



Why was it so urgent that the people not even touch the bottom of the mountain? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Exodus 19 prepares us for the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us to marvel at the display of God's power not only in what He's saved us from, but especially in what He's saved us for. He is making us into a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, which is utterly dangerous to come near Him to do, unless we come near in Christ.

Friday, April 22, 2022 • Read Exodus 19

Questions from the Scripture text: How long has it been since what (v1)? To where did they come? From where did they come (v2)? Before what did they camp? Who went up to Whom (v3)? Who called him? from where? To whom was he to speak? What two things did God call them? What had they seen (v4)? How had He borne them? Where (to Whom) had He brought them? What two things must they do now (v5)? Then what will they be? Who are His already? What kind of kingdom will they be (v6)? What kind of nation? How does the end of the verse emphasize this message? For whom does Moses call in v7? What does he lay before them? Who answer in v8? What do they say they will do? How much of it? Now Who speaks to whom (v9)? How is Who coming to him? Whom does He want to hear? In order that they will do what with Moses? For how long? What did Moses relay to Yahweh? Now what does Yahweh tell Moses to do to whom (v10)? On what days? And do what? To be ready for what (v11)? Who would come down? Where? In whose sight? What is Moses to set for them (v12)? So that they don't go where? Nor touch what? What will happen if they do? How won't he be killed (v13)? How instead? What are they to listen for? Then do what? From where does Moses come in v14? To whom? What does he do to them? What do they do? What does he tell them to be ready for (v15)? And not come near whom? What day is it in v16? What time of day? What three things are on the mountain? What sound do they hear? What amplitude? How do the people respond? What does Moses do to the people in v17? To meet with Whom? Where do they stand? What was happening to the mountain in v18? Why? What was the smoking like? What happened to the mountain? What was blasting all this time (v19)? And what happened to the sound? What did Moses do? Who answered him? How? Who came down (v20)? Where does Yahweh tell Moses to go in v21? To do what? Against what is he to warn them? What would happen to them? Also warning whom in particular (v22)? That they would do what? Lest what happen? How does Moses respond (v23)? And how does Yahweh answer (v24)? Whom does He say to bring now? Whom does He (again) warn against doing what? Where does Moses now go (v25)? And do what?

Nearness to God is dangerous. We just don't realize the greatness of His holiness, or the position that it puts us in to be "his special treasure" (v5), or "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (v6). So, as the Lord gathers His people to Himself at Sinai ("I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself," v4), this chapter anticipates that meeting. And the primary thing that this chapter communicates, in anticipation is just how dangerous it is to be near this God because of just how holy He is. This occurs through the relaying back and forth of a number of messages between Moses and God.

If you obey, you will be treasured, v3–7. vv3–6 are a unit, bookended by "thus you shall say" in v3 and "these are the words which you shall speak" in v6. Moses lays before the elders in v7 the offer made in v5. The offer, however, is something that only Jesus can succeed at. The entire books of Isaiah and Hosea will be about Israel's failure to be unto the Lord what the Lord brought them out into the wilderness to be. But Hosea will be about the Lord's rectifying this for Himself, and Isaiah is even more specific: He will send His true (and suffering!) servant to be the true Israel. The offer that Moses relays not only still stands but has been completely secured in Jesus!

All that Yahweh has spoken we will do, v8–9. v8 by itself is bookended, "all the people answered" and "Moses brought back the words of the people." The message is simple, "we'll do it all!" The follow-through is (again) impossible (cf. Josh 24:19). Once more, the end of v9 repeats "So Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh." Yahweh promises in v9 to come near, in thick cloud, and speak in such a way as to show the people the folly of their resistance to Moses's leadership. This itself portends how Israel would fail in their promise to do what Yahweh says. They will not be loyal to Him or His servant.

Take heed not to touch, v10–15. With the delivery of the people's message completed in v9, Yahweh now gives Moses a new mission. "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow... and let them be ready for the third day" (v10–11a). Yahweh is coming on the third day (v11b), and even the consecrated people mustn't touch the mountain (v12) or even touch anyone executed for touching the mountain (v13). And Moses delivers the message (v14–15).

