

INVITATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

Text: Exodus 20:18-22 God spoke the 10 Commandments with an audible voice from heaven - ¹⁸ And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. ¹⁹ And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. ²⁰ And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. ²¹ And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. ²² And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

Exodus 24:1,5-11 And he (GOD) said unto Moses, **Come up unto the LORD**, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. ⁵ And he (MOSES) sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. ⁸ And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. ⁹ Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: ¹⁰ **And they saw the God of Israel:** and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. ¹¹ And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also **they saw God, and did eat and drink.**

Introduction: *LATELY, I HAVE PREACHED A NUMBER OF SERMONS ON THE WONDER OF SCIENCE AND GOD'S MAGNIFICANT CREATION... NOW, I WANT TO GO UPWARD TO THE HIGHEST REALM OF ALL; INTO THE REALM OF OUR GREAT WORLD CREATOR, HIMSELF, GOD!*

In this sermon we want to look at the birth of the Old Testament Law and the Covenant that was originally given unto the Children of Israel by God, Himself! Let us look closely at how our God dealt with the past covenant followers and let us LOOK SERIOUSLY at this same AWESOME GOD IN OUR PRESENT- DAY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

I. A Look at the Birth of the Old Testament

1) An Invitation of the Highest Order – A meeting with God

- a meeting with God -- an invitation given directly from God Himself!
- an invitation for Fellowship—To meet God -- To Eat and Drink in His presence!
- a COVENANT MEAL—signifying that God was entering into a Covenant and was at peace with Israel and its Leaders! They were NOW ACCEPTED & FORGIVEN

* Note 1: remember the Last Supper with Jesus – the significates is Fellowship

* Note 2: where did the food and drink for the meal come from? It is suggested that the meal consist of the sacrificed OXEN that Moses used to sprinkle the blood of the covenant upon the people

2) Preparations to go and meet God

Exodus 14:5-6 And he (MOSES) sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷

3) A Covenant or Agreement for a Special Relationship between two parties- God and the Children of Israel

4) The mutually agreed upon contract which stipulated each party's responsibility

Exodus 20:18 God spoke the 10 Commandments with an audible voice from heaven

Exodus 24:7 ... they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

5) Faithfully fulfilling the Covenant unto the end! **THIS IS WHERE THE STORY TAKES A BAD TURN!**

- **NOT AT THE START---** **Exodus 24:9-11**⁸ And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.⁹ Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:¹⁰ **And they saw the God of Israel:** and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.¹¹ And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also **they saw God, and did eat and drink.**
- **THE ENDING – ONLY Four Stood True to the End** (Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb) Nadab and Abihu – **Leviticus 10:1-2** And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.² And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
Seventy Elders – **Numbers 14:29-30** Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.³⁰ Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

II. New Testament - LOOK SERIOUSLY at the same AWESOME GOD IN OUR PRESENT- DAY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

Matthew 26:26-28²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; **this is my body.**²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;²⁸ **For this is my blood of the new testament,** which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Hebrews 8:1,6-13⁶ **But now hath he (JESUS) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.⁸ For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when *I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:*⁹ *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.*¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.¹³ In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 10:16-23 **This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**¹⁷ **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God;²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised;)

III. Our Testament Covenant is based upon the following Contractual Foundation

1) Jesus is our High Priest and Savior (much greater in person than Aaron the high priest in the OT)

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

2) Our Sins are forgiven/removed by the Sacrifice of Christ alone! (much better than animal sacrifice)

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

3) Fellowship and access to Father God is made possible through Jesus (much greater access to God than the outer court of the temple)

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

4) God is individually revealed to each Believer within the Covenant (much better because a priest or mediator is not required to offer sacrifices or assist us in our relationship with God)

Hebrews 8:10 I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

5) God bases the NT Covenant on Individual Faith not Religious Works or Family Linage (much better than OT because WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME---REGARDLESS OF YOUR PAST, YOUR FAMILY HISTORY, OR YOUR FINANCIAL STANDING IN SOCIETY)

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

IV. Close with some Solemn Warnings

- **The New Testament Covenant with God is not to be taken lightly because God doesn't take it lightly!**
- **Sin is still a serious matter with God and not to be taken lightly!**
- **Grace is not to be abused by presupposing upon God's Mercy. Let us not tempt God by living a lifestyle in opposition to His Word! A continual sinful lifestyle will not be accepted by God!**
- **We must continually live up to our part of the Covenant or God will reject us in the End!**
Remember the examples of rejected OT Covenant Leaders -- Nadab and Abihu -- Seventy Elders

Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.² For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

An invitation from God to join him in a NT Covenant is AN INVITATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER!

LET US BE TRULY THANKFUL FOR SUCH AN INVITATION AND LIVE OUR LIVES IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE WILL BE HONORED AND PLEASED!