

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

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

Exodus 19:01–09

1. *The setting and basis for the covenant*

- a. The time: In the third month after Israel’s deliverance
- b. The place: Israel was camped at the base of Mt. Sinai
- c. The persons
 - 1) The LORD spoke to Moses
 - 2) Moses spoke to the people
 - 3) The people heard the message
- d. The basis for the covenant:
The LORD’s great deliverance —
He freed His people

2. *The call to obedience*

- a. The call was conditional:
If obey
- b. The results, the promises
 - 1) If obey, they would be God’s treasured people
 - 2) If obey, they would be a kingdom of priests
 - 3) If obey, they would be a holy nation
- c. The response to God’s call
 - 1) Moses called the elders together and shared all the LORD had commanded
 - 2) The people committed themselves to obey the LORD:
To keep all His commandments

- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
- 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.
- 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,
- 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.”
- 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.
- 8 The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

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

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.

The Purposes for the Law: Why God Gave the Ten Commandments and the Law Exodus 20:18–26

**1. *To reveal the glorious majesty and holiness of God:
Showing that a great barrier
— a great gulf —
exists between man and God***

**2. *To reveal man's need
for a mediator,
for a person who can approach
God on behalf of man***

3. *To test man*

- a. To see if man will walk in the fear and reverence of God
- b. To see if man will truly obey God and not sin
- c. To see if man will trust the mediator appointed by God

**4. *To teach that
God alone is the Lord: He alone
has truly revealed Himself,
has spoken to man from heaven***

**5. *To teach how God alone is to be
approached and worshipped***

- a. No idolatry: No other gods are to be made or worshipped
- b. No pageantry
 - 1) The altar of worship was to be of earth: A non-showy, non-costly material provided (created) by God alone

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance

19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven:

23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

24 “Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honoured, I will come to you and bless you.

2) The altar of worship
was to be made of natural,
undressed stones:
A material provided by God,
not defiled and polluted by man

c. No immodest behaviour:
The altar was not to have steps
that would expose a person's
nakedness (symbolized
self-righteousness,
man ascending up to God)

25 If you make an altar of stones for me,
do not build it with dressed stones,
for you will defile it
if you use a tool on it.

26 And do not go up to my altar on steps,
or your private parts may be exposed.”