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## **Exodus 19**

(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 19.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- Israel is camped before the Mount Sinai while Moses goes up to God.
- If Israel keeps the covenant, they will be the LORD'S treasured possession.
- Israel will be a kingdom of priests and holy nation if they obey.
- All the people of Israel agree to enter into a covenant with the LORD.
- the LORD comes to Moses in a thick cloud.
- Moses consecrates all the people ready for the third day.
- On the third day the LORD descends on Mount Sinai.
- All the people come out to meet God at the foot of the mountain.
- The LORD descends on Mount Sinai in fire and smoke and it trembled.
- The LORD calls Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses goes up.
- The LORD tells Moses to go down the mountain and bring Aaron up.
- Moses goes down the mountain and warns the people not to touch it.

**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.

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**Sinai Desert:** is a large desert area between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf (the Ishmaelites settled here).

**Sinai Mount:** the mountain of God is also referred to as Mount Horeb, near the center of the Sinai desert.

**Israel is camped before Mount Sinai:** on the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, they camped at Rephidim and then travelled into the wilderness of Sinai and camped near Mount Sinai.

**Moses goes up Mount Sinai:** and the LORD tells him to remind Israel how the LORD had delivered them on eagles' wings and brought them out of Egypt to Himself, then tells Moses to say to Israel if they obey the voice of the LORD and keep His covenant, they will be the LORD'S treasured possession among all peoples of the earth and also be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to the LORD.

**Moses goes down Mount Sinai:** and spoke to the elders and the people all these words that the LORD had commanded him and all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken, we will do.

**Moses goes back up Mount Sinai:** and tells the LORD the people had agreed to do all that the LORD had said. The LORD then tells Moses that He is coming to him in a thick cloud so that the people may hear the LORD speak with Moses and believe Moses forever.

**Moses goes down Mount Sinai:** and consecrates the people and tells them to be ready for the third day, because the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai on the third day in the sight of all the people. Moses tells Israel when the trumpet sounds a long blast, they are to come up to the foot of the mountain, but are not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it, because whoever does will be put to death. On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Moses brings the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the Mount Sinai which was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on the top of the mountain in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly and as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder and at the end of this breathtaking and awesome event the LORD calls Moses to the top of the mountain.

**Moses goes up the mountain:** and the LORD tells him to go down, and bring Aaron back up the mountain with him, but do not let the priests and the people break through the cloud to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them and they perish.

**Moses goes down the mountain:** to get Aaron and warn the people not to break through the cloud to look upon the LORD or go into the mountain or they will perish.

**NOTICE:** in verse thirteen we are told:

- When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.

And in verse sixteen:

- On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

Yet we are not told who is blowing the trumpets, clearly not only was the LORD power displayed in the cloud, the thunder and the lightening, but angels blowing the trumpets of the LORD were involved in this most dramatic event that established Israel as the LORD'S covenant people.

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**COMMENT:** the LORD told Israel they would be his treasured possession among all peoples of all the earth and a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to Him (Exodus 19:3-6). The following verses show that Israel has always been God's special and unique people

God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).

- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world.

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

(Exod. 19:5) (Deut. 7:6) (Deut. 14:2) (Deut. 26:18) (Deut. 32:9)  
(Isaiah 46:3-4) (Hosea 11:1).

These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy and righteous race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God. It is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return.

It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin. Likewise, Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

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It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

### **The practical application of what this means to you:**

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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*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.*