



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 8

### Exodus 25:1-31:18: A House Fit for God

*When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.” This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire.*

– Hebrews 15:26-29 NLT

- **A second sign-off**

*Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.”*

*Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.”* – Exodus 24:1-3 ESV

- This time they had more information
  - The Decalogue
  - The Book of the Covenant
  - The promise of the land
  - And an assurance of divine assistance

*“Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.* – Exodus 23:20-21 ESV

- This was not their first encounter
- They had seen this “guardian angel” before

*Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming*

*between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. – Exodus 14:19-20 ESV*

**mal'āk** – מַלְאָךְ – angel, messenger

- God sends an “agent” or representative
  - ~ He would **guard** and **guide** them
  - ~ And they were to **obey** him
- Notice that God doesn’t mention the Law
  - “Pay careful attention to **him**...”
  - “...obey **his** voice...”
  - “...do not rebel against **him**...”
  - “...for my name is in **him**...”
- He possesses the full authority of God
  - ~ He speaks on behalf of God
  - ~ To disobey him was to disobey God
  - ~ But he could not “pardon transgression”
- He would lead them to victory in battle

*“When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces.” – Exodus 23:23-24 ESV*

*“And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.” – Exodus 23:31-33 ESV*

- **Moses builds an altar**

*And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. – Exodus 24:4 ESV*

- Moses has just come down from Sinai
  - Where he, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu had just worshiped God
  - The 70 elders accompanied them
  - But only Moses could approach God
  - And Moses built an altar to God in the valley

*And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."*

*And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." – Exodus 24:5-8 ESV*

- **A sign of things to come**

- The covenant was sealed with blood
  - The blood required death
  - But their lives were spared
  - And they had done nothing to deserve it
- This would become the ongoing pattern

*... even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal. <sup>19</sup> For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you." – Hebrews 9:18-20 NLT*

*And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. – Hebrews 9:21-22 NLT*



## Mount Sinai

*"Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day **the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai** as all the people watch." – Exodus 19:11 NLT*

*On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and **all the people trembled**. – Exodus 19:16 NLT*



## The Tabernacle

*"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them." – Exodus 25:8 NLT*

*"**I will live among you**, and I will not despise you. **I will walk among you; I will be your God**, and you will be my people." – Leviticus 26:11-12 NLT*

*To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, **the glory of the LORD appeared at the summit like a consuming fire.** – Exodus 24:17 NLT*

*Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. – Exodus 40:34-35 NLT*

- Sinai was associated with...
  - ...the Law
  - ...wrath and judgment
  - ...fear of condemnation and death
  - ...God’s holiness and transcendence
  - ...and His inaccessibility

*“Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch. Mark off a boundary all around the mountain. Warn the people, ‘Be careful! Do not go up on the mountain or even touch its boundaries. Anyone who touches the mountain will certainly be put to death.’” – Exodus 19:11-12 NLT*

- **God’s dwelling place**

- God orders Moses to build a sanctuary **sanctuary** – מִקְדָּשׁ – *miqdāš*
  - A sacred or holy place
  - Reserved solely for God’s use
  - To serve as His dwelling place on earth

*“...that I may  **dwell** in their midst...” – 25:8*

**dwell** – שָׁכַן - *šākan* – abide, live, tabernacle

- God was choosing to live among men
- But a holy God requires a holy house
- This would be no ordinary structure

*The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.” – Exodus 25:1-9 ESV*

- **The price of God’s presence**

- The people were asked to fund God’s house
- And it would prove costly
- But it was to be a free-will offering
- Yet God had provided the means

*And the people of Israel did as Moses had instructed; they asked the Egyptians for clothing and articles of silver and gold. The LORD caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. So they stripped the Egyptians of their wealth! – Exodus 12:35-36 NLT*

“The construction of the Tabernacle would cost the Israelites dearly. It is estimated that as much as eight tons of gold, silver, and bronze was required to complete the Tabernacle.”  
 – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on Exodus*

- The design for the Ark of the Covenant

*“They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.” – Exodus 25:10-16 ESV*

## OUR UNBELIEVABLE GOD



“For this transcendent, all-powerful God to offer to dwell in their midst was not something they took lightly. And the design of the Tabernacle was meant to reflect the glory of heaven coming to earth.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on Exodus*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14 ESV*

*Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? – 1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV*

- **Discussion questions**

- What are some things we do that reveal our lack of belief that God has come to dwell in us and among us?  
God back and look at the chart, “Our Beautiful God.” Why is the sequence in the design so important and what does it teach us about God’s glory?
- Read Hebrews 15:26-29. Why should we revere God’s glory but not fear His wrath,
- and why should this give us hope?



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 9 HOMEWORK

**WEEK 9: *A People Fit for Destruction* – Exodus 32:1-34:35**

This section of Exodus will provide a powerful reminder of mankind's inherent wickedness and God's holiness. Having received God's law and committed to keeping His covenant, the people followed up this display of whole-hearted assent with one of the most egregious acts of willful defiance found anywhere in Scripture. The story of Israel's rejection of Yahweh as evidenced by their demand for a new god to serve as His replacement. The close proximity between their ratification of the covenant and their complete rejection of it is a powerful reminder of just how easily apostasy can take in the lives of God's people. Yet God forgives them and restores their relationship to Him, even providing them another copy of His laws and a second opportunity to live in compliance with those laws. God's grace and mercy is evident all throughout this passage.

- Read Exodus 32:1-34:35. What jumps out at you in these passages?
- Let me encourage you to set aside time to read the Devotional™ reading each day. This week covers pages 333-380.
- Chapter 32 is one of the most depressing descriptions of human depravity in all of history. As you look at what the people of Israel did, consider that it came after they had received the Law, ratified the covenant, and heard God's plans to dwell among them in His Tabernacle. Why does this make what they did all the worse?

When you consider the fact that Aaron was supposed to be second-in-command and had been left in charge while Moses was away, how does that his actions even more egregious?

When you see Moses intervene on the peoples' behalf, what does that tell you about his character?

What did God do to respond to their actions and why was this still justified?

- Look at chapter 33. What does God say in verses 1-6 that leaves Moses in a state of apprehension?

To see how Moses responded, read verses 7-23. Write down anything that jumps out at you in the way Moses handled this less-than-encouraging news from God.

- In chapter 35, God calls Moses up to the mountain again. What is different about this occasion?

What does God do to fulfill Moses request to see His glory, and why do you think this would be a significant moment in the life of Moses?

- Verses 10-28 record God's renewal of the covenant. Why was this necessary?
- The final verses of chapter 34 record what happened to Moses when he came face to face with God. What insights do you get from this passage about spending time with God and the impact it should have on your life?