

Exodus 24

Verses 1- 2

Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. ² Moses alone, however, shall come near to the Lord, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.”

There were 3 distinct areas of separation from the Lord.

1. Moses could come near to the Lord
2. Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders were allowed to ascend the mountain with Moses but they had to maintain a certain distance from the Lord.
3. The people remained at the foot of the mountain.

Verses 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!”

When God gave the 10 commandments (in chapter 20) all the people heard His voice and they were terrified so they asked that Moses speak to them, not the Lord. So Moses went back up the mountain and received the various laws that are recorded in chapters 21 thru 23. These additional laws had to be communicated to all of Israel (2.5 million people), except for the very young of course, but this still involved over 2 million people. At this point in time everyone agreed to the covenant

Verse 4

⁴ Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Moses was brought up in the palace of Pharaoh and was well learned so he was well equipped to write down all of the laws that God had given him.

We don't know with certainty when writing first came about but The Code of Hammurabi (1755 - 1750 B.C.) was written in great detail and his law was carved on blocks of stone. This was 300 years before Moses wrote the words of the Lord.

Verses 5 - 6

He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

Moses had just communicated the laws of the covenant to the people (the 10 commandments and the various laws in chapters 21 thru 23) and they had agreed to keep all of these words so it was time to seal this agreement with blood.

God had not set up the Levitical priesthood yet so Moses had some young men take on the role of priests and they offered burnt and peace offerings. Moses took on the role of High Priest and sprinkled half of the blood from the sacrifices on the altar and the rest he will soon sprinkle on the people.

Verses 7- 8

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."

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!"

Moses had already told the people what God expected just a short time ago, but here he also reads it to them. Preachers often repeat a message by stating the same thing but in slightly different manor.

At this point in time "The book of the Covenant" means the following:

1. The 10 Commandments,
2. All the other laws that are mentioned in chapters 21 thru 23.

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.”

Half the blood was sprinkled on the altar, verse 6, and the other half was sprinkled on the people. The shedding of blood and the sprinkling of blood on the altar and on the people established the covenant. In a similar way, The New Covenant was established by the blood of Jesus being shed on the cross.

Verses 9 -11

Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 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.

There was a widespread conviction among the ancients that anyone who beheld God's face would die at once but here these 74 representatives were granted a special theophany where they saw God and then shared a meal together. However, the apostle John writing 1500 years later told us in 1st John 4:12 that, “No one has ever seen God”. These men must have experienced a glimpse of God's glory but they did not see God "face to face" in all of His glory.

In any case, after the covenant was ratified, God revealed Himself to these men and they ate a meal together. One has to wonder if this was a precursor to the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples shortly before He died. And the Passover meal that Jesus shared with His disciples was a precursor to the Lord's Supper that we share each Sunday.

