

## Set Apart for God

Speaker: Pastor Kent Priebe

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The first 9 verses of Exodus 19 teach us that, after God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they entered the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the third month, and camped in front of the mountain to meet God. Their Obedience to God resulted in God's Grace, Salvation and Blessings, and He established a new covenant with Israel.

The three central components which reveal the sequence of how God worked with the Israelites, acted through Jesus, and also works today, are: (1) **Salvation** by faith, through grace; (2) our **Obedience** to God; and (3) the **Blessings** we receive when we obey Him.

*Salvation* is **ONLY through God, who saves us**, as He saved the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, revealing through all His actions and miracles that He was more powerful than Pharaoh; He saved them through His Grace. God did not give them the 10 commandments while they were still enslaved in Egypt, and tell them that He would save them if they obeyed Him. He saved them through His Grace, not just once or twice when they became angry and disgruntled, but every single time!

The Israelites did not have to do **anything** for themselves in order to leave Egypt; instead, as we are told in God's Word, God told them that "I carried you on eagles' wings." They were protected, every need was met, and all they had to do was to *obey God*! God's saving grace is **pure, undeserved love, favour, mercy and kindness**.

**Salvation** changes our lives and we don't have to do anything except allow God to save us! Once we are saved, God changes our hearts and desires, placing His Spirit within us, and changing our lives so that we **want** to obey and follow Him. No other religion offers this *saving grace*! Sometimes we may feel we need to get our lives together prior to salvation—by doing such things as sharing our faith, being baptized, serving in the Church, praying, or reading our Bible. However, if we believe in our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross for the remediation of our sins, and if we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour, **then we are saved by God**.

The *response* to salvation is **Obedience to God**. Only when we understand the *order* of God's Grace, will we comprehend the purposes of God's Law, and obey Him without question. God's laws shape our identity, making us unique as His children because of our intimate, personal and binding relationship with Him, which subsequently affects the manner in which we conduct ourselves, and this is what God wants of us. Deviating from the order of God's Grace could result in several negative experiences such as shame, guilt or fear, and believing that God could *never love us because we are too sinful*. Alternately, we may think we do NOT need to obey God, and even if we continue sinning and do as we choose, God will always forgive us. However, God's saving grace is bestowed on us so that we **choose to follow and obey Him!**

Thirdly, *Obedience* results in us receiving **God's Blessings**. This intimate and personal relationship with God enables us to share God's Word with the world. We become His treasured people, saved by God, obedient to Him and receive all the blessings He has for us – especially that of eternal life with Him in Heaven through His extravagant Grace and by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ!



# EXODUS

## sermon study guide

### IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. How helpful are instructions or directions? Give an example.
2. Where were you when you first experienced the reality of God? What happened then?

### UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Exodus 19:3-4. The Israelites have been out of Egypt less than two months, yet the Lord asks them to remember three things that happened in that time span. What are they? What events are included in being “carried on eagle’s wings”?
4. Read Exodus 19:5-6. What did He promise? What did obedience to God do for their relationship with God?

### OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Read Exodus 19:7-8. The Lord asked the Israelites to “fully obey” (v.5). The people responded, “We will do ...,” before they knew what they were agreeing to do. Discuss the significance of that today.
6. How have salvation from God alone, our obedience, and His blessings been revealed to you in your life? How can you encourage others to walk a similar journey?

#### ***For Personal Reflection / Prayer:***

***The order of God’s grace is – salvation, obedience, blessing. God alone is the one who saves. Our response must be obedience. Obedience brings blessing. At what stage are you in this order? What is your next step?***

### THE WORD (NIV)

#### Exodus 19:1-9

On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup> The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the Lord what the people had said.

#### Psalms 119:97, 101-103, 105

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

<sup>101</sup> I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.

<sup>102</sup> I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

This week’s writers: | Asha Philips, Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein and Jorel Quemuel

