

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 8

November 1, 2015

Camp #11 - the wilderness of Sinai

Nu 33:15-16 They journeyed from Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Sinai. 16 They journeyed from the wilderness of Sinai ...

Ex 19:1-2 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain.

Definition of Sinai = My thorns; Bush of the Lord

Biblical writers refer to Mount Sinai by various names; "the mountain", "the mountain of God", "Mount Horeb", "the mountain of Horeb", and "the mountain of God in Horeb".

Outline of this period of Israel Journeying (Ex 18:1 - Num 10:10)

The nation travels to Mount Sinai and remained there for eleven months and five days.

I. The constitution (Old Covenant) of Israel (The Law of God);

The requirements for fellowship (Ex 18:1-31:18)

- A. The visit of Jethro (Ex 18:1-27)
- B. The visit of God (Ex 19:1-25)
- C. The contents of the Law Covenant (Ex 20:1 - Lev 20:27)
 1. The Moral Law: The 10 Commandments (Ex 20:1-26; 24:1-18; 31:18)
 2. The Civil Law (community laws): (Ex 21:1 - Lev 20:27)
 3. The Ceremonial Law (laws about priesthood, feasts, sacrifices, etc.); (Lev 1:1 - 22:33)

II. The sin and failure of Israel (The Golden Calf);

The ruination of fellowship (Ex. 32:1-35; 33:1-23; 34:1-35)

- A. The sin of Israel and intercession of Moses (Ex 32:1 - 33:6)
- B. The grace and forgiveness of God (Ex 33:7 - 34:35)

III. The restoration of Israel (The Tabernacle)

The restoration of fellowship (Ex 25:9 - 40:38; Lev 1:1 - 22:33)

- A. The Tabernacle of Moses (Ex 25:9 - 40:38)
- B. The stewards (priests) overseeing the Tabernacle (Ex 28:1 - 40:38; Lev 8:1 - 22:16)
- C. The sacrifices in the tabernacle (Lev 1:1 - 22:33; Ex 34:19-20)
- D. Special and Holy Days (Ex 23:14 - 35:3; Lev 16:1 - 26:2)
- E. The Census of the Tabernacle (Ex 38:25-26; Num 1:1 - 8:26)

Significance of the Sinai wilderness

1. Moses and Sinai

a. In the wilderness, at Mount Sinai, it is where Moses encountered the burning bush. (Ex 3:1-2; Ac 7:30, 38).

b. Sinai is God's sign to Moses

Ex 3:12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

2. Comparison of Sinai to Zion (Heb 12:18-23; Rom 9:4-6)

Sinai; Ex 19:12-22; Dt 9:19; Rom 9:4-6	Zion; Heb 12:18-23; Ps 48:2; 132:13-14; Is 60:14; Rom 11:26; Gal 4:26
Seven things that we have not come to:	
1. To a mountain that can be touched; Ex 19:12-13 (Speaks of living in the natural, physical)	We can handle & taste; Jn 20:27; 1Jn 1:1; Ps 34:8
2. To a blazing fire; Ex 19:18; Ex 24:17; Lev 9:22 - 10:2	We are baptized with Holy Spirit and fire; Ac 2:3; Mat 3:10-12; Lk 3:16
3. Darkness; Dt 4:11; 5:23;	Delivered from darkness Eph 5:8,11; Col 1:13
4. Gloom; "thick darkness that may be felt"; Heb 12:18	
5. Whirlwind; "It is a brief, violent, sudden, destructive blast, a hurricane, cyclone, whirlwind"	
6. Blast of a trumpet; Ex 19:16-19; Heb 12:18-20 "a loud or confused noise";	Lord returns with the sound of a trumpet 1Thes 4:16; 1Cor 15:52
7. The sound of words; (God's voice) Ex 20:19; Dt 4:12,33; 5:3-5; they begged that no further word be spoken to them.	We hear His voice; Jn 10:3-4; Heb 3:7,15; 4:7; 12:26
8. Smoke; Ex 19:18; Ps 104:32; 144:5	
9. Fear; even Moses was fearful; Heb 12:21	Fear not; Is 43:1-5; Jer 30:10; Rom 8:15; 1Jn 4:18
Jerusalem city of God; Ps 46:4; 87:2-5; Is 2:3; 52:1	To the Heavenly Jerusalem; Gal 4:26-28; Heb 11:10,16; 12:28; 13:14
Given by angels; Ps 68:17; Gal 3:19; Ac 7:53; Heb 1:4-7; 2:2	To angels, who help us; Heb 1:14; Ps 34:7; 91:11-12
Assembly; Ps 89:7; 111:1	To the General assembly - church; Ac 20:28; Eph 1:22
Firstborn; Ex 4:22-23	To the Church of the firstborn; Rom 8:16-17, 29; Col 1:15, 18
	Enrolled in heaven; Ps 69:28; Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3; Rev 13:8; 20:15
God, the judge; Gen 18:25; Ps 59:5; 94:2; 96:13; 98:9;	To God, the judge of all; (Jesus) Rom 8:31-35; Mat 25:31-34; Jn 5:27; 2Th 1:5-7; 1Pt 2:23;
	To spirits of the righteous made perfect; Heb 11:39-40; 12:1; Phil 3:8-12
	To Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant; Heb 8:6; 9:15; 12:24; Gal 3:19-20; 1Ti 2:5

