

Exodus 19 – 20 describe a moment and a message filled with awe.

Israel had been in slavery in Egypt. Now they are free!

Gathered at Horeb (3:1;12) they have front row seats.

WOW!

'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt (19:3-4)

and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'

God's people are in God's presence and in God's place. A grace place!

'Although I'm more sinful than I ever imagined; I am more loved than I ever dreamed.'

God makes a covenant with Israel! Not a condition for their salvation but of mission.

'If you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all 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' (19:5-6).

I set you free. Now be like me!

Kingdom of priests – living under God's Rule.

Holy nation – living with God's Righteousness.

The people all responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has said."

Exodus 19:7-8

BUT HOW?

Israel is sinful

consecrate them.... Have them **wash** their clothes and be ready by the third day...put **limits** for the people around the mountain. Say, ***"...do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death"*** **19:10-12**

God is holy

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain **19:16-20**

TEN WORDS – WHAT?

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

God did not 'lay down the law'. The Law is a gift of grace. Before Law is Love. God gave ten words to his saved people, words that describe their response to his rescue.

You shall have no other gods before me.

Since there is only God.

We worship the only true God.

You must not make for yourself an idol

God is not to be imagined.

The LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice.’ (Dt 4:12-13)

We know God by his word.

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.....`

God’s name expresses his character

We don’t empty Him of meaning

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but

Rest is the goal of creation (Gen 2)

Unending love – holy friendship

Satisfying work – blessed fruitfulness

Perfect wholeness -- shalom peace

the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God.. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.’

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land.

Why? God is our Creator Father.

You shall not murder (not kill).

Why? God is the giver of life.

You shall not commit adultery.

Why? God is holy and faithful.

You shall not steal.

Why? God is abundantly generous.

You shall not give false testimony.

Why? God speaks and acts truly.

‘You shall not covet.’

Why? God is happy in Himself.

At the moment God’s royal law was spoken, sin was revealed. **Do not have God speak to us or we will die’ (20:18-21)** In the presence of the law we are undone (32:1)

Like a bird without wings, when it comes to godliness, we are ‘grounded’! The law indicts us as sinners and incites sin in us. Sinners don’t keep God’s law and don’t want to keep it. **‘Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness’ (1 John 3:4).**

JESUS AND THE LAW

'Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.' (Matthew 5:17)

'All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' (Luke 24:44)

Jesus, being truly human, shared our full moral responsibility before God as creatures made in his image. As the second Man and the last Adam he went over every point in which the first Adam and all his children failed as lawbreakers, and made them perfect again, breaking the power of sin and reversing death itself. He obeyed God's law in his life in its totality and received the punishment we deserved for breaking God's law.

"Israel's role of world mission, forfeited by disobedience, is transferred in the Gospels to Jesus." (Dumbrell) Jesus Christ is priest (Psalm 110:4) who offers himself as the sacrifice for sin once for all; and he is king (Zech 6:13) by virtue of his resurrection.

NOW

*'There is therefore **now** no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.'*
(Romans 8:1-2)

There is more grace in Jesus than there is sin in me. The rule of sin within is the result of our origin in Adam. It is a rule we obeyed: sin which leads to death. But now the Spirit of holiness lives within us. The Spirit's stronger power is the life of Christ Jesus.

The phrase "*law of the Spirit of life*" reminds us of God breathing the breath of life into Adam. We are dead clay like Adam – dead in sin - when we try to obey the Law New spiritual life is breathed into us when we live by the faith / grace of Jesus Christ.

What the law demands - righteousness - God gives us the want to and the how to.

*For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***
(Romans 8:3-4)

God gives to believers a new Holy Spirit ability to love Him and be like Him.

'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