### Exodus

## Chapter 19

1Well, it was on that same day (in the 3rd month after the children of IsraEl had fled the land of Egypt) that they arrived in the SinAi desert.  
  
2They left RaphiDin and traveled through the desert to SinAi, and IsraEl set up camp there in front of the mountain.  
  
3Then Moses climbed the Mountain of God, and God called to him on the mountain, saying:  
  
 ‘You must say this to the house of Jacob and report [My words] to the children of IsraEl:  
  
 4‘You’ve seen all that I’ve done to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you as on the wings of eagles and drawn you close to Me. 5Now, if you’ll listen to what I say and keep My Sacred Agreement, you’ll be a special people to Me that will be higher than all other nations!  
  
 ‘And because the whole earth is Mine, 6you’ll become My holy nation and a Kingdom of Priests.’  
  
 ‘Now, [go] and tell this to the children of IsraEl!’  
  
  
7So Moses went back and called the people’s elders, then he laid out what God had said exactly as He said it. 8And all the people replied unanimously, saying:  
  
 ‘We will listen to, and obey, everything that God has said!’  
  
And Moses reported their words back to God.  
  
9Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m going to come to you in a column of clouds so the people can hear Me speaking to you. And after that, throughout the age, they’ll believe you.’  
  
And so, Moses reported back to the people about what the Lord had said.  
  
  
10Thereafter, the Lord said this to Moses:  
  
 ‘Go down and give these solemn instructions to the people:  
  
 ‘They must cleanse themselves both today and tomorrow, and they must wash their clothes.  
  
 11‘Make sure they’re ready by the 3rd day, because on the 3rd day, the Lord will descend upon Mount SinAi before all the people.  
  
 12‘Also, be sure that they keep themselves some distance from the mountain. Tell them:  
  
 ‘Be careful not to step on any part of the mountain or to touch any part of it. For anyone who touches the mountain will surely die!  
  
 13‘No hand should touch it, and anyone who does so must be pelted with rocks or shot through with arrows… Whether it’s a man or an animal, [he or she] must not be allowed to live!’  
  
 ‘People may only climb the mountain after the voices, trumpeting, and clouds are gone.’  
  
14So Moses went down the mountain to the people. He then cleansed them and [had them] wash their clothes.  
  
15He told them:  
  
 ‘Get ready… And for the next three days, no [man] should even get close to a woman [and so on]...’  
  
  
16Then, as the morning of the 3rd day dawned, there were voices, there was lightning, there was a dark cloud on SinAi, and they heard a trumpeting sound that was so loud that the people in the camp were trembling!  
  
17And that’s when Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God.  
  
Well, they were all standing there, close to the camp, 18and then the whole mountain started to smoke, because The God had descended upon it in fire… And the smoke kept rising as though it [was coming from] a furnace, which left the people in awe!  
  
19Then the trumpeting got even louder as Moses spoke, and God started answering him with a voice… 20Yes, the Lord descended to the top of Mount SinAi and called to Moses, [telling him to come to Him] on top of the mountain!  
  
So Moses went up, 21and God then said this to Moses:  
  
 ‘Go down and warn the people [again] not to approach to see God, for this will cause many of them to [die]! 22And make sure that any Priests who come close to Jehovah God have cleansed themselves, so He doesn’t [have to] destroy some of them!’  
  
23Then Moses said to God:  
  
 ‘The people won’t be able to approach Mount SinAi, because You warned us, saying:  
  
 ‘Set boundaries around the mountain and make it holy.’  
  
24And at that, the Lord told him:  
  
 ‘Now, go down [the mountain] and bring Aaron back up here with you... But don’t allow the Priests or the people to force their way up to God, for fear that Jehovah will destroy them!’  
  
25So Moses went [back] down to the people and reminded them [once again].