galatians that the mosaic covenant was just given until the Messiah came-the Messiah is Jesus. It actually talked about how under law, Israel, God's Old Testament covenant people, were not in a state of full maturity, but they were in a place of infancy with God. See, in God's progressive revelation of himself to his people, the Old Testament covenant people didn't have the full revelation that you and I have. Therefore, they were under the law and the law kind of served as their school teacher. It served as their guardian. So, even though they were heirs of God, they were never really free because they were always told what to do and what not to do by the law. But God actually didn't want us living under law; he wanted us living in a relationship through his Spirit so that when the Messiah came, we would now be full blown mature, sons of God with the Spirit of God in us. And God would set us free from sin, not under the law any more so that we could serve him under grace. Now, as adult children, we can make adult decisions for him. Does that make sense?

So, the law and the mosaic covenant were temporary. But then Paul gives us this thought. He said that while Israel was in this temporary state and we were under law, the law was actually given to increase sinfulness and imprison us to this principle called sin so that we would be ready for when the Christ came because we would fully understand that there was no way

that we could keep the law. Does everybody get that? That is why next week we are going to begin a new series over the Ten Commandments called, "Broken Yet Unfulfilled." Because we all break them, but one man fulfilled them all and that man is Jesus Christ. And we don't stand before God in our righteousness, we stand before God in the righteousness of Christ, infused with his person, the Holy Spirit of God living inside of us so that now we can fulfill the very intention of God's law without being under law because we walk with Christ. What a study it is going to be this summer!

But here is what God said to tell the children of Israel. See, Moses just took their words back to God, so God said I want you to tell them they have to wash themselves. Now, you understand this, right? They have been in the desert for three months. It was time to take a bath! Water was so precious in the desert that you didn't just get in it and bathe in it. You had to keep it to drink. So, now when they are standing before God, this Holy God, and they are dirty. So, they have to take today and tomorrow just to cleanse themselves to get clean. You get the picture here—God is holy, holy, holy, and they are dirty. God told Moses to consecrate them. The Bible doesn't tell us how Moses consecrated them, but all Bible scholars basically believe that Moses offered a sacrifice for them. In order for them to meet God, a lamb probably had to lay its life down.

Now, they are cleansing themselves and Moses says tell the husbands, stay away from your wives...no sexual intimacy until after you meet God. Now, when the Bible is forbidding sex among the nation of Israel while they are waiting to meet God, please don't take that to mean sex is dirty. What scripture is teaching here is that there is a time where spiritual preparation is required and we fast from all physical desires. The New Testament even talks about this. It teaches that there is a time when husbands and wives can say no to their partner, but it has to be a time when the partner is in fasting and prayer. You catch what that means, right? Unless you are fasting and praying for a specific, spiritual purpose, as a husband or wife, you don't have the right to defraud yourself of your spouse. So, what this means is if there is not a lot of sex going on in your marriage, there better

be a lot of fasting and praying going on in your marriage. If I can put this in here for all of us, my favorite female bible teacher is Beth Moore because Beth Moore has said (my wife told me she has said this- and this is why I like her), "Sex is to the marriage what prayer is to the Christian life." If sex was not sacred and sex was not important between a husband and wife, the Bible would not have the men staying away from their wives.

Now, all of our attention is on God and God is going to come down on the mountain. Israel has had this cloud in the day and it has had a pillar of fire by night. Now they are camping in front of the mountain- God's mountain- God is going to show up on the mountain, and I don't know about you, but I would want to get a front row seat! Nope. God says Moses, make sure you tell everybody that when I show up, don't come near the mountain. Don't have a finger and don't have a foot on the mountain...stand at the bottom. Now, you can just see all of the military police putting up those tapes that say, "No trespassing," right? They are putting the signs out that say, "Don't touch. Stand back." Because, if anybody touches the mountain, if anybody comes up on the mountain while God is on the mountain it is not like "violators will be prosecuted." This is "violators will be executed." They are going to be stoned or shot with an arrow-a person or beast, so keep your animals back. Keep your children back. Keep grandma and granddad back. Keep everybody back because the Holy God is going to descend on the mountain.

