

The Glory of God  
Week 13 – JROC - “About 3,000”  
August 24, 2025

Following the parting of the Red Sea in Ex. 14...following Moses’ song of VICTORY, of praise to God...and of Miriam’s praise to God (Ex. 15)...the children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai (Sinai means “thorny”). The Israelites reached the desert of Sinai in the third month of their trip from Egypt.

Last week we read Ex. 3:12 – When God caught Moses’ attention at the burning but NOT consumed bush at Horeb (another name for Sinai; Horeb means “desolation”) in Midian, God told Moses, *this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain*

Horeb was the place where Moses met God at the burning bush.

The “traditional” site of Mt. Sinai, on the Sinai Peninsula, is not the correct location of the mountain where all this came to pass.

According to Exodus 2:15, 3:1, and 3:12, this mountain was in the region of Midian which was on the east side of the Gulf of Aqaba, east of the Sinai Peninsula. (The ancient land of Midian is in the modern nation of Saudi Arabia)

Gal. 4:25 – Paul clearly described Mount Sinai as being in Arabia. *For this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia.*

There is significant evidence, both historic and archaeological, to associate the Arabian mountain *Jebel al-Lawz* with the site of Mt. Sinai.

Then Moses climbed up the mountain to meet with God. How old was Moses? EIGHTY!! We’re told in Ex. 19:3 that Moses went up to God – the LORD having called to Moses from the mountain. We read of God giving Moses the ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and MANY other commandments (total of 613 commandments in the Torah [first five books of Moses – the Law]). Why 613 commandments? The 613 commandments cover all the instructions on how to craft all the implements used in the tabernacle, all the offerings/sacrifices, all the feasts, how they were to encamp around the tabernacle...

Ex. 20:18-21 - *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ <sup>20</sup> And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’ <sup>21</sup> So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (!!!) TEST? In the Hebrew, the word means “prove.” That doesn’t so much help, does it? It’s been suggested that in this “test; this proving ground” God REVEALED WHO HE IS! His GLORY was being manifested!*

They were to see what kind of God they served: a God above time and space Who is personal, good, and holy – and approachable! He is just (because He is holy) and must deal with sin!

God revealed to them His expectations in giving them the commandments. He is a God Who is holy and sets before them His desire for them to be holy (Lev. 19:2 – *be holy for I am holy*). Is man able to do so? Here a contrast is drawn between God and man.

God revealed to them their weaknesses and the need for God's grace, mercy, and deliverance.

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Yes – the people stood at a distance; but Moses drew near. Near to where? The thick darkness where God was? What is this thick darkness? We need to remember that I John 1:5 tells us that *God is light and in Him is no darkness AT ALL!!!* If we wonder “at all” - “at all” strongly affirms and confirms that God is absolutely perfect. There is NO DARKNESS in God AT ALL! We can understand it this way...God was IN the darkness – IN the thick cloud...NOT part of the darkness. (**"Affirm" generally means to state something with conviction, often to assert or declare something as true, while "confirm" means to verify or establish the truth of something that has already been asserted or suspected.**

Ex. 19:9 - *And the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.'* God was and is APART from darkness! TURN TO Ex. 19:16-20...we read in Ex. 20:18-21 (READ).

In attempting to grasp the thinking of the children of Israel, they decided they didn't need to meet God, after all. It was enough for Moses to do so. He could fill them in later. Did the people NEED GOD? YES!!!! They needed to experience God's POWER. AND, God REVEALED Himself in this way to His people so that they would REVERENCE HIM.

If we just pick and choose the parts we like re: God, His love, mercy, and grace, and ignore the rest...His holiness, His justice, His righteous judgment...our understanding of God is incomplete!

People who believe in a God of love but not a God of judgment, are not submitting to God's revelation in the Bible...and because they are determining what God should be like – they are setting themselves up as...God! They are worshipping their own agenda!

*...consider the goodness and severity of God.*

The Lord descended on Mt. Sinai...in fire....

