

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

#69 – The Room with a Mountain
View

Exodus 20:18-21

Exodus 20:18

“¹⁸ All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance.”

Exodus 19:18

“¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.”

Exodus 20:18-21

“¹⁸ All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.’ ²⁰ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.’ ²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.”

Exodus 20:18

“¹⁸ All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance.”

Worship

Time

Relationships

Possessions

Bodies

Speech

Desires

Exodus 20:19

“¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.’”

Hebrews 12:19

“¹⁹ And to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.”

Exodus 20:20

“²⁰ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.’”

Deuteronomy 5:5

“⁵ ... while I was standing between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.”

Exodus 15:25

“²⁵ Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them.”

Exodus 16:4

“⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses,
‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven
for you; and the people shall go out
and gather a day’s portion every day,
that I may test them, whether or not
they will walk in My instruction.’”

Exodus 20:21

“²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.”

**The rehearsal is over
and the curtain is
about to go up on the
Day of Judgment.**

Acts 17:30-31

“³⁰ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

**Hopefully, by now, we
realize that it is
impossible for us to keep
the Ten Commandments.**

Romans 5:12

“¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question #82: Can anyone perfectly keep the commandments of God?

Answer #82: Since the fall no ordinary man can perfectly keep the commandments of God in this life, but breaks them every day in thought, word, and action.

Romans 1:17

“¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”

There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’ Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

**We have a better
mediator of a superior
covenant.**

Romans 8:3

“³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.”

I Timothy 2:5

“⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Jesus is greater than Moses.

Hebrews 3:3a

“³ For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses....”

Jesus is a superior mediator.

Hebrews 8:6

“⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.”

Jesus is the mediator of a new and better covenant.

Hebrews 9:15

“¹⁵ For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

**We have come to a
different mountain.**

Hebrews 12:18-20a

“¹⁸ For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, ¹⁹ and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not bear the command”

Hebrews 12:22-24

“²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”

**The mediator now
instructs us how to
use the Law.**

Samuel Bolton, Puritan:

“The law sends us to the gospel that we may be justified; and the gospel sends us to the law again to inquire what is our duty as those who are justified....
The law sends us to the gospel for our justification; the gospel sends us to the law to frame our way of life.”