

The book of Exodus is framed by and explained at three locations.

**A BUSH**

**(1-18)**

**God saves**

**A MOUNTAIN**

**(19-24)**

**God commands**

**A TENT**

**(25-40)**

**God dwells**

**Exodus 19** marks a major stage in God's salvation history story.

**Two verses** (1-2) describe the chronological and geographical change in the status of Israel.

### Chronology

### Geography

**The first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—they came to the Desert of Sinai**

Two months ago Israel was in slavery in Egypt. Now they are free! God gathers them in the desert of Sinai at the mountain called Horeb (Exodus 3:1). Israel is 'the great nation' God had promised to Abraham, a people who are called to bless 'all peoples' (Genes12:2-3). Their coming to Sinai is the next stage in God's plan to bless the nations. God had said to Moses, "**I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain**" (Ex 3:12). God keeps his covenant promises of love.

God speaks to them as their rescuer. ***Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'*** (19:3-4) God's people in God's presence in God's place. A grace place!

*This is about what God did. He carried them, He brought them to himself (19:4).*

**Salvation is the action of God's grace and it is the achievement of God's grace.**

Before coming to Sinai, Israel believed in and worshipped God (4:31; 12:27). After their rescue they feared and trusted in God (14:31). "The LORD is my salvation" (15:2). They are God's saved people through God's grace. God treats us with undeserved love and kindness. We deserve justice but God gives grace through the death of Jesus for us.

**Living by grace is to find our true identity and ultimate worth as human beings.**

God asks his people to respond to his miraculous rescue. ***'Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession'*** (19:5). This is God's covenant! God sets the terms of the covenant. Israel received it. They must now respond. What God did for Israel precedes what he asks of Israel.

From the mountain top, with its view from Mount Horeb to the horizon, God reminds Moses **‘the whole earth is mine’** (19:5). God is a global God and his name is to be **‘proclaimed in all the earth.’** (9:16; 29) It’s on the basis of Israel having been saved and God’s sovereignty that God says: “If you obey me fully and keep my covenant then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6)

This isn’t a condition of salvation but for mission: explained by ‘kingdom’ and ‘priests’  
In Eden, Man was crowned with glory with “all things under their authority (Psalm 8)  
Man was created to “rule” (Gen 1:26;28) Man was called “to tend and watch over it” (Gen 2:15) This is a priestly charge to guard God’s sanctuary. Adam was God’s priest.

At Sinai, Israel takes up Adam’s king / priest role and be the agent of the Abrahamic blessings. They are God’s kingdom people to show the world that God is King and to make known the way to God. Israel is unique but God is universal. They belong exclusively to God but God does not belong exclusively to them. Israel was to exhibit the character of God and display the life God intended for all society (Leviticus 11:45; 19:1-2; 20:7; 20:26) They were to be holy (different / distinctive). However, ***“Israel’s role of world mission, forfeited by disobedience, is transferred in the Gospels to Jesus.”*** (W. Dumbrell) Jesus Christ is both priest (Psalm 110:4) and king (Zechariah 6:13). In Jesus believers have the **‘priestly duty of proclaiming the Gospel of God’.**  
(Romans 15:16)

**““But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him  
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.’ (1 Peter 2:9)**

**Peter recalls Exodus 19.** Christians - Jew and Gentile - together are kings and priests.  
**So too the Apostle John.**

**To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God  
and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5-6**

### **Chosen Royal Holy**

We proclaim God’s good news of rescue. We practice holiness to show God’s heart. Have you been rescued by Jesus? This is your mission. Christians are to live such different lives that the world is drawn to worship God in Christ. God saves us to send us as lights in a dark and dying world so the nations can walk in the light (Rev 21:24).