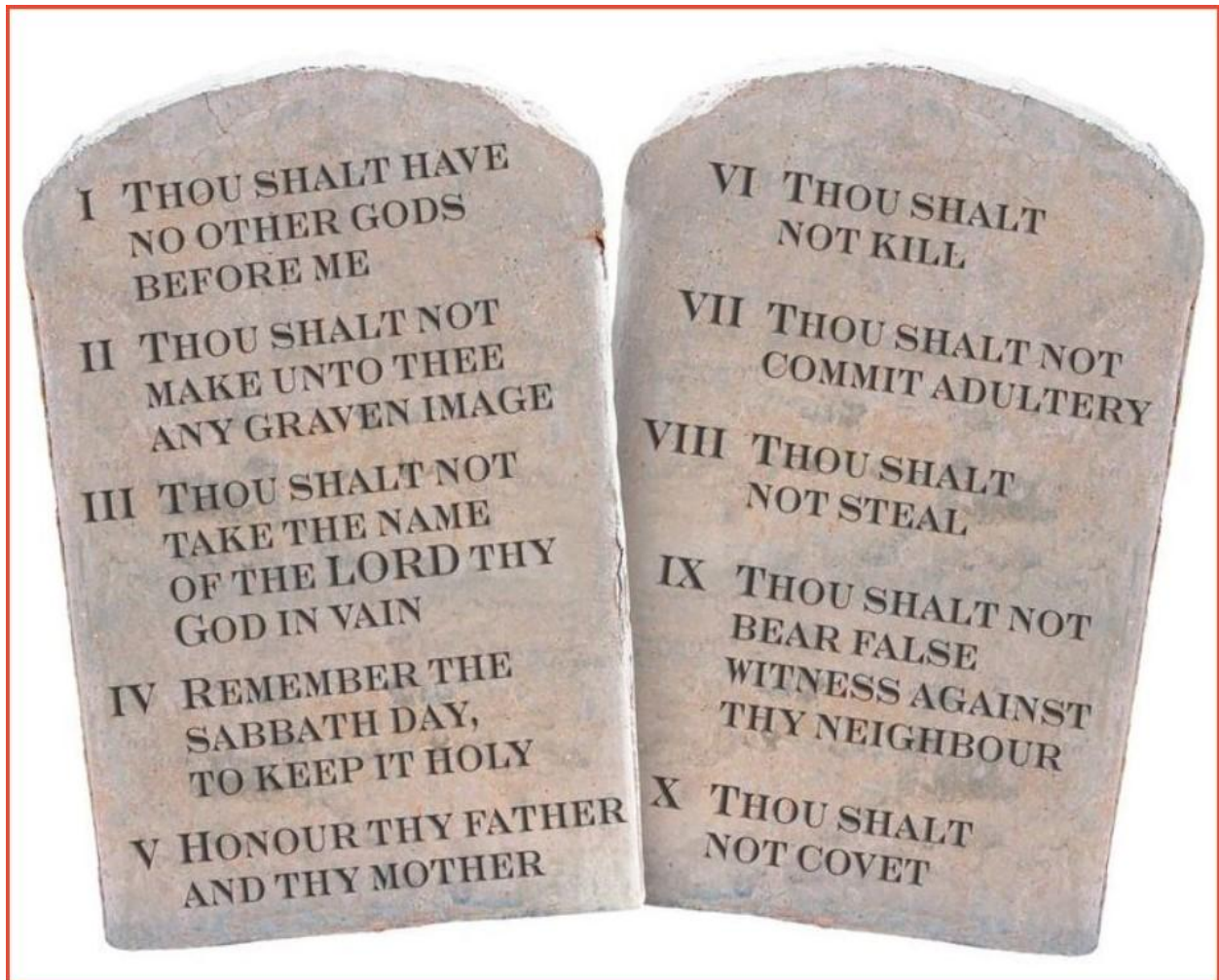
Verses 12 - 14

¹² Now the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the Law and the commandments which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses got up along with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. ¹⁴ But to the elders he said, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, have him approach them.”

¹² Now the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the Law and the commandments which I have written for their instruction.”

This is the typical picture that we see when the stone tablets are mentioned.

See pics 2405



However, this verse says with the law and the commandments. The stone tablets included the law that we have been discussing in the last 3 chapters (21 thru 23).

We also know that there was writing on both sides of the two tablets.

See Exodus 32:15

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were written on both sides; they were written on one *side* and the other.

¹³ So Moses got up along with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

This time Joshua went up with Moses and the elders stayed farther down the mountain as they had on the previous trip.

¹⁴ But to the elders he said, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, have him approach them.”

Aaron and Hur were assigned the duty of taking care of legal matters which suggests that Moses would be with God for a longer period of time than on the previous trip when the 74 met with God and shared the fellowship meal. Hur and Joshua were not with the 74 on that occasion.

During the amazing events of this chapter it seems the people were busy with their day to day activities including conflicts that involved legal matters. It seems that the people did not grasp the importance of the events taking place. This makes one wonder if the 70 elders had failed to spread the news about their meal with God and the beauty of the pavement of sapphire that appeared under the feet of God.

Verses 15 - 18

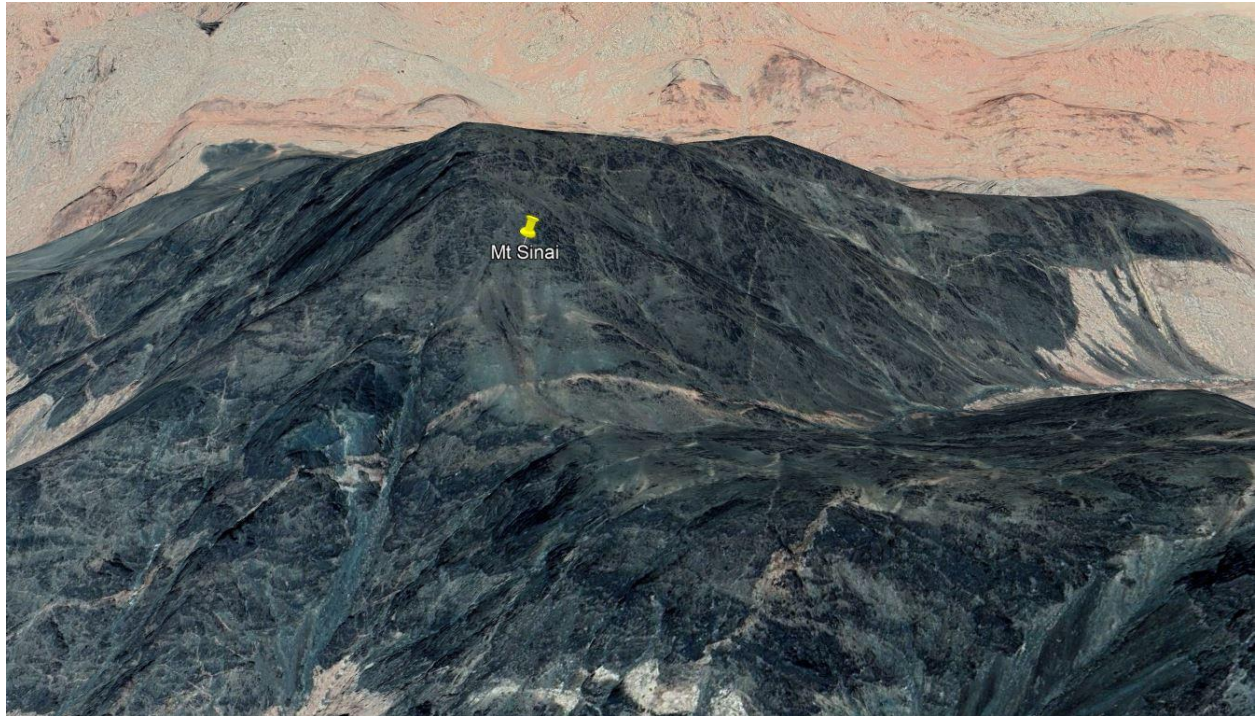
¹⁵ Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

