

## Lecture 1

# Moses' Eight Ascents of Mt. Sinai

### Exod 19:1-6

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He brought them to Mt. Sinai first.

**Exodus 3:12 (NASB95) — 12** And He said, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.”

There, God ratified the Sinaitic Covenant with the Israelites. In the process of ratifying this covenant, God called Moses up to the top of Mt. Sinai a total of 8 times.

Why did God call up Moses to the top of the mountain 8 times and what does this entire process teach us regarding redemptive history?

Let us examine the 8 ascents of Moses including the dates and what happened during those ascents.

Dates – when the Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai it was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.

**Exodus 19:1 (NASB95) — 1** In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.

Here, the words “third month” is *hodesh shelishi* in Hebrew. This literally means on the 3<sup>rd</sup> new moon of the year. In the Hebrew calendar, the new moon day is always the first of the month. Thus, we can see that they arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.

## 1. First Ascent

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Mon)

**Exodus 19:3 (NASB95) — 3** Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:

God proposed the Sinaitic Covenant.

**Exodus 19:5–6 (NASB95) — 5** ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

**Descent –**

**Exodus 19:7 (NASB95) — 7** So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.

## 2. Second Ascent

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Tue)

**Exodus 19:8 (NASB95) — 8** All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do!” And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

God commanded the Israelites to consecrate themselves for 3 days.

**Exodus 19:10–11 (NASB95) — 10** The LORD also said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; **11** and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

**Descent —**

**Exodus 19:14 (NASB95) — 14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people, and they washed their garments.

## 3. Third Ascent

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Thur)

**Exodus 19:20 (NASB95) — 20** The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

God came down upon Mt. Sinai on the third day and met the people who were at the foot of the mountain.

God warned Moses once again to prohibit the people from coming up the mountain or they will die.

**Exodus 19:21 (NASB95) — 21** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

**Descent —**

**Exodus 19:25 (NASB95) — 25** So Moses went down to the people and told them.

## 4. Fourth Ascent

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Fri)

God spoke the Words of the Ten Commandments in the hearing of all Israel (Deut 4:10-13). This was called the “Day of Assembly.”

**Deuteronomy 9:10 (NASB95) — 10** “The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God; and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

Then, the people were too afraid to hear the voice of God anymore. So, Moses went up to God to receive the rest of the laws.

**Exodus 20:19 (NASB95) — 19** Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.”

**Exodus 20:21 (NASB95) — 21** So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

### Descent –

**Exodus 24:3 (NASB95) — 3** Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”

Then Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord (Exod 24:4).

The next day, they held the ratification ceremony for the Sinaitic Covenant (7<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month, Sat)

**Exodus 24:7–8 (NASB95) — 7** Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” **8** So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

## 5. Fifth Ascent

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Sat)

**Exodus 24:9 (NASB95) — 9** Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,

Covenant meal shared on Mt. Sinai. They saw God and did not die.

**Exodus 24:10–11 (NASB95) — 10** and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. **11** Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.

**Descent** – There is no explicit record of them coming down.

## 6. Sixth Ascent

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Sun)

**Exodus 24:15 (NASB95) — 15** Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

Moses fasted for 40 days and nights. This is the first 40-day fasting. God gave the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God. God also gave the pattern of the tabernacle.

**Deuteronomy 9:9–10 (NASB95) — 9** “When I went up to the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD had made with you, then I remained on the mountain forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water. **10** “The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God; and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

**Descent** – 17<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month (Thur)

Israelites saw that Moses was delayed in coming down. So, they made a golden calf and worshiped it. Moses came down and shattered the two stone tablets at the foot of the mountain.

**Exodus 32:7 (NASB95) — 7** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.

**Exodus 32:19 (NASB95) — 19** It came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses’ anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.

## 7. Seventh Ascent

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month (Fri)

Moses intercedes in prayer for forty days.

**Exodus 32:30–31 (NASB95) — 30** On the next day Moses said to the people, “You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” **31** Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, “Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves.

**Deuteronomy 9:25 (NASB95) — 25** “So I fell down before the LORD the forty days and nights, which I did because the LORD had said He would destroy you.

**Descent** – 28<sup>th</sup> day of 5<sup>th</sup> month (Tue)

**Exodus 32:34 (NASB95) — 34** “But go now, lead the people where I told you. Behold, My angel shall go before you; nevertheless in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

Moses set up a temporary tent of meeting outside the camp for intercessory prayers (29<sup>th</sup> day of 5<sup>th</sup> month, Wed.)

**Exodus 33:7 (NASB95) — 7** Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp.

## 8. Eighth Ascent

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month (Thur)

**Exodus 34:1 (NASB95) — 1** Now the LORD said to Moses, “Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered.

**Exodus 34:4 (NASB95) — 4** So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand.

Moses’ second 40-day fasting. God commanded Moses to make two stone tablets just like the first ones, then God wrote the Words of the Ten Commandments on them.

