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Exodus 24

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Exodus 24.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- God calls Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders to worship from afar.
- Only Moses could go near to God.
- Moses tells the people all the words, laws and rules of the LORD.
- Moses reads the Book of the Covenant to all the people of Israel.
- All the people of Israel agree to do all that the LORD has spoken.
- Moses throws blood on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant."
- Moses Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders see God on the mountain.
- The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days.
- On the seventh day the LORD called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
- The LORD'S glory was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain.
- Moses went on the mountain and entered the cloud for forty days and nights.

INTRODUCTION: in the book of Exodus, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by multiplying Abraham's descendants into a great nation delivering them from slavery in Egypt to journey to the Promised Land, and then binding them to Himself with a covenant at Mount Sinai. Moses, under the direct command of God and as leader of Israel, received the Ten Commandments from God, along with other laws governing Israel's life and worship. He also led the nation in building the Tabernacle, a place where God's presence can dwell among his people and where they can make sacrifices for sin.

Most Jews and Christians recognise Moses as the author, writing sometime after the Exodus from Egypt (about 1445 B.C.). Note: the promise God made to Abraham will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ returns in glory and all those (Jews and Gentiles) who belong to God's Kingdom are gathered to him. (See also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

To understand the chronological order of this chapter it helps to firstly look at the many different journeys in the previous chapters that Moses made up and down Mount Sinai to talk with the LORD. In Exodus chapter nineteen Israel had left Egypt and are in the wilderness of Sinai camped by Mount Sinai.

MOSES FIRST TRIP UP THE MOUNTAIN

Moses goes some way up Mount Sinai to the LORD. The LORD tells Moses if Israel keeps his covenant, they will be His treasured possession amongst all the nations of the earth and be to the LORD a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Israel has not entered the covenant yet nor is it written). The LORD then tells Moses to speak these words, Israel.

MOSES FIRST TRIP DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Moses goes down to Israel and tells them if they keep the LORD'S covenant, they will be His treasured possession amongst the nations of the earth and be to the LORD a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do" (the covenant has not yet been written Moses simply finding out if all the people of Israel are prepared to enter into a covenant with the LORD). It's a bit like lawyers drawing up a basic draft of a covenant contract and seeing if the two parties would agree to it in principal and if they say "Yes" he then goes and draws up a very detailed and final copy of the covenant contract.

MOSES SECOND TRIP UP THE MOUNTAIN

Moses goes back onto the mountain and tells the LORD that the people have agreed to enter into a covenant with the LORD their God. The LORD tells Moses that He is going to come to Moses in a thick cloud so that all the people of Israel can hear the LORD speak and believe Moses forever. The LORD tells Moses to go down from the mountain and consecrated the people so that they are ready for the LORD when He descends on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

MOSES SECOND TRIP DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Moses goes down, consecrates the people and brought them out of the camp to meet God at the foot of Mount Sinai.

THE LORD DESCENDS ON THE MOUNTAIN

The LORD descends upon the top of Mount Sinai in fire and there was thunder, lightning and the whole mountain was wrapped in smoke and greatly trembled and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

MOSES THIRD TRIP ONTO THE MOUNTAIN

The LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. The LORD told Moses to go back down the mountain and bring Aaron up with him and warn the priests and the people not to attempt to come up the mountain and break through the cloud to come up to the LORD.

MOSES THIRD TRIP DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Moses goes down the mountain and tells the people of Israel all these things. Since Moses travelled up and down the mountain three times it is most likely he only went some way up the first two times and then to the very top the last time as the LORD called him to do. It is very likely that Moses while in the wilderness had some beautiful spot on the mountain side where he could be alone while praying with the LORD.

- **Exodus 20:** God gives the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.
- **Exodus 21:** God tells Moses all the rules he is to set before Israel (v1).
- **Exodus 22:** God give Moses laws, statutes and commands for Israel.
- **Exodus 23:** God give Moses more laws, statutes and commands for Israel.

And that brings us to chapter twenty-four. The Lord has descended on Mount Sinai and Israel has agreed to enter into a covenant, but it has not yet been confirmed.

EXODUS 24:1-2

Moses fourth trip up the Mountain.

