

**"Meet God"**

At last, the liberated ex-slaves meet the God who arranged their liberation

**Exodus 19:17** ... Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. This meeting was a long time in coming (since the "Exodus 3-experience" of Moses meeting God in the burning bush.)

And maybe some of us are in the same position: we've been learning things about God --- maybe lots of things -- but we haven't really met him yet.

Here is the difference between understanding some things about God and actually meeting him. The difference between knowing about God and knowing God.

To start the meeting, God gives Moses two things for him to tell the people. First, something TO KNOW.

**Exodus 19:3-6** Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, (His great acts of judgment: sovereign justice) and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (His great acts of mercy: sovereign kindness) Then, something TO DO and with it the offer of a great privilege: Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Moses gets right to it... **Exodus 19:7-8** So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. And it sounded really good to the people. And they willingly signed on! All the people answered together and said, "**All that the Lord has spoken we will do.**" A brilliant moment for the people!

**WHAT TO KNOW IN CONCLUSION:**

1. Really learning about God inspires whole-hearted obedience, which is entirely appropriate.

The enslavements of this world, our "addictions" to its pleasures and its passions and its people, are essentially wrong because we belong to God and are brought into the world --- and into his kingdom --- to serve *him*. The good and right alternative to any other enslavement is enslavement to God. So "whole-hearted obedience to God" is exactly appropriate.

*Then what?* Speaking of being "a **holy** nation," the people are called to clean themselves up, so to speak.  
**Exodus 19:9-15**

And then the people go out from the camp and up to the mountain to meet God. And it was terrifying!  
**Exodus 19:16-17** On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. So they met God!

**Exodus 19:18-20** Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in 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.

To see how the experience of meeting God really affected the people, we need to read ahead...

**Exodus 20:18-19** 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 off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

2. Really meeting God inspires whole-hearted fear, which is also entirely appropriate.

NOTE: There mustn't be any talk about that being the Old Testament God and "It's all different in the New Testament!!!" **It's not ALL different!** It's the same God!

In the “song of Moses” **Exodus 15:11** Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

In the last book of the New Testament: **Revelation 15:3-4** And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! *Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?* For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Some part of our fear of God has to do with **what we are** .... Our sin makes us fearful of punishment --- and this fear can be driven out by the work of Christ.

But some part of our fear of God has to do with **what God is** --- and in regard to this, fear remains appropriate.

#### **WHAT TO DO IN CONCLUSION:**

- a) **Keep learning about God.** (For your learning will inspire you to whole-hearted obedience and that is the path to life and joy and the blessings of God)
- b) **As his grateful slaves, fearfully present yourself to God.**

The New Covenant makes many differences. **Hebrews 12:18-21** For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them...

**Hebrews 12:22-24** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem ... and to God, the judge of all... and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood ...

But the upshot is that we ought to be MORE whole-hearted in our commitment than were the Old Testament people!

**Hebrews 12:25-29** 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... Therefore **let us be grateful** for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship**, (Romans 12:1) **with reverence and awe**, for our God is a consuming fire.

- c) **As his adopted sons and daughters (through your faith in Jesus Christ), fearfully continue to free yourself from all other enslavements.**

**1 Peter 1:17-19** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear** throughout the time of your exile, **knowing that you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but **with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

**1 Peter 2:1-11** **So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain from the passions of the flesh**, (Titus 3:3) which wage war against your soul.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

This freedom from all other enslavements is set out in the Ten Commandments: “*the law of liberty*” (James 1:25; 2:12)

**NEXT “EXODUS” SERIES:** (Beginning January 3): “*Liberty for Life*” [Exodus 20:1-17 ~ `The Ten Commandments’]