

Evening Worship September 11, 2016

"People God will Treasure"

Exodus 19:1-9

I. Up to God / near God –

And Moses went up to God, ... (Exodus 19:3A NKJ)

...and brought you to Myself. (Exodus 19:4B NKJ)

1. The words "up to God" in beginning of Exodus 19:3 imply that Moses climbed the mountain.
2. The words "**brought you to Myself**" Exodus 19: 4, spoken by God to Israel, meant that the people were in the vicinity of God's presence.

A. However, we know He was with them even before this time; He fought for them against the Egyptians –

"The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:14 NKJ)

And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. (Exodus 14:19 NKJ)

B. We know too that God is omnipresent, He is everywhere –

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. (Psalm 139:7-10 NKJ)

So, while Moses really did climb a mountain, and there met with God, His symbolic presence, God's presence surely was not limited to that mountain –

"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:20-24 NKJ)

3. We climb to God spiritually, we find Him by seeking Him with our heart –

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13 NKJ)

A. We see Israel was doing this in the last chapter –

And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (Exodus 18:15 NKJ)

B. They were willing to stand in long lines to inquire of God – ...and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. (Exodus 18:13 NKJ)

We climb spiritually when we make efforts against our sin nature to climb toward the holiness of God – **Habakkuk 3:19**

God of the heights, austere, inspiring, Thy word hath come to me, O let no selfish aims, conspiring, Distract my soul from Thee. Loosen me from things of time; Strengthen me for steadfast climb. The temporal would bind my spirit; Father, be Thou my stay. Show me what flesh cannot inherit, Stored for another day. Be transparent, things of time.

Looking through you, I would climb. Now by Thy grace my spirit chooseth Treasure that shall abide The great Unseen, I know, endureth, My footsteps shall not slide. Not for me the things of time; God of mountains, I will climb. Amy Carmichael

II. How do we get to God?

`You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. (Exodus 19:4 NKJ)

1. What God did to the Egyptians, the Israelites were eye witnesses –

(1) Waters turned to blood – Exodus 7:14-25

(2) Frogs – Exodus 7:26-8:11

(3) Gnats or Lice – Exodus 8:12-15

(4) Flies – Exodus 8:16-28

(5) Livestock disease – Exodus 9:1-7

(6) Boils – Exodus 9:8-12

(7) Hail and Fire – Exodus 9:13-35

(8) Locusts – Exodus 10:1-20

(9) *Darkness – Exodus 10:21-29*

(10) *Death of the First Born – Exodus 11:1-12:3*

In addition to the plagues, Israel also saw Egypt's army drown in the Red Sea – Exodus 14-15:21

2. *Israel was bore on eagle's wings –*

A. *Not literally*

B. *But this pictures the great speed and power of God:*

(1) *Delivered from the chains of Pharaoh (took about a year)*

(2) *Brought to God – I believe spiritually ...*

Sure physically they were brought to a mountain, but victory over the Egyptians and a bit of humbly in the desert, I believe made them more ready than before to receive God's word -

¹⁴ **Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? (Exodus 2:14 NKJ)**

and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. (Exodus 18:13 NKJ)

"Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (Exodus 18:15 NKJ)

Remember too, the people had cried (prayed) to God -

Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*. (Exodus 2:23-25 NKJ)

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world" C.S. Lewis

3. *Eagle's wings are spoken of elsewhere in Scripture –*

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJ)

"To Him Who is everywhere, men come, not by travelling, but by loving" Augustine

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NKJ)

III. *How do we become TREASURED by God? -*

⁵ **Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."**

Keys to holiness:

1. *Obedience – "obey My voice" Exodus 19:5*

2. *Relationship – "keep My covenant" Exodus 19:5 B Covenant implies promises and a close relationship with God! What is pictured is not so much a servant / Master relationship, but rather a Husband /wife relationship – Ephesians 5:22-32*

3. *A high calling connected to this relationship -*

then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Exodus 19:5-6

A. *This means being different than other people –*

B. *This is what we are called to as Christians –*

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9 NKJ)

See this fits in the context of Christ and His cross, as our Chief Cornerstone and example – 1 Peter 2

IV. *Moses announcement and the people's response -*

⁷ **So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him.⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.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." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. (Exodus 19:1-9 NKJ)**

1. *All that the LORD has spoken we will do – Will they?*

2. *The LORD will come to them again, in a thick cloud; this is His reference to coming when He gives them the Ten Commandments. The rest of chapter 19 speaks of their preparation for this event!*

Arnold Brevick