Pastor Richard Allen Farmer

Crossroads Church

5587 Redan Rd.

Stone Mountain, GA 30088

770.469.9069

Hungering for Holiness, Part 10

Text: Exodus 19:1-9

What’s the laziest Mountain in the world? - Mount Ever-rest!

How do mountains see? They peak!

Mountains figure prominently in the scriptures.

* Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1)
* Jesus revealed Himself in splendor on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1)
* Jesus had a very significant dialogue with a Samaritan woman, on Mt. Gerizim. (John 4:20)
* When Moses was told he would not enter the promised land, God took him to the top of Mt. Pisgah that he might get a glimpse (Deut. 3:27).
* Elijah showcased the superiority of Yahweh over the Baals, on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:19ff).

Our text takes us to another mountain: Mount Sinai, which is synonymous with Mt. Horeb, or the mountain of God. (3:1; 4:27)

Note the verbs used, as Israel is called to holiness (v.6):

gone out - v. 1

They came to -v. 1

They departed- v. 2

And camped- v. 2

Moses went up- v. 3

The Lord called- v. 3

You have seen- v. 4

I bore you- v.4 (Deut. 32:10-11)

I brought you to Myself- v.4

There is clear teaching here of both God’s unconditional love and His conditional covenant (19:5). Walter Kaiser, in the Expositor’s Bible Commentary, says that this text follows the pattern of Near Eastern covenants between a king and a subservient people.

* Preamble summons (v.3)
* Historical prologue (v. 4)
* Covenant stipulations (v. 5a)
* Promised blessings based on obedience (v. 5b-6)
* Acceptance in a solemn assembly (v. 7-8)

There is clear teaching here of God’s varied revelation of Himself. He comes to Israel in their affliction (3:8) and in a thick cloud (19:9; 14:19-20).

God sanctifies the place, just as He did the ground on which Moses stood in 3:5. In fact, boundaries were to be placed, so that people did not disrespect this holy mountain, this holy place (v. 12-13, 23).

Israel’s status changes. They become God’s *treasured possession* (Deut. 7:6; 14:2) Hebrew word is *segullah*, which refers to both animate and inanimate objects or persons who are owned as personal property. Verse 5 of our text says that the whole earth belongs to God...so does that group of people who have entered into covenant with God. We are *also* His!!!! This term, *treasured possession,* is rendered *jewels* in Malachi 3:17. Do you know that verse?

Malachi 3:17:

“They shall be Mine,” says the Lord of hosts,

“On the day that I make them My jewels.

And I will spare them

As a man spares his own son who serves him.”

You and I are God’s treasured possessions; His jewels!!

Three marks of holy people, out of this text:

1. They hear God’s voice
2. They obey(heed) God’s voice
3. They act like they’re special.

For this covenant relationship to take hold, a mediator must be present. In this text it is Moses. As we fast forward to our day, it is Jesus, the Christ. Cf. Heb. 9:15; 12:24

John Calvin:

*The sum then is, whilst the whole earth is in God’s dominion, yet the race of Israel has been chosen by Him, to excel all nations. Whence it is evident, that whereas the condition of all is alike, some are not distinguished from others by nature, but by gratuitous adoption; but in order that they should abide in the possession of so great a blessing, fidelity towards God is required on their part.*

Have you heard God’s voice?

Have you been to the holy mountain?

Have you been adopted into God’s holy family?

Do you walk around like you are special to God? You are!!

Are you hungry for more of God?

I hope so.

Amen