which speaks better than the blood of Abel Gen 4:10-12; Ex 24:8; Heb 9:21	To the sprinkled blood; Heb 10:19; 1Pt 1:2; 1Jn 1:7
Israelites; Eph 9:6; Gen 32:28; Jer 31:36	Jews; Rom 2:28-29; Gal 2:15
Adoption as sons; Ex 4:22; Dt 32:6; Is 46:3	Sons of God; Rom 8:14-15; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5
The glory; Ex 16:10; 24:17-18; Dt 5:24; Ps 24:7-10	Glory; Jn 1:14-18; Rom 9:23; 2Cor 3:7-11
The covenants; Gen 15:18; Ex 34:27-28; Lk 1:72	Covenants of promise; Eph 2:12; Heb 7:22; 8:6-10
Giving of the law; Rom 3:2; Dt 4:14; Ne 9:13-14	Law written on heart; Heb 8:10; 10:16; Rom 13:10
The temple; Is 6:1-4; Hag 2:3-9; Mal 3:1	Temple of the Lord; 1Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:21
The promises; Lk 1:69-75; Ac 13:32-33; Rom 9:4	Promises; 2Cor 1:20; Gal 3:16-18; Heb 8:6; 2Pt 1:4

3. This is the inauguration of the O T church.

Ac 7:38 congregation [ecclesia; church] in the wilderness.

Ac 7:37-38 "This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.' 38 "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

In the third month - according to Jewish usage, the first day of that month—"same day."—It is added, to mark the time more explicitly, that is, forty-five days after Egypt—one day spent on the mount (Ex 19:3), one returning the people's answer (Ex 19:7, 8), three days of preparation, making the whole time fifty days from the first Passover to the promulgation of the Law.

Ex 19:1-3 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. 3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ...

Ex 19:7-8 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

Hence the Feast of Pentecost, that is, the fiftieth day, was the inauguration of the Old Testament church.

God's wisdom is apparent - in selecting the Feast of Pentecost for the establishment of the New Testament church (Jn 1:17; Ac 2:1).

Jn 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Ac 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

4. God's Covenantal purpose of redemption

Ex 19:3-6 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4' You yourselves have seen what I

did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Israel in the OT - (Ex 34:9; Dt 4:20; 7:6; 9:26,29; 14:2,21; 26:18; 32:9; 1Ki 8:53; Ps 28:9; 33:12; 74:2; 78:71; 94:14; 135:4; Isa 19:25; 41:8; 43:1; 63:17; Jer 10:16; Mic 7:14,18; Mal 3:17).

The church in the NT - (Rom 8:33; 9:25; Eph 1:11,14,18; Col 3:12; 1Thes 1:4; Heb 8:10; Tit 2:14; 1Pt 2:9; Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 21:3).

5. Note:

Beginning with Ex 19 and continuing to the cross of Christ (Col 2:14), the people were under the Mosaic system. This is called "the Law of Moses;" "the Law," and sometimes "the Law of God."

For the sake of convenience, we often speak of:

"the Moral Law" - referring to the 10 Commandments;

"the Ceremonial Law" - relating to the types and symbols found in the sacrificial system;

"the Civil Law" - meaning the everyday laws that govern the lives of the people

Perspective on the Law

Purpose of the Law

1. To close every mouth (Rom 3:19).
2. To make the world accountable to God (Rom 3:19).
3. To bring knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20).
4. To bring about wrath (Rom 4:15).
5. To increase sin (Rom 5:20).
6. To make sin alive (Rom 7:9).
7. To give sin power (1Cor 15:56).
8. To make you unjust (Gal 2:16).
9. To put you under a curse (Gal 3:10).
10. To make you imperfect (Heb 7:19; 10:1).

The purpose of God for giving the Law: (Wiersbe)

God did not give the law to save anybody, because it is impossible to be saved by the keeping of a law (Gal 3:11; Rom 3:20).