Now, I want to tell you the picture I have here. I don't know why I have this picture, but I just have this picture because somewhere in my life I have watched enough war movies where they had the atomic submarines. And they had those radioactive signs that warned you about the danger you were in by being in the presence of nuclear energy. Do you know what I am talking about? You don't see it, but without knowing it, you could be dead if you were exposed to it. That is the picture here. God is not tame, tame, tame; He is not kind, kind, kind; He is not love, love, love; He is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...and Israel is preparing to meet a Holy God. ***STAND BACK! DON'T TOUCH!***

Have we all kind of lost sight of that? Have we lost sight of who God really is? HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. I am so amazed at how we sometimes just casually approach the presence of God. I can't understand any Christian ever saying he is "the man upstairs." Are you kidding me? He is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

Israel is getting ready. They have two days- a day and a half, really, to get ready to meet their God. Then, in verses 16-25 they meet God. The Bible says there is this sounding of a trumpet and as the trumpet gets louder Israel knows to come to the foot of the mountain. As they come to the foot of the mountain, there is God, but they can't see God because he is covered. He is veiled in this thick cloud and he shows up in a fire. As he shows up in the fire and the thick cloud, all of a sudden, smoke starts ascending from that cloud and the smoke covers the mountain. There is thundering and lightening all around the mountain and the Bible says the people trembled. They are afraid. Do you know what the Bible says next? The mountain shook. What do you think man is going to be doing if the mountain that has no life is actually shaking in the presence of a God who is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY?

Do you remember that Isaiah chapter 6 passage where the Lord is sitting on the throne and the train of his robe is filling the temple? Isaiah sees the seraphim and they are singing "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" The Bible says that smoke filled the temple and the doorposts of the temple shook. Isaiah, a prophet of God, is standing in the presence of God who is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. And do you know what Isaiah is doing? He is not jumping a pew. He is not racing around the church. He doesn't have his hand waving and singing... *hallelujah! Praise God!* The Bible says he flung on the floor of the temple crying out, "Woe is me! For I am coming apart and of unclean lips."

Can you imagine what would happen to you if you were standing in the presence of God, and in a glimpse, all of your sinfulness passed before you in an instant? You would not have it all together; you would be falling apart, too. Now, the whole mountain is shaking and the people are shaking. Wow...Scripture says God has to come down to the top of the

mountain and Israel can't even approach the mountain. Scholars tell us that if this is the mountain that they believe it is, that mountain is over a mile high. Israel, who could not wait to get to the wilderness, to get to Mount Sinai, and to actually meet God, now meet God. They are closer than they have ever been, but he is farther away than they could have ever imagined. The top of the mountain, for him, is a step down. They can't even step up to where he is. They can't even touch the mountain. But praise God there is a mediator- Moses. Moses gets called to come up to the mountain to meet God and he does. Ultimately, he is going to receive from God the law...a law that is going to break them, a law that there is no way they can keep, a law that is going to condemn them all. Wow.

You do realize this passage is teaching us that we too need somebody that can go from where we are to where God is, right? Can I say this and not be negative towards Moses? Moses was a mediator, but he could really only represent man because he was fully like man, but he was not like God at all. So, his 'mediator-ship' was not perfect, if I can say that. Do you know what man really needs? We need a mediator who can be just like us, but yet be just like God at the same time. And you know that is ultimately what the Abrahamic Covenant is about, right? It is about God sending his son- fully God, fully man- so that he too could go to a mountain, a mountain called Calvary. And on that mount, take the hand of God and the hand of man and put man and God back together again. Why? Because what we broke, he fulfilled. This is why John says Jesus is the word. You see, what happened on Mount Sinai, in the full revelation of God to himself in that cloud, was so that they would hear the voice of God and ultimately know that when Moses was up on top of that mountain he didn't make up God and he didn't write down something on stone, come back, and tell the people how to live. He didn't make this thing up. He got it from God and God wanted the people to know Moses was speaking his words. So, the people heard the voice of God from the mountain.

Ultimately, you and I have heard the voice of God through God's word, through Jesus Christ. See, John says through Moses came the law, but from Jesus came grace. Because on this side of the cross, we are finally

smart enough to say *GOD! WE CAN'T DO THIS!* So, do you know what God said? *I knew you could not. That is why I sent my son. So that he could live in a flesh like yours and do what you could not do so that you can now do what he did and that is live obediently to me.* Wow! But it is not you or I really doing it. It is the power of Christ doing it in us and through us as we learn to walk with God and to live for him! He lives his life through us! Why? Because we are his treasured possession and he wants the whole world, not just us, to ultimately know who he is!

We have met him on the mountain- broken, yet having the law fulfilled for us in him. And God wants to take us to prepare others to meet him. But the message of the New Testament is not "Stand back. Don't touch." The message of the New Testament is "let us draw near." Why? Because he rolled out the red carpet of his son so that you and I could approach him who is holy, holy, holy. Have you learned how to live for him yet? That follows learning how to walk with him.

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