

LESSON 11 – A MOUNTAIN SHADOWS PROMISE ROAD

Exodus 15 - 32

THEME: To show why God gave the Law and to whom it was given.

Have you seen a mountain? From far away it looked like only a tiny hill, but then as you came closer it became very large. Today as we follow Israel we come to Mount Sinai (2,285 metres high). You will hear how it became a frightening mountain, how it smoked, and how God spoke from this mountain to Moses. It was a long time before Israel passed the shadow of this mountain.

The Israelites are now on the way to the PROMISED LAND. God will test His people to see if they are ready to receive and govern the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He also wanted to prove to Israel that they needed Him all along the way.

After Israel passed through the Red Sea, they came into the wilderness of Shur. Exodus 15:22. From here the tests began to come upon them:

1. First test: the bitter waters of Marah. Exodus 15:22-25. When Israel came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. The people failed when they grumbled, but God was faithful. The Lord showed Moses a tree which he threw into the waters, and the waters became sweet. The tree pictures Christ who makes the bitter become sweet. Christ died on the tree to take the bitterness of sin upon Himself.
2. Second test: hunger. Exodus 16:3-21. In the wilderness of Sin the people grumbled again because they were hungry. They failed again but God again proved to be faithful and sent them manna. The manna is a type of Christ, the Bread of Life. John 6.
3. Third test: thirst at Rephidim. Exodus 17:1-7. From the wilderness of Sin the sons of Israel camped at Rephidim, and there was no water. The people failed by grumbling, but God provided water from the rock after striking it. The rock is Christ and the water the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 10:4 and John 7:37-39. The striking of the rock pictured Christ being struck and crucified when He came to earth more than 2,000 years ago. The Holy Spirit could only be given through the smiting of Christ.

Israel then arrived at Mount Sinai and camped in front of the mountain. Moses went up into the mountain and God told him that He wanted the sons of Israel to be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. But they had to obey His voice and keep His covenant. All the people agreed when Moses told them and the Lord said to Moses that He would come to him in a thick cloud, so that the people could hear Him while they were standing at the foot of the mountain. Exodus 19.

The time had come for the greatest test of all. God will test Israel's love and faith by their obedience to the Law that He will give them. Everyone feared God's holiness when they heard the ten commandments of the Law. They wanted Moses to tell them the rest of the Law which would be added to the Promises. Exodus 20:1-21. We see the travel laws Israel had to remember were greatly increased. Galatians 3:19-25.

What do you suppose the people were doing while Moses was up on the mountain? They broke the first two commandments that were given by God. Exodus 32 tells about the golden calf., the anger of the Lord, the intercession of Moses, the breaking of the two stone tablets with the ten commandments (Deuteronomy 9:10), and that 3000 Israelites were killed.



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Did Israel pass the test? No. And that was not the end of the test. God gave them many, many years under the Law but they broke the commandments over and over. God added the Law to the Promises because of Israel's sinfulness. The Law was added until the promised Seed would come, but they ended up crucifying the promised One when He came. Now we will see why the Law was given and what is proved.

The Law was added to the Promise because of transgressions/sins. Galatians 3:19. Israel sinned over and over again and did not pay attention to the sinfulness of sin.

The Law proved that the Israelites were sinful, just like the gentiles, and had no reason for boasting. Romans 3:19-20.

The Law proved that the perfect holiness of God demanded perfect righteousness. Exodus 20:3-6. Therefore Israel's only hope lay in the righteousness of the Promised One, our Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:24.

To whom was the Law given? To Israel. The Law was nailed to the cross of Calvary. Colossians 2:14. Was the Law given to us who are living over at GRACE AIRPORT? No, but we can learn from the Law the same things that Israel learned. We are weak and sinful in ourselves. God demands perfect righteousness. We can only get that righteousness by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour from going to hell. Attempting to keep the holy Law never saved anyone, but trusting in the finished work of Christ upon the cross will save anyone who believes in Him.

MEMORY VERSE: "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made." Galatians 3:19.

LESSON 11 – WORK SHEET

As the Israelites journeyed from Egypt to the land of Canaan, God tested them and proved them to see if they would walk in His way and if they were ready to go in and govern the Promised Land. From the Scriptures below fill in the blanks to show what the tests were and how God provided for their needs.

1. Exodus 15:22-25. At Marah the waters were _____. God told Moses to throw a _____ into the waters and they became _____.
2. Exodus 16:3-5. In the wilderness of _____ the people thought they would die of _____, but God said He would rain _____ from _____.
3. Exodus 17:1-6. At Rephidim they became _____ because there was no _____, but God told Moses to smite the _____ and _____ would come out.
4. There is only one person who can satisfy our spiritual hunger and our spiritual thirst. Look up the verses below and write the name of this One.
John 6:35 _____; John 4:14 _____.
5. Where was Israel when God gave them the greatest test of all?
Exodus 19:1-2 _____.

The Bible references below tell why the Law was given. Look them up and fill in the spaces.

6. Galatians 3:19. The Law was added because of _____.
7. Romans 3:19. The Law was given that every _____.
8. Romans 3:19. The Law was given that all the world might become _____.
9. What did Israel worship in breaking the first two commandments of the Law and what did Moses do with this? Exodus 32:4,20. _____
_____.
10. Write Galatians 3:19: _____

