



Yahweh's Advent at Sinai

Exodus 19:10 – 25

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The people must prepare for Yahweh's theophany

- **Exodus 19:10, 11**

The LORD also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."



Previous theophanies prepared for this one

- God appears to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8)
- God appears to Abram (Genesis 12:7; 15:17; 17:1; 18:1)
- God appears to Isaac (Genesis 26:24)
- God appears to Jacob (Genesis 35:1, 9)
- God appears to Moses (Exodus 3:2, 6)
- God appears to Israel (Exodus 19)

 Sinai is a precursor to future theophanies

- Jesus appears in glorified state with Moses and Elijah to the disciples (Mark 9:2-4)
- Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection (1Corinthians 15:5-7)
- Jesus appeared to Paul (1Corinthians 15:8)
- Jesus will appear again for salvation (Hebrews 9:28)
- Jesus will appear again for judgment (2Thessalonians 1:6-10)

 God's holiness causes the need for separation

- **Exodus 19:12**
You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death."

 The ram's horn is used as an alarm for war or summons to worship

- **Exodus 19:13**
No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live. "When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

A foreshadowing of ceremonial laws that show uncleanness in light of God's holiness

■ **Exodus 19:14, 15**

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people, and they washed their garments. He said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

They meet God on the third day and tremble

■ **Exodus 19:16**

So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

The people "trembled" and so does the mountain!

■ **Exodus 19:17, 18**

And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 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.



Yahweh's presence in awe-inspiring power

■ **Exodus 19:19, 20**

When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.



God's holiness is a threat to sinners

■ **Exodus 19:21, 22**

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, or else the LORD will break out against them."



God's holiness is a threat to priests

■ **Exodus 19:23, 24**

Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds about the mountain and consecrate it.'" Then the LORD said to him, "Go down and come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, or He will break forth upon them."

 **God speaks words to Israel**

■ **Exodus 19:25, 20:1a**

So Moses went down to the people and told them. Then God spoke all these words . . .

 **Israel sees the need for a mediator**

■ **Exodus 20:18, 19**

And 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. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, lest we die."

 **Summary of God's appearing at Sinai**

- God appears to Moses (Exodus 3:2, 6)
- God brings Israel to Himself at Horeb/Sinai as He promised Moses (Exodus 3:12; Exodus 19:4)
- God comes down upon Sinai (Exodus 19:18)
- Moses goes up the mountain and back down (Exodus 19:20, 19:25)
- God speaks to all (Exodus 20:1)
- The people ask that God speak only through Moses (Exodus 20:18, 19)

 Applications and Implications

- 1) We must approach God on His terms
- 2) We have come to a mountain even more awesome than Sinai

 1) We must approach God on His terms

■ **Hebrews 7:19, 24, 25**

(for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. . . . but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

 1) We must approach God on His terms

■ **Hebrews 4:15, 16**

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1) We must approach God on His terms

■ **Hebrews 10:22**

let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2) We have come to a mountain even more awesome than Sinai

■ **Hebrews 12:18 - 20**

For you have not come to a mountain that may be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 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 should be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned."

2) We have come to a mountain even more awesome than Sinai

■ **Hebrews 12:22 - 24**

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

2) We have come to a mountain even more awesome than Sinai

■ **Hebrews 12:25**

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

2) We have come to a mountain even more awesome than Sinai

■ **Hebrews 2:1 - 3**

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
