

April 20–26

Exodus 19–20; 24; 31–34

“All that the Lord Hath Spoken We Will Do”



Introduction

Brigham Young

"[Moses] received the law of carnal commandments for Israel from the mouth of God. I believe with all my heart that if the children had been ready to receive the Gospel in all its fulness, the yoke of carnal commandments would never have been placed upon their necks. Moses was a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek." (JD, 9:308)

Introduction

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

"The Lord tried to make a nation of priests out of Israel but Israel would not, and so the Lord had to organize as he did, giving the Priesthood to one tribe, withdrawing the Melchizedek Priesthood from their midst, and setting up the Priesthood of Aaron." (CR, April 1953)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 19:3-6

What do you think the Lord meant when He said Israel could become His “peculiar treasure” and a “kingdom of priests”?

Lorenzo Snow

"This is what the Lord designed to effect through Israel in bringing them out from Egyptian bondage; He wished to make of them a united people, a peculiar nation, a nation of people whom God could honor and respect in order that the world might believe, and that they might receive the blessings which He wished to bestow upon them. If Israel had carried out His requirements, the world, no doubt would have been greatly benefited thereby, and the purposes of God more fully effected. The Lord... wished to extend his love and blessings through Israel to the whole human family." (JD, 23:338)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 19:7-11,16-17

What do the people's reactions to the marvelous manifestations they witnessed reveal about the strength of the Israelites' faith?

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 20:18-21

Why do you think the Israelites wanted Moses to act as their intermediary instead of seeking the Lord themselves?

John Taylor

"The Israelites had the Gospel preached to them in the wilderness; but... when they heard the thunders and saw the lightning and heard the voice of God, they said unto Moses, 'Speak thou unto us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die;' we are not prepared for this glory, for this kind of manifestation which has been given unto us.

"Well, they were foolish; they departed from correct principles, they violated the laws of God and therefore incurred his displeasure, and his Spirit was withdrawn from them, and the Gospel was taken from them and they were left under a law of carnal commandments, and the law was given them as a schoolmaster, we are told, until Christ came." (JD, 20:219)

The Ten Commandments

Exd 20:1-17

Mark E. Petersen

“By his own finger the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. *They represent the basic law of the Almighty and have formed the underlying elements of civil and religious law ever since.*

“They are fundamental to our relationships with God. They are an integral part of the restored gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and are essential to our becoming perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.” (Moses, pg. 110)

Attempt to Establish the Fullness

Exd 24:3-4,7-8

What ordinance did Moses perform to symbolize the covenant between the Lord and the people?

How does this covenant ceremony compare to ordinances we participate in today?

Richard Lloyd Anderson

"[There are] profound contacts between the divine covenant given at Sinai and the new covenant instituted in the Upper Room.... The first is the powerful repetition of Moses' cry, 'Behold the blood of the covenant.'... [Then] we hear the Savior tersely telling the full meaning of Moses' words as he raised the cup: 'For this is my blood of the new [covenant], which is shed for many for the remission of sins' (Matt 26:28)."

("The Restoration of the Sacrament" Ensign, Feb. 1992)

Attempt to Establish the Fullness

Exd 24:9-11

What does the seventy elders' ability to endure the Lord's presence reveal about their faith and obedience?

John Taylor

"The Lord at that time desired to make of Israel a great nation, a kingdom of priests. They had the Gospel preached unto them in the wilderness.... It was the design of the Almighty to lead them into the presence of God, that they might see him as Moses did, and as the seventy Elders of Israel did, that they might converse with him and obtain intelligence from him, and be under his special guidance and direction; but they could not endure the Gospel." (JD, 14:356)

Attempt to Establish the Fullness

Exd 29:43-46

In what ways would the tabernacle help the Israelites draw closer to the Lord and partake of His fullness?

Attempt to Establish the Fullness

Exd 24:12,15-18

What did the Lord promise to give Moses when he returned to Mount Sinai?

The Golden Calf

Exd 32:1-4

Why do you think the Israelites so quickly returned to iniquity despite all they had experienced and the covenants they had made?

John Taylor

“Moses... would have led all Israel into his presence, but they would not be led; they turned to idolatry, to evil and corruption, and hence they became disobedient and unmanageable. And when the Lord spake to them they became terrified and said, ‘Let not God speak unto us, lest we die’ (Exd 20:19). God wants to bring us near to him, for this purpose he has introduced the Gospel with all its ordinances.” (JD, 21:53)

Fullness Taken Away

Exd 32:15-16,19

Why might Moses have broken the tablets that contained the higher law when he saw the Israelites worshiping the golden calf?

Fullness Taken Away

Exd 32:26

What do you think it means today to answer Moses' call, "Who is on the Lord's side"?

George Albert Smith

“I have many times repeated what my grandfather said.... In advising his family he said, ‘There is a line of demarcation, well defined. On one side of the line is the Lord's territory. On the other side of the line is the devil's territory.’ And he said, ‘If you will stay on the Lord's side of the line, you are perfectly safe, because the adversary of all righteousness cannot cross that line.’

“What does that mean? It means to me that those who are living righteous lives, keeping all of the commandments of our Heavenly Father are perfectly safe, but not those who trifle with his advice and counsel.” (CR, Oct. 1949)

Fullness Taken Away

Exd 33:7-11

What does limiting the people's access to the tabernacle teach us about the importance of keeping covenants?

L. Tom Perry

"Because of the disobedience of the children of Israel, 'Moses took the tabernacle [out of their midst], and pitched it without the camp.'

"Now their centerpiece, the tabernacle, was away from them. They could no longer be guided and protected by its presence. Now only the faithful were allowed to come to the tabernacle. One thing the Lord would not tolerate was the worship of other gods. Because of their many years of captivity in Egypt, this was challenging to the children of Israel." (CR, Oct. 2003)

The Law of Moses

JST Exd 34:1-2

What do you think the Lord meant when He said that His "holy order... shall not go before them"?

What did the Israelites lose when they received only the "law of carnal commandments" rather than the higher law?

Mosiah 13:29-31

29) And now I say unto you that it was expedient that there should be a law given to the children of Israel, yea, even a very strict law; for they were a stiffnecked people, quick to do iniquity, and slow to remember the Lord their God;

30) Therefore there was a law given them, yea, a law of performances and of ordinances, a law which they were to observe strictly from day to day, to keep them in remembrance of God and their duty towards him.

31) But behold, I say unto you, that all these things were types of things to come.

The Law of Moses

Exd 34:4-10

What does the Lord say in this passage that shows His continuing love, mercy, and commitment to Israel?

Keith B. McMullin

"The lesser portion of the gospel encompasses vital, saving truths and rests on the cornerstones of obedience and sacrifice. These truths school men and women, boys and girls in the fundamentals of righteousness. They consist of repentance, baptism, and observance of the law of carnal commandments unto the remission of sins.... Principal among these are the Ten Commandments. This lesser portion of the gospel will nourish those who are new in the Church, lead back those who have strayed, help young people recognize and overcome the temptations and deceptions of the world. Without this preparation, the fulness of gospel blessings cannot be realized or enjoyed.

"The responsibility for administering this preparatory portion of the gospel is entrusted to the Aaronic Priesthood." (CR, Oct. 1997)

Next Week:

April 27–May 3

Exodus 35–40; Leviticus 1; 4; 16; 19

“Holiness to the Lord”