He gave the law to Israel for the following reasons:

1. To reveal His glory and holiness (Deut 5:22-28).
2. To reveal man's sinfulness (Rom 7:7, 13; 1Tim 1:9; Jas 1:22-25).
3. To mark Israel as His chosen people, and to separate them from the other nations (Ps 147:19-20; Eph 2:11-17; Acts 15).
4. To give Israel a standard for godly living so that they might inherit the land and enjoy its blessings (Deut 4:1; 5:29; Judges 2:19-21).
5. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ (Gal 3:24).
6. To illustrate in type and ceremony the Person and work of Christ (Heb 8-10).

Things the Law couldn't do

1. Justify from sin (Rom 3:20).
2. Take away sin (1Cor 15:56).
3. It could not make us walk in God's requirements (Rom 8:3-4).
4. Make you righteous (Gal 2:21).
5. Impart life (Gal 3:21).
6. Make you perfect (Heb 7:19; 10:1).
7. Give peace to the heart (Heb 9:9).

The Law is compared to:

A mirror, because it reveals our sins (Jas 1:22-25).

A yoke, because it brings bondage (Acts 15:10; Gal 5:1; Rom 8:3).

A child trainer because it prepared Israel for the coming of Christ (Gal 3:23-4:7).

A shadow in contrast to the reality and fulfillment we have in Christ (Heb 10:1; Col 2:14-17).

Letters written on stones (2Cor 3); in contrast to the law of love written on our hearts by the Spirit.

Jesus Christ and the Law:

Gal 4:4-6 Jesus was made (born) under the Law

Mat 5:17 Jesus fulfilled the Law in every respect.

Lk 24:44-47 His Person and work are seen in the Law.

Rom 10:1-13 Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness for the believer.

Gal 3:10-14 Jesus bore the penalty of the curse of the Law for us.

Col 2:13-15 our (certificate) indebtedness has been nailed (forgiven) to the cross of Jesus.

Eph 2:11-14 the Law no longer makes a distinction (separates) Jew and Gentile.

Events (lessons to learn)

A. Jethro's counsel to appoint judges (Ex 18:1-26; Dt 1:9-15).

B. The Golden Calf (Ex 32:1 - 34:17)

1Jn 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols

"idols" here may well refer to a wide range of God-substitutes.

Definition of idolatry:

1. Dictionary of Bible Themes - The worship or adoration of anyone or anything other than the LORD God. Idolatry includes the worship of other gods, such as those of the nations surrounding Israel, images or idols and the creation itself.

2. Merriam Webster's Dictionary -

1: the worship of a physical object as a god

2: immoderate attachment or devotion to something

3. The New Bible Dictionary - The NT reinforces and amplifies the OT teaching, recognizing that idols are both nonentities and dangerous spiritual potencies. Rom. 1 expresses the OT view that idolatry is a decline from true spirituality, and not a stage on the way to a pure knowledge of God. The NT recognizes that idolatry exists even when there are no physical idols

Idolatry is associated with sexual sins (Gal 5:19-20; Eph 4:19; 5:3; 1Thes 4:6; 1Cor 10:7,14).

Idolatry is linked with covetousness (1Cor 5:11; Eph 5:5; Col 3:5),

John says that any deviation is idolatry (1Jn 5:19-21).

An idol is whatever claims loyalty which belongs to God alone (Is 42:8).

NT teaching on idolatry:

1Cor 5:11 Do not associate with a brother who is an idolater

1Cor 10:7 Do not be idolaters.

1Cor 10:14 Flee from idolatry

2 Cor 6:16 what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

Gal 5:19-21 Idolatry is a deed of the flesh

Col 3:5 Consider the members of your earthly body as dead to ... passion, evil desire, and greed, which

amounts to idolatry.

1Thes 1:9 ... you turned to God from idols.

Rev 9:20 they did not repent of their idolatry.

There are 3 kinds of spiritual idolatry in the temptations of Jesus (Mat 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13)

1. Possessions

Mat 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (Lk 4:3)

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (Lk 16:13)

Phil 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

1Tim 6:9-10 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2. Prestige and self-esteem

Lk 4:9 And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; (Mt 4:6)

3. Power

Lk 4:6-7 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." (Mt 4:8-9)

Jas 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (Jas 4:10; 1Pt 5:5; Jas 4:6; Pro 3:34)

C. Nadab and Abihu destroyed for offering strange fire (Lev 9:22 - 10:2; 10:1-20; Nu 3:4)

D. Stoning to death for blasphemy (Lev 24:10-23)

References used in this study:

Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament
The Outline Bible