

“Prepare to Meet Your God”

Exodus 19

How do you feel when you hear the words, “Prepare to meet your God”? Moses first met God in person very unexpectedly when the LORD appeared to him on a mountain from within a burning bush (Ex. 3). Today’s passage records Israel’s first meeting with God *as a nation*. They had seen God at work in bringing them out of Egypt and many of them had heard the ancient stories of how God had appeared to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Still, it is here on Mount Sinai that the Israelites are formally “introduced” to their God. Judging by their reaction, they may have gotten more than they bargained for.

Opening Question(s) – Choose one.

- a) What are some of the ways you have seen God pictured in movies and stories in our day? How does that compare or contrast with how you think God is like?
- b) Where were you when you first experienced the reality of God? What do you remember most?

Study Questions

- 1) **Read Exodus 19.** What do you find striking, or what do you wonder about most in this encounter?
- 2) How long had the Israelites been on the move, where have they come from, and what noteworthy items or experiences happened on the way (scan the headings in Ex. 15-18)?
- 3) Why had God brought them here (vv.3-6)? What are his plans?
- 4) How do the people respond (vv.7-8)? Why?
- 5) What evidence do you have that helps you to trust and obey God?
- 6) What is God’s means of communication with them (i.e. How do the people talk with God and hear from Him)? How is that different or similar to how he communicates with us?
- 7) What preparations did the people have to make for God’s appearance (vv.10-15), and why? What is required of you to meet with God? Why?
- 8) What barriers has Jesus set aside so that we can draw near to God with confidence (see Hebrews 10:19ff.)?
- 9) What does Peter urge us to do as God’s “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation belonging to God” (1 Peter 2:9)? What story of God’s work or character could you share with others to help them know God more?