

I. Introduction: God's Holiness & Our Sinfulness

(See the Cross Chart in, *The Gospel-Centered Life* by Bob Thune and Will Walker)

Exodus 19:21, 24

Notes:

²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. ...

²⁴ And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them."

Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." ... ²¹ The people stood far off, *while Moses drew near* to the thick darkness where God was.

Key Idea

Like Israel, God's holiness and our sinfulness is overcome through the blood of the covenant and the work of a covenant mediator.

II. Israel Draws Near Through the Covenant

A. Introduction

Exodus 24:1-2

Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and *worship from afar*.² Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall

not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.”

B. Covenant Ratified

Exodus 24:3-8

³ Moses came and told the people all the *words* of the Lord and all the *rules*. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “*All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.*” ⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and *built an altar at the foot of the mountain*, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he *threw against the altar*. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “*All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.*” ⁸ And Moses took the **blood** and *threw it on the people* and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.” (Cf. Zech. 9:11)

C. Moving Towards the LORD

1. The Priests & Elders

Exodus 24:9-11

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. (Cf. Ezekiel 1:4, 22-28; Isaiah 6:1-5; Revelation 4:2-6) ¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

2. Moses Israel's Mediator

Exodus 24:12-18

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “*Come up to me on the mountain* and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ *So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.* ¹⁴ And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”

¹⁵ *Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.* ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord dwelt 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. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was *like a devouring fire* on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ *Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain.* And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

III. In Jesus We All May Draw Near

A. Jesus is a Better Mediator

Hebrews 10:19-23

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us *through the curtain*, that is, *through his flesh*, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

B. Drawing Near to Our God

Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words

made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly 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 that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel**.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ... ²⁸ Therefore, ... let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for ***our God is a consuming fire***.

C. What Difference does it Make?

John 17:2b-3

...you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, ***that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ*** whom you have sent.