Study 4 Exodus 19-24:18 God Descends

When we read this section of Exodus, it’s hard not to see page after page of rules and laws that seem irrelevant. Even with the highlight of the Ten Commandments in chapter 20 - a set of commands that have shaped our society - it’s hard not to come away struggling to know what relevance it has for us. But what we’re going to see is that Israel are receiving far more than some rules to keep them in line...

1. What do the Ten Commandments make people think about God?

Read Exodus 19:1-8

Quick Questions

2. What has the Lord done for Israel? (19:4)

3. What is Israel’s response supposed to be? (19:5)

4. If Israel respond this way, what will be the difference between Israel and the surrounding nations? (19:5-6)

5. How do Israel respond to the Lord’s command? (19:7-8)

Think it Through

6. How is the job of Israel in history different to other nations?
7. What does the order of God’s command to Israel in verses 4-6 (He saves THEN He calls to obedience) tell us about Israel’s relationship with God?

8. From Israel’s track record so far, what do you make of their response to God’s call?

Israel are about to experience a defining moment in their history. And it shouldn’t be taken lightly. Moses gets the honour of being God’s mouthpiece to Israel (19:9) and he spends a couple of days making sure the people are “consecrated” (made appropriate to be in God’s presence) because God is going to visit Israel. For Israel’s good, they’re kept at a safe distance from where God would appear...and then Yahweh, the God of Israel, the God who brought them out of Egypt, the God of all creation appears to them...

**Read Exodus 20:1-21**

**Quick Questions**

9. What do Israel “experience” of God?

10. Before Israel receive any rules, what does God remind them of? (v.1)

11. Write down the Ten Commandments in your own words:

   1.

   2.

   3.

   4.

   5.

   6.

   7.

   8.

   9.

   10.
12. What do the commandments tell you about God?

13. What role were the Ten Commandments meant to play in the life of Israel as God’s people? How would ‘sinning’ (v.20) affect Israel’s job description as God’s people?

And while the ten commandments are the most famous of the laws in the Old Testament, there are many, many more. And if we’re going to understand them, we need to know what the purpose of them was.

Read Exodus 22:16-31

Quick Questions

14. How would these instructions have made Israel appear to the nations surrounding them?

15. How does verse 31 summarise the purpose of these laws?

These were not just rules to make life easier, and for the good order of society. These were laws so that nations around Israel would see and learn something of God. They were a people set apart (holy) for God - and it was going to be seen in the way the lived out their day to day lives.

Read 1 John 4:7-12

Think it Through

16. According to John, what do you think God wants the world to see when they look at His people?
17. What’s the difference between God’s action in Exodus and his actions in Jesus?

18. How does Christian love show people what God is like?

19. What does the way you love others say about God and His love?