

Exodus 19

Theme: The Holy Lord treasures his people and wants their obedience so they won't be destroyed

Aims: Remember your rescue so obey your God, sit under his protective covenant don't try and divorce him

What is the fuel of the Christian life?

The Lord treasures His people v 1-8

1. What is the tone? It is very personal. God speaks to his people personally, he is not distant and withdrawn but wants us to relate to him,
2. What's the big point? God has rescued them, and it is all his work,
3. What does he want? Them to obey him v5. He has rescued them, brought them out, he has committed himself to them, he has made a covenant with them, now wants them to live like his people.

God acts like a husband – he has rescued them and bound himself to them by a covenant and now wants them to live like that. They are involved in an exclusive relationship.

God treasures his people and they are to represent him to the surrounding world v6 they stand out. If you trust Christ you enter a community of people treasured by God.

The Lord terrifies his people v9-19

God says I am going to come so you need to prepare yourselves.

You would hear crashing, roaring, body shaking thunder, see flashes of lightning and a dark cloud on the mountain. So it would be dark with bright lights flashing, booming sounds, and then a very loud trumpet. Understandable everyone trembles. v16, then v17 Moses- I would be scared witless.

God cares about your sin, God calls us to obey him? God is described as consuming fire.

When you look at the sin in your life and God's holiness, it should terrify you. He is a consuming fire, in our best behaviour, our most impressive moments we are nothing like him.

The Lord protects his people v20-25

This trip seems the most peculiar of the lot. This third trip up and down the mountain seems pointless.

God says v21-22, Moses replies v23, God says 24. What is going on? God is making a point very clearly, these people need to obey him or he will judge them. God recognises the people will be tempted to break the covenant, so he wants Moses to warn them again.

If they divorce God he will break out against them, he will treat them like he did the Egyptians. God has this conversation because he wants to protect his people from himself, otherwise he might treat his people like the Egyptians. The choice is clear live in my covenant and I will treasure you, break my covenant and I will break out against you.

God in Christ offers us a better covenant. Hebrews 12: 18-25.

God rescues and treasures his people, He is distinct and different from us, and he wants to protect us so don't stray from his safety