- **Exodus 24:1-2:** Then LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. ²“Moses alone, however, shall come near to the LORD, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.”

The LORD told Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, to come up Mount Sinai and worship from afar, only Moses was to go near to the LORD, Aaron Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel were to worship on the Mountain from a distance and the people of Israel were not to go onto the mountain at all.

EXODUS 24:3

Moses fourth trip down the Mountain.

- **Exodus 24:3:** Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”

Israel agrees to the covenant: Moses told the people all the words of the LORD and all His rules and statutes and all the people answered Moses with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken they will do.

EXODUS 24:4-5

Moses writes the Covenant Laws in a Book.

- **Exodus 24:4-5:** And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.

Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD in a book and built an altar at the foot of Mount Sinai and twelve pillars, a pillar for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

EXODUS 24:6-8

The Covenant is, Confirmed by Blood.

- **Exodus 24:6-8:** And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” ⁸So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Moses seals the covenant with blood by firstly sprinkling it on the altar and then after the people had agreed before the altar to do all that the LORD had spoken, he sprinkles the blood on the people.

EXODUS 24:9-11

Moses fifth trip up the Mountain.

- **Exodus 24:9-11:** Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. ¹¹Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they beheld God, (At a distance) and they ate and drank.

Moses with the priests return to some spot on Mount Sinai and the LORD appears to them (perhaps in some form of vision).

The pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself under the LORD’S feet: is most likely symbolic of Israel being under the glory of God and the peace and glory between Israel and the LORD at this glorious time.

Visions and reality: Visions can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. Many biblical visions often appear as real events to the person experiencing them, they can be spoken of in the following two ways: -

1. As an actual and real event.
2. As a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

The person having the vision maybe left in confusion as to whether it was a vision or an actual event. This is because many biblical visions appear so real the emotions and the body respond as though it is an actual real event, even though it may simply be playing out in vivid colour and crystal-clear pictures on the imagination of the mind. The reason for this is that the human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore cannot discern the difference between a real picture being played out on the imagination of the mind or an imaginary one so the nervous system responds to both the real image and the imaginary image in the same manner. This is why in many chapters the same event is written as a real experience in some verses and as a vision in others since the biblical character is not always sure what they actually experienced (2 Cor. 12:1-3).

Paul when speaking of himself in the third person said: -

- I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows and I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows (2 Cor. 12:1-3).

Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain and he was not only transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light, but Moses and Elijah also appeared to them. This event was so real that Peter asked Jesus if he should make a tent for the Lord and one for Moses and one for Elijah, yet as they were walking back

down the mountain Jesus told Peter, James and John not to tell this vision to anyone (Matt. 17:1-9). A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to and they then proceed to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

EXODUS 24:12-18

Moses returns to the Top of Mount Sinai for the Second Time.

- **Exodus 24:12-18:** Now the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. ¹⁴But to the elders he said, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them." ¹⁵Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶And the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. ¹⁸And Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

It appears that Moses went up the mountain of God with Joshua and they remained together for six days with the mountain covered in the cloud and the glory of the LORD. On the seventh day the LORD calls to Moses from the midst of the cloud and Moses alone enters into the midst of the cloud and goes to the top of the mountain and spends forty-days and forty-nights with the LORD. During these forty days the LORD gives Moses the Stone Tablets with the law and the commandment which He had written for Israel's instruction.

While Moses and Joshua were up on the mountain Aaron and Hur and the elders were at the foot of the mountain waiting for Moses and Joshua to return. While Moses and Joshua are gone Aaron and Hur are to act as judges for the people over legal matters.

COMMENT: the glory of the LORD appeared to the people of Israel like a consuming fire on the top of Mount Sinai, no other nation on earth has seen such a thing. It is interesting to ponder the thought: though the mountain appeared as a consuming fire to the people standing at the foot of it, Moses is in the middle of this consuming fire with the LORD. Perhaps something similar to when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace, those outside the furnace saw raging fiery flames, yet inside Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were walking around unharmed with one who had the appearance of a son of the gods" who Nebuchadnezzar later confessed was an angel the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had sent to deliver his faithful servants who trusted in him (Dan. 3:19-30).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
