



**Today's Sermon:  
The Holiness of God**  
*Exodus 19*

Intro: IRBC

1. Covenant with Abraham
2. Holiness of God
3. Holiness of God's People

**I. Mountain of God**  
Exodus 19:1-2

- A. Promise Made
- B. Promise Kept
- C. Up, Down, (Repeat)
- D. Keep my Covenant
  - i. Promise Made with Abraham
- E. A Holy Nation
- D. Be Afraid
- E. Sett Yourselves Apart
- F. Behold Your God

Theology of the Tabernacle

**II. Promise Kept with Abraham**

**III. The Holiness of God**  
Do we have a proper view of God's Holiness?

**IV. Holiness of God's People**  
A. Covenant  
B. Holiness

**Gospel Application**

**Exodus 19**

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. <sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>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."



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<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.

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The page is framed by a wide, ornate border of floral and foliate motifs in gold, blue, and red. The central text is enclosed in a simple gold rectangular border.

The Gospel  
According to  
**St. Moses**  
a study of exodus

Today's Message:  
*The Holiness of God*  
Exodus 19

1. Covenant with Abraham
2. Holiness of God
3. Holiness of God's People

# Mountain of God

# *Promise Made with Moses*

## **Exodus 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.

# *Promise Kept with Moses*

## **Exodus 19:1-2**

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.

Up and Down (Repeat)

## Exodus 19:3a

<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.”

Keep my Covenant

## Exodus 19:3-4a

<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.”

# *Promise Made with Abraham*

## **Genesis 12:1-3**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.

## Exodus 19:5-6

<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.”

# *Kingdom of Priests, a Holy Nation*

## **Exodus 19:7-9**

<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.

Israel will soon be privy to the private conversation Moses had with God in chapter 3. It is important to God that Israel learn to trust Moses, the mediator. He is the link between his own glory, which no one may gaze upon, and the people he has come to deliver.

# *Be Afraid*

## **Exodus 19:10-13**

<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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.”

## Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

# *Set Yourselves Apart*

## **Exodus 19:14-15**

<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.”

# *Behold Your God*

## **Exodus 19:16-19**

<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.

# Tripartite structure of the tabernacle

## Exodus 19:20-25

<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.”

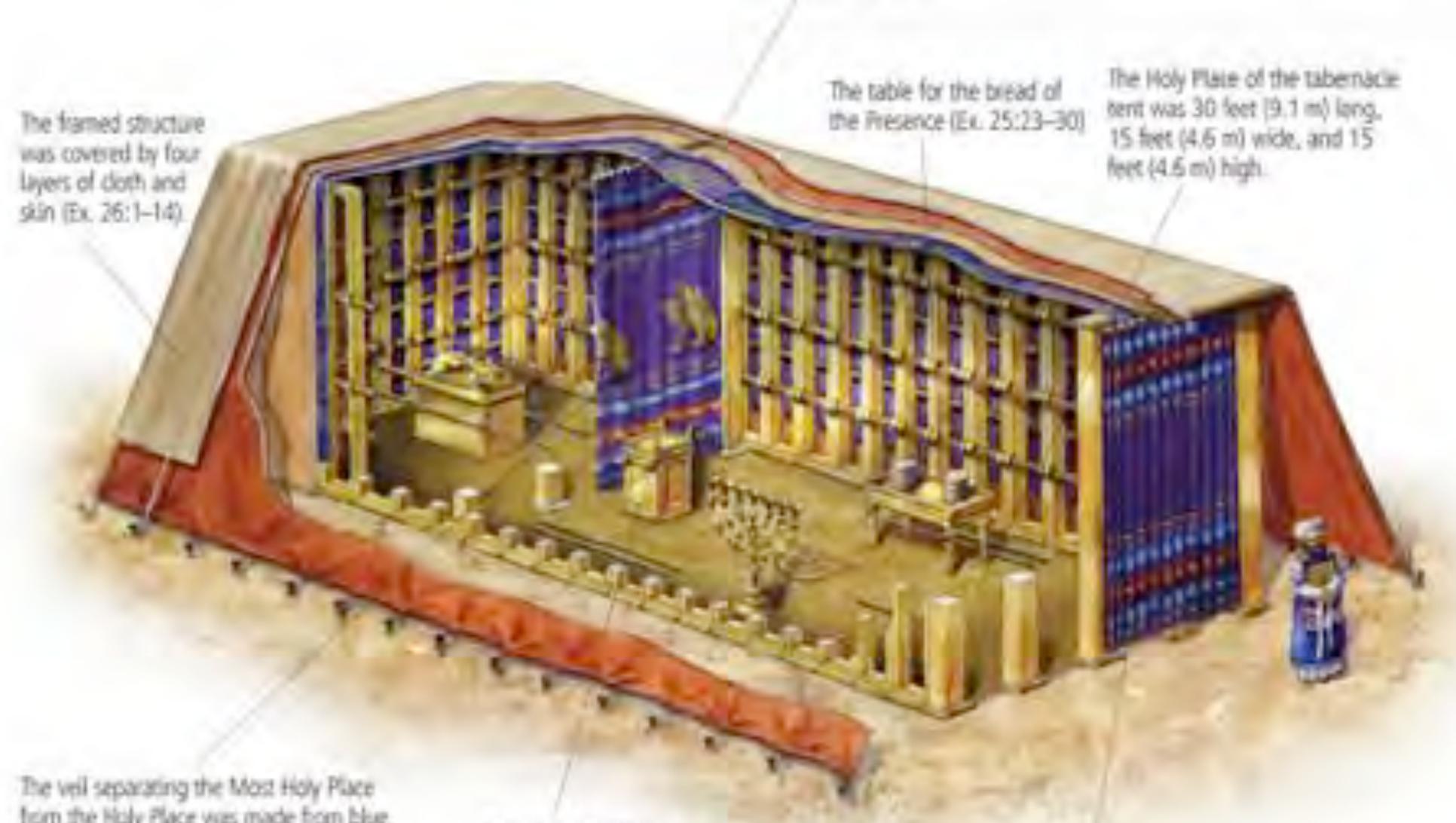
<sup>25</sup> So Moses went down to the people and told them.

