



Israel at Mount Sinai

Exodus 19

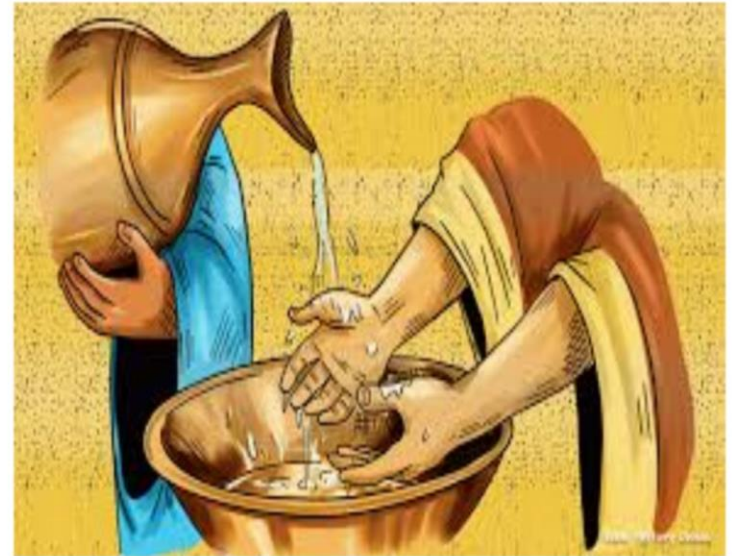
Three months to the day, after the children of Israel left the land of Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. When they reached Mount Sinai Moses went up the mountain to God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "Tell all the children of Israel, 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you high and brought you to Myself. Now hear Me. If you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Speak these words to the children of Israel."

Moses went to the people and called for the elders of the people, and told them all everything the Lord commanded him to say. All the people answered saying, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken." So Moses took the words of the people to the Lord. The Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever."



The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and tell them to prepare themselves today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes and make themselves holy. Let them be ready for the third day. On the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow, whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. He told the people, "Be ready for the third day. Men, do not go near your wives."



On the third day, in the morning, there was thundering and lightning, and a thick cloud on the mountain. The sound of the trumpet was so very loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was completely covered in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke rose like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook greatly. When the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. The Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up to Him.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."

Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai. You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'"

Then the Lord said to him, "Away! Get down and come back with Aaron. Do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them." So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them. Then he and Aaron went up the mountain.

