

## Exodus 19

### Meeting with God: scary glory



If God is the creator of this world (and whole universe) ... and if he is not just therefore incredibly powerful and wise, but also *all-seeing*, and holy beyond our understanding ... then to meet with this God would seem impossible. And yet this is what is happening here: **Moses and the Israelites prepare for the fearsome prospect of meeting with God.**

The dark scariness of what we read here is a necessary reminder that we are never to regard *Almighty God* as our heavenly pal. But notice the contrast between the people (16), the mountain (18) and Moses himself (Hebrews 12:21) trembling, and the NT invitations to approach God with boldness and confidence (2 Corinthians 3:12, Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 4:16). How can this be? Only because of “Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness”.

#### ➤ **When God's promises puzzle us** (1-3)

They had been promised “a land flowing with milk and honey” (3:17), but they're stuck eating manna at the foot of a mountain in the wilderness. But **what else** had God said? - see 3:12. And was there a **when** included? Could it be that we are sometimes too selective in our memory, and sometimes just too impatient?

#### ➤ **When we become introverted** (5-6)

Here is a wonderful promise of what Israel could have become, one that is repeated and applied to believers in Jesus in 1 Peter 2:9. But are these words to make us feel comfortable, or to give us a commission? See the words that follow in 1 Peter: “that you may proclaim ...”

#### ➤ **When we lack confidence**

We can understand the fear of the Israelites here in Exodus 19. But now that Jesus has died and risen again (*it is finished!*), would it be humility or arrogance for us to not draw near to our Heavenly Father with confidence? Is it deference, or defiance, to doubt that (as in the hymn) “his blood can make the foulest clean” ... and that *his blood could avail, too, for me?*