

On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup> 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:

<sup>4</sup> 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now 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, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.

- <sup>8</sup> The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you." Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.
- <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes

<sup>11</sup> and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. 13 They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain."

<sup>14</sup> After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup> Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

<sup>18</sup> Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. <sup>19</sup> As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up <sup>21</sup> and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish.

- <sup>22</sup> Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them."
- <sup>23</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy."
- <sup>24</sup> The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

<sup>25</sup> So Moses went down to the people and told them.

# Why We Need to Fear God

#### Naham 1:2-6

- <sup>2</sup> The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.
- The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.
- <sup>3</sup> The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.
- His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry.

### Naham 1:2-6

- Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.
- <sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away.
- The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it.
- Who can withstand his indignation?
  Who can endure his fierce anger?
  His wrath is poured out like fire;
  the rocks are shattered before him.

### 1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

### Matt. 10:28

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

#### 2 Thess. 1:7-10

<sup>7</sup> This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

### Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

### Hebrews 10:31 (NIV)

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31 (NKJV)

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

# Why We Don't Need to Fear God

### Matt. 17:5

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

1 Tim. 2:5 – 6<sup>a</sup>

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

#### 2 Cor. 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Hebrews 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

### 1 John 4:17-18

<sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

### Hebrews 12:18-29

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup> The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

### Hebrews 12:18-29

You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup> to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

### Hebrews 12:18-29

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup> The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our "God is a consuming fire."

