



Today, we turn to Exodus 19. In this chapter, we see an awe-inspiring encounter between God and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, highlighting the significance of God's holiness and the need for reverence in His presence. As the Israelites camp at the base of the mountain, God descends upon it in a vivid and tangible display of His transcendence and holiness. Before meeting with God, the people are instructed to prepare themselves for this encounter, highlighting the necessity of spiritual preparation for encountering God. Through this incredible experience, God communicates His covenant with the Israelites and calls them a holy nation set apart for His purposes.

Key Passage: Exodus 19

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the setting of Mount Sinai contribute to the significance of God's covenant with the Israelites in Exodus 19? How does the imagery of thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, and the sound of a trumpet add to the dramatic portrayal of God's presence on the mountain?

Mount Sinai is a powerful backdrop for the covenant between God and the Israelites. Mount Sinai is where God tangibly manifests His presence in smoke and fire, symbolizing His presence. This tangible experience underscores the significance of the covenant because it demonstrates that God is directly involved and present. The covenant at Mount Sinai represents a pivotal moment for the Israelites, marking their transition from a group of people freed from Egyptian slavery to a chosen people with a special relationship with God.

2. Discuss the significance of God's command for boundaries around the mountain and for the people to consecrate themselves in Exodus 19:10-13. In what ways does Exodus 19 illustrate the concept of God's holiness and the need for reverence and awe in His presence?

Mount Sinai is set apart as a holy place because it is God's chosen location where Israel encounters His presence. The boundaries God set in place and the command for the people to consecrate themselves emphasize God's divine nature, the seriousness of His covenant with Israel, and how He and it should be regarded.

3. How can the concept of consecration be applied in your own life in preparation for encountering God?

Consecration involves dedicating yourself or something to a sacred purpose. In Exodus 19, the people are called to consecrate themselves in preparation for encountering the presence of God. For us today, this would include taking intentional steps to prepare to experience God. Consider how you prepare yourself for church on Sunday. You likely choose your clothes thoughtfully, but do you take intentional time to prepare your heart? Consecration as preparation for worship could include a time of deliberate

prayer before leaving your house for church, intentional time to read and meditate on God's Word, etc. Remember, consecration is preparing yourself for a God encounter on Sunday morning for worship or Monday morning in your prayer closet.

4. Reflect on a time when you experienced a sense of awe or reverence in God's presence. How does that experience shape your understanding of Exodus 19?
5. Reflect on the implications of God's covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai for their identity, purpose, and relationship with Him. What does the phrase "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" mean in Exodus 19:6?

These words in Exodus 19:6 define God's purpose for Israel moving forward as a nation, as a people in a covenant relationship with God. Together, as a kingdom, they serve a priestly role in an intimate relationship with God and represent Him to other nations. As a holy nation, Israel was to be set apart for a particular purpose as God's chosen people living according to His Word.

6. In what practical ways can you live out the call to be a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation" in your neighborhood, workplace, school, community, etc.?