Go down and warn the people again, v16–25. The third day arrives. And it's just as terrifying in v16 as the Lord Yahweh had implied in v9. But there is not just thick cloud; there are thunderings, lightnings, and the trumpet that was to summon them (end of v13) is increasingly loud so that all of the people tremble! The mountain smokes, but that's not as scary as the Yahweh-fire that produced it, and the mountain quakes greatly (v18). Between the warnings and the phenomena, we might think that the people are sufficiently terrified. Moses sure thought so, but Moses himself wasn't sufficiently terrified.

We have the last set of bookends in vv21–25: "Go down and warn the people" (v21) and "Moses went down to the people and spoke to them" (v25). Yahweh calls Moses up in v20 to give him a new message. What is that message? Same as the old message (v21–22, cf. v12)! Ironically, Moses's own protestation in v23 that the repetition isn't needed *is itself proof that it is needed*. Moses talks back to Yahweh! The same Yahweh Who has given all of these warnings and displayed all of these phenomena!

In great mercy, Moses is not incinerated. Rather, Yahweh silences him with one word, "Away!" And then repeats the command in v24.

The warning is necessary. God is holier and mightier than can be imagined. It is dangerous to draw near to Him.

When do you come near the Lord? How can you do so safely? Even when you do so safely, how can you do so rightly? In what ways might you tell God that His instructions aren't necessary?

Sample prayer: Lord, how holy and powerful You are! And how creaturely and small and even sinful we are! All blessedness comes in drawing near to You, but in our sinful selves, we would be destroyed by Your glorious presence. Thank You for giving us Christ. For His sake, forgive us, and by Your Holy Spirit, conform us to His image, we ask in His Name, Amen!

Suggested songs: ARP15 "Within Your Tent, Who Will Abide" or TPH230 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

These are the words of God. Exodus chapter 19 and the third month. After the children of Israel had gone out to the land of Egypt on the same day, they came to the wilderness of Sinai for they had departed from Rapihine and come to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness.

So Israel camped there before the mountain and Moses went up to God and Yahweh called to him from the mountain saying Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I, or you on eagles wings and brought you to myself.

Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people. For all the earth is mine and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and the holy nation, These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people and laid before them all these words which he always commanded him. And all the people answered together and said all that you always has spoken. We will do. So, Moses brought back the words of the people to Yahwe.

And you always said to Moses, behold I come to you in thick cloud that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you forever. So, Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh. Then you always said to Moses, go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow and let them wash their clothes and let them be ready for the third day for on the third day.

All they will come down upon Mount Sinai and the sight of all the people you shall set bounds for the people. All around saying, take heed to yourselves that. You do not go up to the mountain or touch its space, whoever touches the mountain socially be put to death.

Not a hand shall touch in, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow with a man or beast. He's shall not live on the trumpet. Sounds long, they shall come near the mountain. Some others went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes and he said to the people be ready for the third day.

Do not come near your wives and then it came to pass in the third day in the morning that there were thunderings and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain. From the sound of the trumpet was very loud. That all the people who are in the camp trembled.

Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now, Mount Sinai was completely in smoke because you already descended upon it and fire. It's smoke ascended. Like the smoke of a furnace and the whole mountain quaked greatly and when God answered him.

Sorry. And when the blast of the trumpet, sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him by voice. Then Yahwe came down upon Mount Sinai on the top of the mountain and Yahweh called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went on top.

And you always said to Moses go down and warn the people lest they break through to gaze at Yahweh and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near Yahweh consecrate themselves. Lest Yahweh break out against them, but Moses said to Yahweh, the people cannot come up to outside night for you.

Warned us saying set bounds around the mountain. Consecrate it, You always said to him, awake it down and then come up you and Aaron with you, but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the office. Must he break out against them. Some Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Amen.