Ex. 24:16-18 - *Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. <sup>18</sup> So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

God showed Moses the pattern of the tabernacle in heaven...and God showed Moses all the furnishings. Perhaps there was a vision in God's communication to Moses.

Ex. 25:8 – *...let them make Me a sanctuary (to set apart; to be holy), that I may dwell (schkan; abide) among them. <sup>9</sup> According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle mishkan) and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

The pattern of the tabernacle was according to a heavenly reality.

Heb. 8:5-6 informs us that the Levitical priests (in the tabernacle and the temple) *served the copy and shadow of the heavenly things*. On Mount Sinai, God instructed Moses how to construct the

tabernacle in the wilderness - where God would DWELL - and where the children of Israel would WORSHIP Him! What a LOVING relationship God desires!

God dwelled in a temporary tabernacle/tent.

Lev. 25:23 – God told the children of Israel, ...*the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.* What was God telling them? As their God Who is personal and desires to be known, He has chosen to abide with them in a temporary dwelling – to be a witness not only to them – but to the nations of the world! Jesus – *salvation is of the Jews!* To be an instrument of blessing for the world. AND to cause the children of Israel to know that their God was a

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fellow-pilgrim – that where they pitched, He pitched...that their enemies, difficulties, and marches in the wilderness were His as well

Ex. 32:1-24 - READ

And, while Moses was communing with God, what were the children of Israel engaged in down below...in the camp? The people were UNRESTRAINED! They were OUT OF CONTROL! They were worshipping a golden calf.

Ex. 32:26 - ‘*Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!*’ And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. <sup>27</sup> And he said to them, “*Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’*” <sup>28</sup> So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. OBSERVATIONS!!!!

We are going to view God’s marvelous grace in the midst of His judgment on sin!

Let’s look at the Feast of Weeks – before we continue with Exodus.

We know that Exodus comes before Leviticus.

Lev. 23:15-17 – God told the children of Israel that they should count 50 days from the “day after the Sabbath” during the Passover. The day after the Sabbath is Sunday. It’s Resurrection Sunday – in Jesus’ day. Fifty days following Resurrection Sunday the children of Israel were told by God to offer a NEW GRAIN offering to the Lord. Lev. 23:17 - You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven

What is this day...50 days following JESUS’ Resurrection?

It is the Feast of Weeks/Shavuot on the Jewish calendar which is PENTECOST (50) on the “Christian” calendar!!!

What occurred on the Jewish Feast of Weeks 50 days following Jesus’ resurrection?

Two people groups gathered in Jerusalem on this Jewish feast: the Jews and their proselytes (Acts 2:10). Proselytes were Gentiles who believed in the God of Israel...were part of the immense crowd that gathered in Jerusalem on the Feast of Weeks.

The Holy Spirit descended and indwelt “about 3,000”!!!!

Acts 2:41 - *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

Fulfillment of Ex. 32:28: at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given and “about 3,000” were given eternal life (Acts 2:41)!!!! What a contrast!

The law shows us our NEED for the Messiah Who would come to REDEEM – to forgive – to remove sin.

The Church is comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. The two loaves may very well represent Jew and Gentile coming before the Lord – ONE NEW MAN (Eph. 2:15) – placed in the body of Jesus – the CHURCH – that was born on this Feast of Weeks, on Pentecost!!

BUT why two loaves with leaven? Leaven symbolizes sin. Jew and Gentile – coming into the body of Christ - sinners BUT sinners SAVED by GOD’S GRACE!

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Today in synagogues - on the Feast of Weeks – the Book of Ruth is read. What does the Book of Ruth teach? The Book of Ruth tells us of God’s plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile through the kinsman REDEEMER! In the book of Ruth, Naomi represents Israel and Ruth represents the Gentiles. In the book of Ruth, Boaz, the kinsmen redeemer, represents JESUS. In the book of Ruth, Boaz redeems BOTH Naomi, the Jew, and Ruth, the Gentile, who were destitute!