

# The Law and the Promises of God (The Mosaic Covenant)

## (Part 1): God’s Great Call to Total Commitment

### Exodus 19:01–25

<p><b>1. <i>The setting and basis for the covenant</i></b></p> <p>a. The time: In the third month after Israel’s deliverance</p> <p>b. The place: Israel was camped at the base of Mt. Sinai</p> <p>c. The persons</p> <p>1) The LORD spoke to Moses</p> <p>2) Moses spoke to the people</p> <p>3) The people heard the message</p> <p>d. The basis for the covenant: The LORD’s great deliverance — He freed His people</p> <p><b>2. <i>The call to obedience</i></b></p> <p>a. The call was conditional: If obey</p> <p>b. The results, the promises</p> <p>1) If obey, they would be God’s treasured people</p> <p>2) If obey, they would be a kingdom of priests</p> <p>3) If obey, they would be a holy nation</p> <p>c. The response to God’s call</p> <p>1) Moses called the elders together and shared all the LORD had commanded</p> <p>2) The people committed themselves to obey the LORD: To keep all His commandments</p>	<p>1 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt — on that very day — they came to the Desert of Sinai.</p> <p>2 After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.</p> <p>3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:</p> <p>4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.</p> <p>5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,</p> <p>6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”</p> <p>7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.</p> <p>8 The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.</p>
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3) The LORD gave great assurance to His dear servant:  
He would come to Moses in a special manifestation so the people would believe Moses then and for all time

**3. *The call to sanctification***

- a. Means being clean, pure — totally set apart to God
- b. Was symbolized by the washing of clothes

**4. *The call to reverence and to fear God's holy presence***

- a. God called the people to prepare to meet Him
- b. God demanded that His holy presence be respected
  - 1) Demonstrated by setting boundaries around Mt. Sinai: Symbolizing His holiness
  - 2) Demonstrated by the severe punishment executed against those who touched the mountain, who did not honour God's holiness
- c. God demanded that the people sanctify themselves (v. 10): They followed through (v. 14)
- d. God demanded that the people totally focus upon Him and their need for sanctification

**5. *The call to approach God only through His appointed mediator***

- a. God descended upon Mt. Sinai
  - 1) There was a violent storm: Thunder and lightning

9 The LORD said to Moses,  
“I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.”  
Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

10 And the LORD said to Moses,  
“Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow.  
Have them wash their clothes

11 and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it.  
Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.

13 They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them.  
No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’  
Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”

14 After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

15 Then he said to the people,  
“Prepare yourselves for the third day.  
Abstain from sexual relations.”

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast.  
Everyone in the camp trembled.

- 2) The people were stricken with fear and trembling
- b. Moses, God's appointed mediator, brought the people to God
- c. The reasons
- 1) Because the LORD is holy: He descended in fire
    - Smoke billowed up
    - The whole mount shook and trembled violently
    - The trumpet blast grew louder and louder
  - 2) Because God speaks only through His appointed mediator
  - 3) Because God's Holy presence must be revered: Violators will perish
  - 4) Because even the priests were unclean: The very people who were to be closest to God
  - 5) Because the very earth itself was unclean: The very place of God's presence must be sanctified
  - 6) Because everyone must approach God through God's appointed mediator
    - God appointed Moses and Aaron
    - All others were warned
- d. Moses obeyed: He went to the people and warned them

17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently.

19 As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

21 and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish.

22 Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them."

23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.' "

24 The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.