Well Moses is something of a messenger boy in this passage. Remember he's 80 years old and yet the Lord has sustained him by strength and he sentences the entire message going up and down the mountain. He spends the entire message. You may take her out to discipline her and bring her back.

If like He spends the entire message going up and down the mountain relay messages between God and the people. The first message is wonderful. The Lord has displayed this power, not only to judge Egypt, but to show his people, the greatness of the redemption by which he is bringing them to himself.

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people. For all the earth is mine and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and the holy nation.

And so we see God's power displayed in his redemption and because of the greatness of the power, displayed against that from which he is saving us. We've eye might focus over much upon that and it's not wrong to rejoice over. How God has displayed His power in that from which he has saved you.

This is what Jethro is just finished leading Israel. In Remember that sermon that he preached that in the very things in which Egypt and their gods, felt that they were exalted that in those things. God had judged them and shown that he alone is the one true. God. Yes.

Victoria

And the third month, after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt on the same day. Doesn't mean like it was still, it was Thursday. It was the 21st. That means it was exactly three months. Not approximately three months. It's a good question. We have the question time at the end.

Remember Jethro had led them and praising the greatness of God that was displayed in how he had judged, not just Egypt, but even the gods of the Egyptians choosing the plagues in such a way, as, to show his part. And he has shown great power in delivering us from sin and the guilt of sin, the hell that we deserve from him and the power of sin over us and the murder of the devil in, which he had killed us my sin and God shows us.

Great power, and it shows himself greatly powerful in, in saving us from all those things. And the way that he saved us by those things, the incarnation of God, the Son, and His obedient life and returning death and victorious. Resurrection. And yet, here, the emphasis is not that from which he had delivered them but that unto which he had delivered them that even more than marveling at what God has saved us from.

We ought to marvel at what God has saved us for. That is himself to be with him to be his special treasure to be in the midst of an entire creation. That brings in glory was created to bring in glory and when he recreated, it will do. So again in absolute perfection, that we would be the ones who lead it, The ones who are near him, like the priesthood of the new creation and that he saves his people to bring them all the way to him so that when he gives them the priesthood at Mount Sinai, when he gives Aaron and his sons instruction for the tabernacle.

And for the service that the other people can't enter into their, they don't come that near to God he's giving them a hint act. What the role of the redeemed will be in the new creation and, and the everlasting worship of eternity that we're being saved. So that we can come near to God and be the ones who lead as at war.

Even the angels in the worship of God, and the world to come. And so he says, You have seen what I did to the Egyptians how I bore you on eagles wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all the people for all the earth is mine.

And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests. And the holy nation. A sacred nation. What? A marvelous glorious message but not yet what he has promised will come true. It'll come true in Christ. Because are they going to obey his voice and keep His covenant? As that what we see Israel doing for the rest of the Old Testament?

No, but Jesus has obeyed. His voice. And Jesus has kept his covenant. When we come to the table, Lord's day, by Lord's day. We hear the words of the Lord Jesus. This cup is the cup of the new covenant in my blood and we come and we have fellowship with the triune God without fear because we come through Christ by the help of his spirit, to the Father who is atoned for us and adopted us as his own dear children.

And so, the rest of the passage is the not yet part. The people think this is wonderful. They hear what Moses says. They may or may not understand. Probably don't understand to the extent as just now, been explained to you, but they know that it's wonderful. And they say all that all that he says we will do.

So the verse 8, all the people answered together and said all that you always has spoken. We will do and you remember when Joshua challenges the people at the end of his life, That would be too too generations later, right? Because they've got 40 years in the wilderness and then they've got the conquest under Joshua after Moses dies.

The end of the book of Joshua Joshua challenges them to serve to worship the Lord their God and they say well do it he says no you won't you can't and that's the message of the rest of the chapter because they the Lord offers them to be. Royal priesthood a holy nation and they say, we'll do it and he says, okay, don't come near.

I'm gonna come down in three days you consecrate yourselves like as if you're a priests who are going to come near but even when you're done consecrating yourselves, you can't come near Some Moses tells them. The Lord had said, wash of course they wash and obviously they know some of the statutes of God already.

