

RECEIVING MORE AND MORE OF GOD'S LAW AND OF GOD'S WORD

EXODUS 24: 12–18

Introduction

This is a climactic passage, the Scripture that graphically closes the giving of the law to Israel. But note: once a person has heard the law of God – heard the Word of God – that person becomes obligated to God. The one thing we must all realize is this: people by the millions own the Holy Bible, the Word of God, and many of them have read a passage here and there. Millions of others have heard the Word of God preached. But one thing is missing in the reading and hearing of most people: a sense of their obligation to God. Again, God is clear: once a person has received or heard His Word, that person has certain obligations, certain duties before God.

This was the situation with Israel. God had just given the law, His Holy Word, to Moses; and Moses was now ready to bring the Word of God to the people. But once they had received the Word, they would become obligated to God, strongly obligated. This is the subject of this passage: *The Climactic Adoption of the Law, the Mosaic Covenant. The great duty of God's people is to receive more and more of God's law, of God's Word, Exodus 24: 01-18.*

- I. God's great call: worship Him (vv. 1-2).
- II. The first duty: obedience – to make a total commitment to obey God (v. 3).
- III. The second duty: to seal one's commitment – to make a formal agreement (covenant) with God (vv. 4-8).
- IV. The third duty: to worship God (vv. 9-11).
- V. The fourth duty: to receive more and more of God's law, of God's Word (vv. 12-18).

Receiving More and More of God's Law and of God's Word

The fourth duty of God's people is to receive more and more of God's law, of God's Word.

1. God called Moses to come farther up the mountain and to prepare to stay for a long time. God was to give Moses the tablets of stone with more instruction, more laws and commands. Moses obeyed God and took Joshua with him (V. 13).

But note: Moses did not neglect the people (v. 14). Knowing that he was to be gone for a long time, he appointed Aaron and Hur to be in charge, to handle any dispute that might arise.

2. As Moses walked up the mountain, God's cloud of glory covered it. The wonderful, glorious presence of God (the Shekinah glory) settled on the mountain for six days.
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Now note the wonderful experience given to Moses, to this man who sought to receive more and more of God's Holy Word.

- a. Moses waited on the Lord, waited and waited day after day, and nothing happened. He waited for six long days — praying and praying (v. 16).
- b. The voice of God finally called out to Moses on the seventh day (v. 16b).
- c. The spectacular, awesome sight of God's glory looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain (v. 17). The Israelites, no doubt, stood in awe, utterly amazed and stricken with a sense of wonder and apprehension.
- d. Moses, God's dear servant, went up higher on the mountain, disappearing into the cloud. He went up to get alone with God (v. 18). And he experienced the awesome glory of God and received more and more of God's Holy Word. Note how long he was in God's presence, for forty days and nights. Imagine being in God's holy presence and glory for forty days and nights! Imagine being fed the Word of God by God Himself for forty days and nights!

Thought 1. One of the great duties of believers is to get alone with God, to get alone for long periods of time, to seek more and more of God's holy presence and Word.

Deu 04:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

1 Chr 16:11 *Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*

Isa 55:6 *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*

Amos 5:4 *This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live."*

Zep 2:3 *Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility: perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.*

Luke 18:1 *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

Acts 17:11 *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

2 Tim 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

1 Pet 2:2-3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

Thought 2. Moses prayed for six days before he heard God speak. Many people quit praying if they do not get an immediate answer from God. Sometimes God does give quick answers to our prayers, but not always. We must patiently wait upon the Lord, persevere and endure in prayer.

Mat 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Psa 25:5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psa 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psa 62:5 Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

Psa 123:2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.

Prov 20:22 Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

Isa 40:31 But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. ■

EXODUS 24:1–18 TYPES, SYMBOLS AND PICTURES

Historical Term: *The Law* (Exo 24:12)

Type or Picture: (Scriptural Basis for Each)

The law is a symbol of a schoolmaster or guardian who brings us to Jesus Christ.

Exo 24:12 The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

Life Application for Today's Believer:

One of the purposes for the law was to show a person that he is a lawbreaker, that he is unrighteous, short of God's glory; therefore, a person needs a Saviour.

Another way to say the same thing is this:

- a. The law was to lead a person to Christ. The law does this by showing a person that he is utterly unable to secure righteousness by himself. (See notes, Gal 3:23-25.)
- b. We must look to Christ, the True Guardian, to bring us to God. Christ alone can give us righteousness and acceptance by God, that is, justification by faith.
- c. Once Christ (faith in Him) has come, there is no need for the law nor for any other guardian. It is Christ and Christ alone who brings us face to face with God.

Biblical Application for Today's Believer:

Gal 3:23-24 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

Rom 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Acts 13:39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Phil 3:9 And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Heb 7:25-26 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. □