

INTRODUCTION:

Exodus 18:24-27 Moses listened and heard what Jethro had to say, and we assume he went before God with this, and then carried out all the advice Jethro had suggested to him. Moses chose capable men out of Israel, making them heads over the people; rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. They were constantly available to administer justice. They brought the hard cases to Moses, but judged the smaller matters themselves. The help was much needed and now it was time for Moses' father in law to depart. He left and went back to his own land of Midian.

Now the process of bringing the nation into the Promised Land begins. Now, God is about to declare His great plan for the nation of Israel.

LESSON: I. ISRAEL'S ARRIVAL AT SINAI EXODUS 19:1-2

19:1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. It has taken the children of Israel three months to get to the Wilderness of Sinai, led by Moses. This is a familiar place for Moses, for he had had his "*Burning Bush*" experience on the back side of the desert. But they finally arrived the third month and the first day of that month they have come to the wilderness of Sinai where God can now declare His great plan for the nation of Israel. The process of bringing the nation into the Promised Land can begin.

19:2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. The stopping place the Israelites departed from was Rephidim. Rephidim is between the Wilderness of Sin and the Wilderness of Sinai. The Israelites coming from Rephidim pitched camp in the desert of Sinai. They are camped before the Mount of God.

II. GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ISRAEL EXODUS 19:3-6

19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;— Moses goes up the mountain to God, and the Lord is speaking to him from out of the mountain... "*tell the children of Israel...*"

19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. God wants Moses to recall or bring to the people's remembrance of what He has done, specifically saying "*You have seen*", meaning this is not anything made up. "You have seen" how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself." This meant that nobody else did this! We all have had been reminded from time to time of something about God's goodness. "*Bare*" and "*Brought*" in this instance mean to carry.

¹God had protected the Israelites and he had guided them. He acted like the large, powerful bird called an eagle. Eagles live in high places and they protect their young birds. Deuteronomy 32:11 describes how an eagle teaches her young birds to fly. She causes them to fall out of the nest. If they do not fly, she catches them on her wings. And she carries them, so that they do not have any injury.

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/exodus-19->
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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²Like the young eagle, the Israelites were in their nest while in Egypt. Though they suffered hardships, disappointments, despair and oppression, they were never out of the watchful, careful eye of God. Swiftly and safely God removed them from their place of hardship and limitation, distinguishing them from all other nations, having chosen them to be a special people to Himself.

He is also speaking to us now, saying, "*I bore you on eagle's wings.*" Every difficult situation is designed by God to teach us to soar, to excel. However, God didn't deliver Israel so they could "*do their own thing*," nor us, but it was so we all could be God's people at our best in Him. It all comes from and by God that he is able to carry us to the [lace of Himself. He leads and He guides!

19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:— There is a Covenant of condition, and it's stringent and is dependent upon what we do. Moses is hearing all this from the very voice and breathe of God. As God brings them unto Himself, He says: "therefore, *If you will indeed (certainly) obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure (My prized possession) among all the people, for all the earth is Mine.*" Nothing belongs to us except it comes from Him! Three things God does for Israel (vv.5-6).

1. A peculiar treasure—a precious possession to be esteemed highly and carefully guarded from all that might injure it. The stipulation is obeying God's voice and keeping His covenant!

19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And these were the encouraging words that Moses was to speak to the children of Israel.

2. A kingdom of priests—Priests are like ambassadors, mediating between the one they represent (God) and the ones to whom they are representing (man).
3. An holy nation— separated and set-apart for God

III. ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO THE LORD EXODUS 19:7-9

19:7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. ...Moses called the elders of the people...set before them all these words which the Lord commanded him.

19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. ...And all the people answered together and said, All that the Lord had spoken we will do! And Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord (NAS).

Moses called the elders of the people; told them all the words that the Lord had commanded him to tell; and all the people answered and said that they would obey, and they meant it. The problem was that they forgot the weakness of their flesh. God gave them three titles: "*My own possession*", "*a kingdom of priests*" and "*a holy nation*", all on the contingency of, if they obeyed. As the priestly order in times past, was set apart from the common mass, so were the Israelites. They were to sustain the same near relation to God.

19:9 And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the Lord. God was specific with His instructions to Moses for the people. Moses was the only one God talked to and through. And Moses would in turn tell the people all the instructions in which God had spoken. Moses was the leader, the one God put in charge to deliver His people. God was about to come down to them in a thick cloud

³ <http://crossheart.org/hearttoheart.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



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and when He spoke to Moses, the people would be able to hear Him and believe in Moses forever.



SUMMARY:

The Israelites departing from Rephidim pitched camp in the desert of Sinai. It has taken the children of Israel three months to get to the Wilderness of Sinai. There they camped before the Mount of God. Moses goes up the mountain to God, and the Lord speaks to him from out of the mountain. ...*"tell the children of Israel..."* (19:1-3).

God wants Moses to recall or bring to the people's remembrance of what He has done, specifically saying *"You have seen"*, meaning this is not anything made up. *"You have seen"* how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself." This meant that nobody else did this. There is a Covenant of condition, and it's stringent and is dependent upon what we do. Moses is hearing all this from the very voice and breathe of God. As God brings them unto Himself, He says: *"therefore, If you will indeed (certainly) obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure (My prized possession) among all the people, for all the earth is Mine."* *"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."* Nothing belongs to us except it comes from Him! (19:4-6).

Moses called Lord w elders of the people...set before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, All that the Lord had spoken we will do! And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. God was about to come down to them in a thick cloud and was going to speak to them and tell them about His Ten Commandments. And Moses informed them of what the Lord was about to do (19:7-9).