**Exodus 34:28 (NASB95) — 28** So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

**Deuteronomy 10:4 (NASB95) — 4** “He wrote on the tablets, like the former writing, the Ten Commandments which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me.

**Descent** – 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (Day of Atonement)

Moses brought down the second set of stone tablets and his face was shining because he has spoken with the LORD.

**Exodus 34:29 (NASB95) — 29** It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses’ hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

### **Redemptive-historical Significance of the 8 Ascents:**

In the first covenant God wrote on the stone tablets. However, in the new covenant, God promised to write His Words on the tablets of our hearts.

**Jeremiah 31:33 (NASB95) — 33** “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Moreover, Moses’ shining face foreshadows the image and the glory of the LORD that we will recover in the end times.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB95) — 18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

**1 John 3:2 (NASB95) — 2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

**Isaiah 60:1–3 (NASB95) — 1** “Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. **2** “For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. **3** “Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

## Lecture 2

# The Commandments of God

### Rev 12:17

The remnant in the last days has these two things:

**Revelation 12:17 (NASB95):** 17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Commandments (ἐντολή): plural form = ten commandments

### 1. The dilemma of interpreting the Ten Commandments

God's Word remains the same, yet the interpretation varies depending on people.

All scriptures are God-breathed.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB95):** 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

"Inspired by God" = God-breathed (*theo-pneutos*)

Therefore, God is the author of the scriptures. This means only the Scriptures must be interpreted by God Himself, i.e., the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:10-11).

The 66 books in the Scripture revolve around the Ten Commandments.

**Matthew 22:36–40 (NASB95):**

**36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

**37** And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

**38** "This is the great and foremost commandment.

**39** "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

**40** "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

However, the people did not interpret the commandments of God correctly. Two examples are:  
The Jews used the Ten Commandments to kill Jesus (Matt 9:3; 26:65; Mark 2:7)  
Apostle Paul also confessed that he used the law to kill (Act 22:3-4; 2 Cor 3:7)

**Acts 22:3–4 (NASB95):** 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. 4 "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

**2 Corinthians 3:7 (NASB95):** 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was,

But Jesus came to interpret the law according to the original intention of God and fulfilled it on the cross.

**Matthew 5:17–19 (NASB95): 17** “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**

**18** “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

**19** “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**Romans 10:4 (NASB95): 4** For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes.

## **2. The central principle of the Law (Ten Commandments) is LOVE**

In Matt 2:40 Jesus sums up the ten commandments into two commands of love:

The first four commandments say: “love your God.”

The next six commandments say: “love your neighbors.”

→ Without love, we cannot keep the ten commandments.

→ All sins are the *opposite* of the principle of love.

### **(1) Relationship with God (How to love God)**

**First Commandment** (*You shall have no other gods before Me*): teaches about WHOM to worship.

**Second Commandment** (*You shall not make for yourself an idol*): teaches about HOW to worship God.

**Third Commandment** (*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*): teaches about the proper MINDSET of worship.

**Fourth Commandment** (*Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy*): teaches about the TIME of worship.

### **(2) Relationship with Neighbors (How to love neighbors)**

**Fifth Commandment** (*Honor your father and your mother*): establishes the basic order of society.

**Sixth Commandment** (*You shall not murder*): prioritizes the DIGNITY of life above all else; helps us understand the meaning and value of LIFE; teaches about the dignity of a neighbor’s life



**Seventh Commandment** (*You shall not commit adultery*): preserves the SANCTITY of the family created by God.

**Eighth Commandment** (*You shall not steal*): teaches us to cherish our neighbors' possessions in the same way we cherish our own; teaches about the dignity of a neighbor's possession

**Ninth Commandment** (*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*): Bearing false witness destroys the true covenant community; condemns falsehood and teaches the DIGNITY of the truth.

**Tenth Commandment** (*You shall not covet your neighbor's house*): conclusion of the ten commandments and regards love for our neighbors; understand the DIGNITY of self-sufficiency and contentment.

### 3. We can truly understand and keep God's commandments only when we've met Jesus

Only when we TURN TO Jesus will the veil covering our hardened hearts be removed.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:12–18 (NASB95):**

**12** Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,

**13** and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

**14** But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

**15** But to this day **whenever Moses is read**, a veil lies over their heart;

**16** but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

**17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

#### **John 5:39–40 (NASB95):**

**39** "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

**40** and you are **unwilling to come to Me** so that you may have life.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:2–3 (NASB95):**

**2** You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

**3** being manifested that **you are a letter of Christ**, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.