

Exodus 19-40 Israel at Sinai

Outline of Exodus

Deliverance from Egypt and Journey to Sinai, 1-18

A-Covenant at Sinai (19-24)

B-Instructions for Tabernacle and Cultus (25-31)

C-Breach and Renewal of Covenant (32-34)

D-Building and Inhabiting the Tabernacle (35-40)

1) Can you detect a unifying theme/objective for Ex. 19-40? (study question 1)

God's establishing his dwelling with a group of people.

We see here:

- 1) Its importance
->sole distinctive, essential quality for Israel, 33.15-16
- 2) Its difficulty
->sin of Golden Calf
- 3) Its requirements
->Book of Covenant [Ex. 20.23-23.33] and instructions for
- 4) tabernacle furnishings and officials [priests]
Its fulfillment (ch. 40).

A - Exodus 19-24 - Covenant at Sinai

The significance of the Decalogue in the sequence of Exodus.

- Follows Moses' meeting with God atop Sinai (ch. 19)
- Begins to unfold the level of morality necessary if God is to dwell with this people

Historical Context

- Code of Hammurabi
 - +King of Babylon, first golden age of that capital, 1750 BC (some 500 years before Moses)
 - +Stele of black diorite, eight feet high

B - Exodus 25-31 - Instructions for Tabernacle and Cultus

Tabernacle Instructions

- Now that a contractual agreement has formalized the relationship, God can commence the process of settling in among the Israelis.
- The tangible symbol: At God's instruction, Israel builds God a dwelling place.

The Instruction, Ex. 24.8

- "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."

After Construction, Then Consecration

-"So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting...and Aaron...Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God" (Ex. 29.44-46).

Terms for Tabernacle

"Tabernacle" (Ex. 26.1) = Dwelling place

"Tent of Meeting" (Ex. 29.44) = Tent of appointment or meeting

→A place where God dwells and specifically wants to set appointments for welcoming you in as a highly welcomed and honored guest.

C - Exodus 32-34 - Breach and Renewal of Covenant

2) How does the Golden Calf incident (ch. 32ff) relate to theme of God dwelling with Israel? (study question 2)

A massive obstacle blocks God's dwelling with people:

Highlights our propensity NOT to keep covenant with him!

-Cvt agreed to in 19.8 ("We will do..."),

-Cvt confirmed in 24.3 and 7 ("We will do...we will do"), but

-Cvt violated in 32.1ff.

Note the danger of a sinful people daring to keep company with a holy God:

"If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you," 33.4-5.

Compare earlier meeting of God and elders

"They went up and saw the God of Israel...But God did not raise his hand against these leaders...they saw God, and they ate and drank" 24.9-11.

3) What does the revelation of God's name in Ex. 34.6-7 have to do with the Golden Calf incident in 32ff? (study question 3)

"Here we have a theology of grace unsurpassed in the Old Testament...What is the basis for this remarkable forgiveness? According to 33:18-34:9 its grounds lie entirely in the character of God as merciful and gracious," (OTS, 78).

4) Is the God of the Old Testament only Vengeful? (Study question 4)

-If he were, there would be no hope for Israel following the Golden Calf incident.

-Instead, he proves his character to be:

"Merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" Ex. 34.6-7

Summary of Exodus (review)

What God did:

Called Moses

Rescued Israel from Egypt

Established a covenant with them

Why he did it:

So that he may dwell with them,

D - Exodus 35-40 Building and Inhabiting the Tabernacle

"They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God."
Ex. 29.46.

Concerning the tabernacle

Tabernacle Facing East

Tabernacle, Top

Outer

Curtains

Outer Doorway

Altar of Burnt Offering

Laver or Basin

Sanctuary, Top

Outer Covering: Sea Cow Hide

Middle Covering: Ram Skins

Lower Covering: Goats' Hair

Curtains: Cherubim Pattern

Sanctuary Walls

Sanctuary, Top

Sanctuary Door-Pillars, From Outside

Sanctuary Door, From Within

Table for Bread

Lampstand

Incense

Altar

Veil

Ark of Covenant

Ark Contents

High Priest

Breastplate

The Climax of Exodus

After all the tabernacle furnishings were in place,

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle," Ex. 40.34-35.

A few words on...

The establishing of Biblical Continuity in Exodus

-Continuity in Monarchy Era

6 The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple... 10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.
2 Kings 8.6ff

-Continuity in Early Church

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...
Acts 2.2

-Continuity with New Jerusalem

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with humankind, and he will live with them..."
Rev. 21.3

God Dwells Among His People!