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1-14).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23-30)

The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

The veil separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was made from blue



## Exodus 19:20-25

<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.”

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

# 1. Promise Kept with Abraham

# Isaiah 49:6

<sup>6</sup> he says:

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

## Acts 13:44-48

<sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

1. Promise Kept with Abraham
2. The Holiness of God

“Hence that dread and amazement with which as Scripture uniformly relates holy men were struck and overwhelmed whenever they beheld the presence of God”

~John Calvin



## Hebrews 12:18-24

<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; <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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.”

## Hebrews 12:18-24

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

[Moses *was*] the link between his own glory, which no one may gaze upon, and the people he has come to deliver.

~ Enns, P. (2000). (pp. 389390). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Jesus *is* the link between God's own glory, which no one may gaze upon, and the people he has come to deliver.

How do we have a proper view of God's  
holiness today?

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver;  
“don’t you hear what Mrs.  
Beaver tells you? Who said  
anything about safe?  
‘Course he isn’t safe. But  
he’s good. He’s the King,  
I tell you.”

~ C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

1. Promise Kept with Abraham
2. The Holiness of God
3. The Holiness of God's People

1. Promise Kept with Abraham
2. The Holiness of God
3. The Holiness of God's People
  - A. As a Covenant People

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

But being separate from the world is never merely so for its own sake. It is never meant to be a display of otherness for no purpose. Rather, as we see in Exodus 19 and 1 Peter 2, we are to be wholly separate from the world precisely in order to better serve the world. We have been given the wonderful task of going back and invading the world from which we are taken in an effort to bring the good news of the resurrected life to those still dead in sin. To paraphrase Paul's language, we died *to* sin in order to be effective witnesses to those still dead *in* sin.

~ Enns, P. (2000). (p. 405). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

1. Promise Kept with Abraham
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3. The Holiness of God's People
  - A. As a Covenant People
  - B. As a Holy People

## 1 Peter 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

The example we set is not by lauding our morality over others but by humbly being light and salt to world — that is, by demonstrating in no uncertain terms, by our words and our actions, that we are of a different pedigree, a holy race. It is, in a manner of speaking, the clearest proof of the existence of God — not a logical and scintillating exegetical argument, not forceful rhetoric, but pure, humble, godly lives lived in the shadow of the cross and in the brilliant glow of the resurrection. By living such lives we show the world that the gospel works. It is not just words or a great idea, it changes us from the inside out and makes us into creatures whose behavior is inexplicable.

Enns, P. (2000). (pp. 405406). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

# Gospel Application:

*Are you a member of the Covenant People of God?*

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*Do you have a healthy and holy reverence for God?*

# Gospel Application:

*Are you a member of the Covenant People of God?*

*Do you have a healthy and holy reverence for God?*

*Are you pointing people to Jesus?*