

Lesson Thirteen: *Covenant People*  
Exodus 19:1-25

Themes:

**Exodus:** God fulfills His promises by establishing His people as a nation and by delivering them from bondage through the leadership of Moses.

**Covenant under Moses (19-24):** God, who is holy, gives the law to guide His redeemed people.

---

I. **Covenant Preparation**

- a. (19:1-25) A holy God must be approached by a cleansed people.
  - i. (1-6) A particular people:
    1. (4) What the Lord has done
      - a. *What I did to the Egyptians:*
        - i. A demonstration of divine power (Ex 6-19)
          1. Israel's God is the LORD of all the earth.
      - b. *Bore you on eagles wings:*
        - i. A demonstration of divine presence
          1. God "carries" His people during trials (Is 40:31).
          2. God's position between our enemies and us
      - c. *Brought you to Myself:*
        - i. A demonstration of divine sovereignty
          1. God's election of Israel (Gen 12:1-3; Ex 2:24)
          2. An unmerited favor (Deut 7:7)
            - a. God's initiative
        - ii. A demonstration of divine love
          1. God's covenant adoption of Israel (Rom 8:15)
          2. The restoration of communion
      - d. *You yourselves have seen:* Israel's witness
        - i. Israel must trust and obey God.
    2. (5a) What the Lord requires
      - a. Israel's obedience is a *response* to what has already been done.
        - i. The "do" and "done" (Phil 2:12-13; Col 1:29)
      - b. *Obey:* to *listen* attentively to the voice of the LORD (Deut 6:4-9)
        - i. A God who speaks
        - ii. Covenant relationship is enjoyed through obedience.
      - c. *Keep:* the ongoing *preservation* of God's word
        - i. The daily practice of obedience
          1. *The hallmark of the genuineness of the people of God is that they possess, listen to and obey the word of God* (J.A. Motyer).
    3. (5b-6a) What the Lord promises
      - a. *My own possession:*
        - i. Israel is God's *personal* treasure (I Chr 29:3; Eccl 2:8).
          1. God's rightful ownership of all creation
          2. Israel is set apart for God's pleasure (Is 62:1-4).
      - b. *A kingdom of priests:*
        - i. A reflection of Israel's particular relationship with God
          1. Access to God fulfilled in Aaron
          2. Access to God fulfilled in Christ
            - a. Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22; I Peter 2:9

- ii. God's representatives to the rest of the world
        - 1. An evangelistic mission: example, proclamation, and intercession
    - c. *A holy nation*:
      - i. A consecrated people (particular among the "nations")
      - ii. To fulfill this role, Israel must be set apart.
  - ii. (7-15) A consecrated people:
    - 1. The context of consecration: a theophany on Mount Sinai
      - a. The presence of God among His people
    - 2. (7-8) Consecration requires obedience
      - a. (7) The faithfulness of God's leaders (Moses, the elders)
      - b. (8) The faithfulness of God's people
        - i. Obedience as an expression of gratitude (John 14:15)
        - ii. Obedience as a distinct marker of the people of God
    - 3. (10-15) Consecration requires preparation
      - a. (10-11) Consecration through cleansing:
        - i. The "putting off" of impurities
          - 1. Fulfilled in Christ (John 4:24)
        - ii. Israel's clothing reflects her intentions (worship).
          - 1. The believer's clothing
            - a. *My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness (Is 61:10).*
          - 2. Our "Sunday best"
            - a. An expression of gratitude and reverence
      - b. (12-15) Consecration through separation:
        - i. The gravity of approaching the LORD
          - 1. (12) Defined by boundaries
            - a. The Creator / creature distinction
            - b. The "mountain of God"
          - 2. (12) Defined by punishment
            - a. The death penalty
          - 3. (13) Defined by invitation
            - a. The people come at the Lord's bidding.
          - 4. (15) Defined by abstinence
        - ii. Approaching God requires our full attention.
          - 1. *They were to be reminded earthly cares were, as much as possible, to be renounced...that they might give their entire attention to the hearing of the law (Calvin).*
- iii. (16-25) A forgetful people:
  - 1. (21) Curiosity without awe
    - a. A desire to "be like God"—Genesis 3:5; 11:4
  - 2. (22) The temptation to think ourselves "fit" to approach God
    - a. The futility of human effort or merit
    - b. The necessary mediation of Christ (I Tim 2:5)
  - 3. The worship of God is conducted *coram Deo*.

***Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire (Heb 12:28-29).***