
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Monday: | Ex. 18:1-12 | Yitro's advice to Mosheh |
| Tuesday: | Ex. 18:13-27 | Yitro's advice to Mosheh |
| Wednesday: | Ex. 19:1-15 | Yahweh's instructions to Yisra'el to prepare for receiving the Commandments |
| Thursday: | Ex. 19:16-25 | Yahweh appears on Mt. Sinai |
| Friday: | Ex. 20 | The giving and receiving of the 10 Commandments |

In our last Parsha Pearls lesson, we covered the exodus of the children of Yisra'el from Mitsrayim, led and protected by the column of cloud and fire. We also learned about their miraculous crossing of the Sea of Reeds. In this week's Parsha Pearls lessons, we will be covering the receiving of the 10 Commandments. Now, let's read Ex. 19 -20.

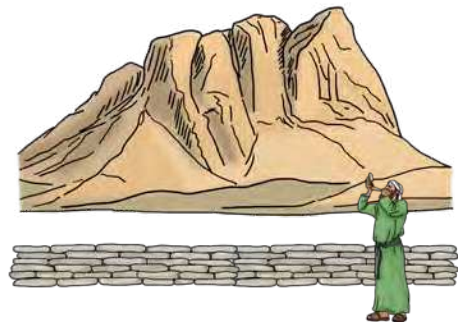
PARSHA POINTS

- Three months after the children of Yisra'el left Mitsrayim, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai and camped there before the mountain - 19:1-2
- Yahweh spoke to Mosheh from the mountain, directing him to declare to the children of Yisra'el (19:3-6):
 - "You have seen what I did to the Mitsrites, and how I bore you on eagles' wings to bring you to Myself"
 - "If you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples - for all the earth is Mine"
 - "You shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation"
- The people responded together and said, "All that Yahweh has spoken we shall do." Mosheh then reported these words to Yahweh - 19:8
- Yahweh told Mosheh that He would come to him in a thick cloud, and speak so that the people would hear His voice and believe Mosheh forever - 19:9
- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to set the people apart that day and the next - 19:10
- Yahweh required the people to wash their garments - 19:10
- Yahweh admonished the people to be prepared by the third day, for on that day Yahweh would come down upon Mt. Sinai - 19:11



- Yahweh gave specific instructions to Mosheh regarding the mountain (19:12-13):

- A border was to be placed all around the mountain
- They were NOT to go up to the mountain
- They were NOT to touch the border of it
- They would die if they touched the mountain
- If a man or beast touched the mountain, they would be stoned or shot with an arrow
- When the trumpet sounded long, the people were to come near the mountain



- Mosheh told the people all that Yahweh required, so that they could get prepared. This included specifications regarding marital relations - 19:14-15

- On the third day, in the morning (19:16-18):

- There were thunders and lightnings
- A thick cloud came down on the mountain
- A loud blast of the ram's horn made the people tremble
- Mosheh brought the people to the foot of the mountain
- Mt. Sinai was covered in smoke as Yahweh descended upon it in fire
- Its smoke went up like smoke from a blazing furnace
- All the mountain trembled greatly



- Yahweh called Mosheh to the top of the mountain - 19:20
- Yahweh impressed Mosheh to severely warn the people and the priests NOT to disrespect the boundary of the mountain, on pain of death - 19:21-22, 24
- Mosheh reassured Yahweh that the people were NOT able to disobey because they had made a border around the mountain, just as Yahweh had commanded - 19:23
- Yahweh invited Mosheh to come back up the mountain with Aharon; but no one else would be allowed - 19:24

- Mosheh went down to the people and spoke to them these words (19:25):

Elohim gives His people the 10 Commandments - Chapter 20

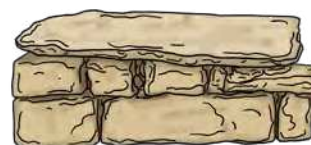
- Elohim spoke all these Words, saying (20:1-17):



- א I am Yahweh your **Elohim** (God/Mighty one), who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery.
 - ב You have no other mighty ones against My face. You do NOT make for yourself a carved image (**pehse**l), or any likeness of that which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth, you do NOT bow down to them nor serve them. For I, Yahweh your Elohim am a jealous El, visiting the crookedness of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and guard My commands (**mitzvot**).
 - ג You do NOT bring the Name of Yahweh your Elohim to naught, for Yahweh does NOT leave the one unpunished who brings His Name to naught.
 - ד Remember the Sabbath (**Shabbat**) day, to set it apart. Six days you labor, and shall do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim. You do NOT do any work -you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in 6 days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart.
 - ה Respect your father and your mother, so that your days are prolonged upon the soil which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you.
 - ו You do NOT murder.
 - ז You do NOT commit adultery.
 - ח You do NOT steal.
 - ט You do NOT bear false witness against your neighbor.
 - י You do NOT covet your neighbor's house, you do NOT covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, or whatever belongs to your neighbor.
- From a distance, the people saw the thunders, the lightning flashes and the smoke, and heard the ram's horn which caused them to tremble - 20:18



- They begged Mosheh to speak to them instead of hearing Yahweh; for they felt they would die if they continued to hear His voice - 20:19
- Mosheh told the people NOT to 'fear' (cause to be afraid), reassuring them that Yahweh had come to prove them so that His 'fear' (awe and reverence) would always be before them, to keep them from sinning against Him - 20:20
- The people were careful to keep their distance - 20:21
- Mosheh again drew near the thick darkness of the mountain, and Yahweh gave further instructions to the children of Yisra'el for clarification (20:21-26):
 - They were NOT to make any mighty ones (idols) of silver or gold to represent Yahweh, other gods or for themselves.
 - They were to make an altar of earth for Yahweh and offer burnt offerings and peace offerings of their sheep and cattle.
 - Yahweh would come to them and bless them wherever His Name would be remembered.
 - Altars were to be made of uncut/unhewn stone. If the stones were sculpted, the altar would be profaned.
 - They were NOT to make steps to go up the altar as that would cause shame (nakedness to be exposed) upon themselves.



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Notice that Yahweh required special preparedness to meet with Him (19:10). How should we best present ourselves to Yahweh when we meet with Him on the Sabbath and on the Holy Days?
- What does it mean when it says that we are to NOT bring the Name of Yahweh to naught? (20:7)
- Discuss the type of 'fear' Yahweh requires of us and what fear produces. For example: The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge/wisdom (20:20; also see Prov. 1:7, 9:10)
- Why do you think Yahweh wanted His altars to be made of natural and uncut/unhewn materials? Why do you think Yahweh did NOT want steps leading up to His altar? Could it be that all these had a connection to pagan worship? (20:25-26)