

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God calls His people to meet with Him; to survive His presence, they must approach with holy fear.

Psa. 89:7: *God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*

Sermon Point: *Worship with reverence and awe.*

Move 1: God is mighty, majestic, and glorious in His holiness.

All verses: God is *holy*: Separate. To be treated special, just like He has treated His people as a peculiar treasure (19:5). Vss. 16-19a: God is mighty and powerful. Glorious and righteous. Heavy. In Mt. Sinai storm, the LORD rids Israelites of Egyptian idea of their nature gods: made, manipulated. Heb. 10:30-31: ... *The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Move 2: If you do not approach God with holy respect, you will die.

Cross boundaries, die: vss. 12-13. Extra care in vss. 21-24 to protect from careless casualness. Vss. 17, 20: people at foot of mountain; God on summit. Trespass distinction, He kills you.

Move 3: God calls you to approach Him: in holiness.

Vs. 10, 14, 22, 23 (mountain): sanctify/wash. Psalm. 24:3-6. Ex. 12-13 for 19:5. As in Ex. 3, God's presence made Mt. Sinai holy, so Moses then and people now respond in kind. Eph. 1:4. Lev. 11:44-45/1 Pet. 1:16. Titus 3:5-6. *Follow ... holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:* (Heb. 12:14)

Move 4: God calls you to approach Him: through His Holy Mediator.

Vss. 9-10, 14-15, 17, 19-20: Moses acts as mediating prophet and priest (type of Christ). Vss. 21-24: Extra effort made to ensure they didn't break the boundary lines. Draw near, but keep your distance. You are family, but don't get too familiar. Vs. 24, only Moses and Aaron (will be high priest). Re: weather, Cassuto: new concept introduced for ancient East. Direct relation between humanity and natural phenomena gave thought of direct access to deities (of nature). God is not in, but above nature, which stops before He speaks (1 Kings 19:11-13). Jesus is the Holy One of Ps. 16 Who makes us holy to be holy. 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Eph 2:16; Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor 5:18, 20.

Move 5: In Christ your Mediator, you must approach God even more with fearful attention.

Vss. 11, 14, 15: “Be ready” (established). Cassuto: “prepared and expectant”. Purpose of mighty weather. Storms: get attention. To hear God’s voice (1 Kings 19:11-13). So Jesus has done now and does through preaching: Vs. 25; Rev. 8:1. Awakes to be revived in Him: Eph. 5:14.

Vss. 11, 16, took three days to get ready. How long do you prepare? Ex. 16: prepare for Sabbath. WLC 117, ... *we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day.*

Vss. 9, 17: God will speak/meet w/ people! He goes out of way to prepare you. Result: “trembling” w/ fear: vss. 16, 18 (20:18-20). Same with Jesus: Mt. 21:10. Still in preaching: vss. 9, 25. Heb. 12:18-29:

- Rev. 10:1; 14:1-5.
- Hebrews 2:12 (Ps. 22:22, 25); because of Hebrews 10:5ff (Ps. 40:6-10)
- Eph. 2:17-18, Jesus ... *came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.* How? Not there. Preaching!
- 2 Pet. 1:16-19.

Conclusion:

Ps. 85:7-9; 1 Cor. 11: 28; Isa 57:15.

Worship with reverence and awe.