They're not yet recorded the way that they will be. But we know from the previous chapter that Moses has been giving them statutes and judgments of God, peace by peace. So they do the washing and they know the, the bit about new clothes. They also know the bit about a woman and her ceremonial on cleanness and you don't want to be in a situation like they were with COVID where you're in close contact with somebody.

And then, they call you up, and they say, I tested positive, he says, stay away from women because they sometimes are becoming unclean and they don't even know it yet, and you don't want to have contact with them. And then they say, oh no, I tested positive for for ceremonial and uncleanness.

So he said, consecrate yourselves, get ready and on the third day you'll meet with God. But God is going to come down on the top of the mountain. And you may not touch even the bottom of the mountain, you see the distance that God puts between them and him even when they come near we don't have that distance anymore.

Do we remember in Hebrews 12, which quotes from this chapter? And says he didn't come to the mountain. That can't be touched of which even Moses himself was terrified and which the people received the command that even if a beast touches that, it must be executed. Those are the things we have in this passage.

Don't we? And so one of the reasons for him to say, not yet in Exodus chapter 19 is that when Christ lives and dies and rises again, and ascends and takes his seat in heaven, he says. Okay. Now now through Jesus, come all the way, not just to the top of the mountain, which we had in Nexus, 19, but all the way through the curtain into the Holy of holies in the Lord, Jesus Christ, with bodies washed with pure water.

You see the washing symbolism there, The way that, that ties, those two passages together and the Holy Spirit having united us to Christ, and given us the sign. And seal of that uniting work, that he does. And that cleansing work that he does cleansing us by the blood of Christ consecrating us for the worship of God in Christ.

Now, we can come all the way Moses himself. Didn't understand the greatness of the danger. The necessity of saying not yet God makes the whole mountain to tremble which is something that mountains don't ordinarily. Do They were symbols of permanence and strength? And this one is shaking like jello fresh from the mold and just completely unstable before the presence and the power of God, the smoke of the mountain is going up like a furnace and God calls him to the top of the mountain, he gets to the top of the mountain.

He's ready for the message of the messages, go down and remind them. They can't touch it and God and Moses talks back to God. He says, you already told us that nobody's gonna do that and God says away. We might have expected that Moses would be incinerated but the Lord in the mercy in which he is going to bring Christ, doesn't incinerate Moses away, get down and then come up.

You and Aaron with you Here is the gaunt who Expend employees is Almighty. Power to save us and bring us near. But the only way we could ever come here, and the way in which we can come all the way near. That's why Jesus Christ. His obedience are righteous because blood atoning for our sin and cleansing and consecrating us to be the kingdom of priests and the holy nation.

Because the greatness of God is not shown so much and what he has saved us from but especially and what he has saved us for and may he make us to see and to eagerly desire, what he has saved us for so that we will see his greatness in securing that for us.

Amen, let's pray.

Thank you. Our God, for this chapter of your word. Thank you for placing it in the context of all that you tell us about yourself and about Christ and who he is and what he has done. And what we saw have at last, by his doing of it. And what we have even now, Lord's Day by Lord's Day, by his atoning work, we pray, O God, that your spirit would help us to see the greatness of your power and what you have saved us for to see the greatness of the privilege that you have given us being a kingdom of priests and the holy nation and to long for the day.

When not just in the Lord's days by faith, not just in disembodied, souls and glory. But at last in a new creation and resurrected bodies, We are physically near to Jesus the Tabernacle and get to lead an entire new creation and worshiping you Lord. Forgive us for how much our heart focuses by comparison on the on that, which is earthly and temporary grant to us.

Instead, the joy of sanctification, the joy of serving you in these earthly things in which you have placed us with that heavenly and eternal holiness unto which you have called us so that there might be display of the great thing and these little things that are soon to be burned up.

Anyway, help us god to live as those with the hope and joy of eternity as a royal priesthood and a holy nation for. We ask it through Jesus. Amen.