**Israel Comes to the Mountain**

**Introduction:**

It took Israel three months to reach Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 19:1-2) They had witnessed God deliver them out of Egypt; they had seen the ten plagues; they saw the Red Sea parted; they had bitter water turned into sweet; and bread rained down from heaven during that three months. The nation encamped here for about eleven months. (Numbers 10) This account points back to what God said in Exodus 3:12. Jehovah reminded the people of His great care for them. (Exodus 19:3-4) Eagles’ wings denote strength and power. (Deuteronomy 32:10-12) Three very important things are revealed while Israel is encamped at Mt. Sinai.

**Text:** Exodus 19:1-25

**Body:**

1. **God’s Plan for Israel** (Verses 5-9)

* God’s plan had two conditions: “obey” and “keep” (Verses 5-6) (Deuteronomy 7:11-12)
* God’s promise to His “treasured possession” was of great value to Jehovah. (Deuteronomy 7:6) He had a special plan for Israel. Israel was a “kingdom of priests.” They were to represent God to the people of the earth. They were a “holy nation.” (Leviticus 20:26) They were set apart for His purposes.
* Peter used these terms to describe Christians. (I Peter 2:9) We are to be different from the world in our thinking and doing. We have the privilege of serving God as priests. (I Peter 2:5)
* The people agree. (Verses 7-9) The people reaffirmed their commitment later. (Exodus 24:3-4)

1. **God’s Plea for Preparation** (Verses 10-15)

* Since God was going to appear to the people in a special way, they needed to prepare. (Deuteronomy 33:2)
* “Consecrate” (Leviticus 11:44-45) Preparation meant separation and holiness. There was the necessity of washing.
* There was a need for limits. God set boundaries that were not to be crossed. The penalty was death. This was true even for animals.
* There were limits put in place for sexual intimacy.
* People have always needed boundaries; it is very important not to cross them. (II John 9-11)
* Also, this teaches how critical it is for people to prepare to meet God, both in worship and in eternity. (Amos 4:12) Note the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25.

1. **God’s Presence on the Mountain** (Verses 16-25)

* There was a dramatic presentation of God’s power and glory. (Psalm 77:18)
* Moses spoke and God thundered in answer. Moses went up and God came down. (Nehemiah 9:13-14)
* Only Moses and Aaron were invited up on the mountain.
* God’s presence should produce awe and reverence. (Isaiah 6:1-5)

**Invitation:**

Under the New Covenant, God’s people come to a different mountain. (Hebrews 12:18-25)

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