

BIBLE STUDY

4/9/15

Exodus 19:16-24

¹⁶So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷And Moses brought the people out of the camp **to meet God**, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because Yahweh descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently, ¹⁹When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder.

²⁰Yahweh came down on Mount Sinai...and Yahweh called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. ²¹Then Yahweh said, "Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to Yahweh to gaze, and many of them perish. ²²Also let the priests who come near to Yahweh consecrate themselves, or else Yahweh will break out against them." ²³Moses said, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us, saying, "Set bounds about the mountain and consecrate it.'" ²⁴Then Yahweh, "Go down and come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to Yahweh, or He will break forth upon them."

**THE DECALOGUE/TEN
COMMANDMENTS**
(Exodus 20:1-17)

Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." ²¹So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

Psalm 29
A Psalm of David

- 1a Ascribe to Yahweh, sons of God!
1b Ascribe to Yahweh glory and power!
2a Ascribe to Yahweh glory to His name!
2b Bow down to Yahweh in the splendor of holiness!
- 3a The thunder/voice of Yahweh is upon the waters;
The God of glory causes a roar,
3b Yahweh is over many waters.
4a The thunder of Yahweh is powerful,
4b The thunder of Yahweh is in splendor.
5a The thunder of Yahweh breaks the cedars,
5b And Yahweh breaks the trees of Lebanon.
6a He causes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
6b And Sirion like a Young wild ox.
7a The thunder of Yahweh strikes flames of fire (lightning),
8a The thunder of Yahweh causes trembling in the wilderness,
8b Yahweh causes trembling in the wilderness of Kadesh.
9a The thunder of Yahweh will make deer dance;
And He strips bare forests; and in His Temple,
9b All cry "Glory!"
- 10a Yahweh sits upon the flood [of waters],
10b And He sits as King forever.
11a Yahweh will give power to His people,
11b Yahweh will bless His people with peace.

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

NARRATOR: [After three and a half years of drought, Elijah and Ahab confront each other]. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab spoke to him.

AHAB: Is this you, you troubler of Israel?

ELIJAH: I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house *have*, because you have forsaken the commandments of YAHWEH and you have followed the Baals. Now then send *and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.

NARRATOR: So Ahab sent *a message* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people and spoke.

ELIJAH: How long *will* you hesitate between two opinions? If YAHWEH is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.

NARRATOR: But the people did not answer him a word.

ELIJAH: I alone am left a prophet of YAHWEH, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire *under it*. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of YAHWEH, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.

PEOPLE: That is a good idea.

NARRATOR: So Elijah spoke to the prophets of Baal.

ELIJAH: Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*.

NARRATOR: Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon.

PROPHETS OF BAAL: O Baal, answer us.

NARRATOR: But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them .

ELIJAH: Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.

NARRATOR: So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

ELIJAH: Come near to me.

NARRATOR: So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of YAHWEH, which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of YAHWEH had come.

ELIJAH: Israel shall be your name.

NARRATOR: So with the stones he built an altar in the name of YAHWEH and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid *it* on the wood.

ELIJAH: Fill four pitchers with water and pour *it* on the burnt offering and on the wood. Do it a second time,

NARRATOR: They did it a second time.

ELIJAH: Do it a third time.

NARRATOR: They did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water. At the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and spoke.

ELIJAH: YAHWEH, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, YAHWEH, answer me, that this people may know that You, O YAHWEH, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back again.

NARRATOR: Then the fire of YAHWEH came down and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces.

PEOPLE: YAHWEH, He is God; YAHWEH, He is God.

ELIJAH: Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.

NARRATOR: So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

ELIJAH [to Ahab]: Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a *heavy* shower.”

NARRATOR: So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. He spoke to his servant.

ELIJAH: Go up now, look toward the sea.

NARRATOR: So the servant went up and looked.

SERVANT: There is nothing.

ELIJAH: Go back.

NARRATOR: Elijah said this seven times. It came about at the seventh *time*, that the servant spoke.

SERVANT: Behold, a cloud as small as a man’s hand is coming up from the sea.

ELIJAH: Go up, say to Ahab, “Prepare *your chariot* and go down, so that the *heavy* shower does not stop you.”

NARRATOR: In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of YAHWEH was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and out ran Ahab to Jezreel.