

## Exodus 24

**Read Exodus 24:** Exodus and the Law of Moses seem to be harsh in some respects. On closer inspection, it was always the people who have put constraints on communing with God. We want life on our terms, not on God's terms. Cain wanted God to accept him as he was on his own selfish and envious terms. That puts us in the position of playing God; and it doesn't work.

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1)*

There are certain historic places in the scriptures where God speaks outright to men. This is a momentous occasion, with a lot of significance. God speaks to men from Mt. Sinai. This includes Moses, Aaron, Aaron's sons, and 70 elders. Moses went up Mt. Sinai once to obtain the 10 Commandments on stone, and once again for a second replacement set. The 70 elders and the others only went part of the way up the mountain on the first climb. Moses went to the top himself. They all saw God; meaning that they saw Jesus on his throne. You cannot really see the father in our fleshly state.

*But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (Exodus 33:20)*

Somebody has to get God's downloads. It must have been like Dorothy seeing the Wizard of Oz for the first time. Somebody had to carry God's standards out to men. Moses is therefore a representative of the Law. This is a high standard of conduct was never met. Moses is called the Law-Giver. There is just one work-around that this legal labyrinth points us to. There is only one door to heaven. This is why the gospel (good news) was needed. Moses' life is also a tribute to Jesus. In this setting, he is the intermediary between God and man. He is the most humble man, who spoke to God face to face. He was a shepherd. He left royalty to serve the common servant.

*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)*

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear (Deuteronomy 18:15)*

*"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away,*

*one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5)*

God does not accept the fallen human condition on its own. It must be attached to Jesus. God will look past our issues if we are connected to Jesus.

In general the Law tells us that nobody could march into God's presence without dying. There was a sin-neutralizing process that had to happen first; and only qualified people could gain access. By the same token, true seekers have always been able to reach out and connect with God. The Law presupposes that many people are not in a personal relationship with God.

*We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. <sup>9</sup> We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine <sup>11</sup> that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. (1 Timothy 1)*

At the same time, God is always reachable. The normal folks could not formally enter the Tabernacle, but they could go to the Tent of Meeting.

*Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. (Exodus 33:7)*

On one hand, nobody was allowed to climb the mountain with Moses, or they would die. On the other hand, the people who were trying to connect with God found ways. Joshua was not a qualified priest to enter the tabernacle, but he was there.

*The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. (Exodus 33:11)*

God has shown us that there are always two ways to deal with God. One is in a seeking relationship; and the other is as a law-breaking stranger. It's our choice.

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4)*

*<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6)*

Moses set up an informal priesthood before God solidified his requirements. Moses built an altar himself. He had some young men sacrifice the animals to the LORD. This all pre-dated the Aaronic priesthood requirements.

God told Moses to set up Aaron and Hur as his backups in his absence. Aaron is not mentioned much, and not much is known about him. Moses saw God’s cloud drop down on Mt Sinai for 6 days before he called Moses up. The cloud kept Moses from seeing him and dying. God is a consuming fire, and the peak of Mount Sinai is literally covered with melted rock but has no volcano.