¹⁶ The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. ¹⁸ Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

¹⁶ And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.

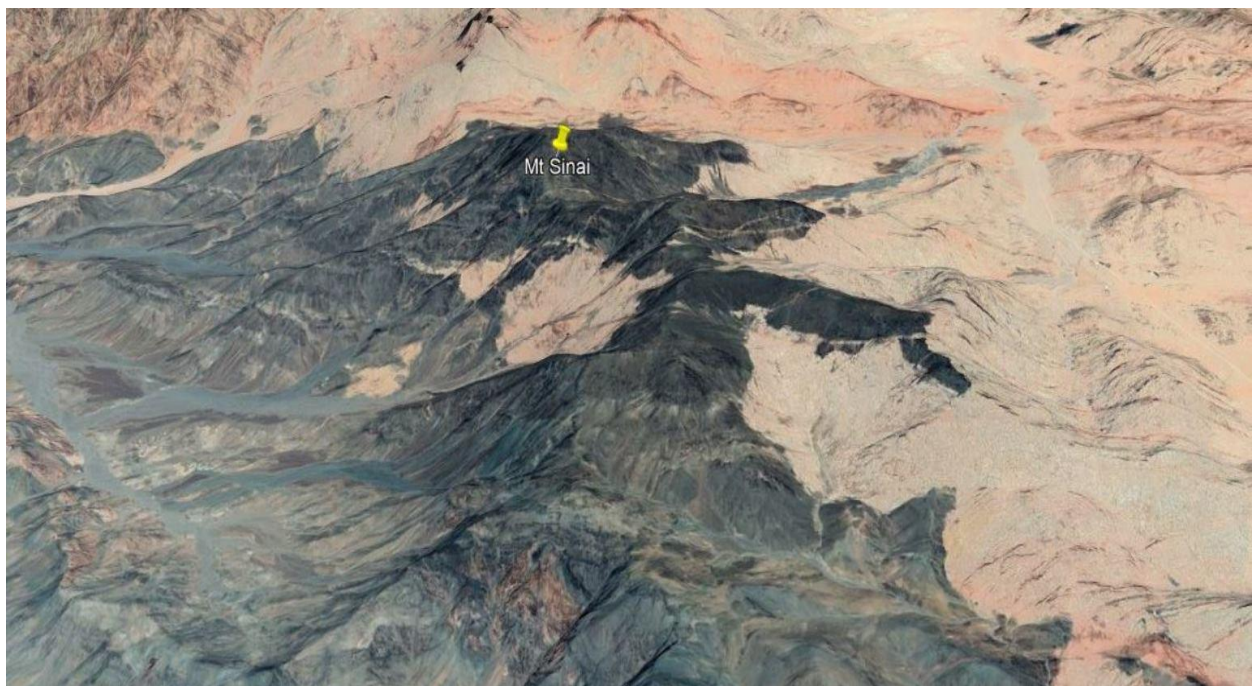
If you look at Mount Sinai on Google Earth it is very dark and some writers have commented that it looks like it has been burnt by a very hot fire.

See Pics 2410



However, we should not jump to any conclusions too quickly because the surrounding area has two very different shades to it.

See map 2415



The dark rock extends well beyond Mount Sinai to the West and South but it is quite light to the North and east.

¹⁸ **Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.**

This is Moses' 6th trip up the mountain. During this time Moses will receive the 2 tablets of stone and get the instructions for the Tabernacle.

See chart 2420

Exodus 19-34				
Verse(s)	Up	Down	Event	Time
19:1			Camp by the mountain	4-1 or 4-15
19:3	1		Moses goes up the mountain	
19:7		1	Moses goes down	
19:8	2		Moses goes back up	
19:14		2	Moses goes back down	
19:16			Morning of the 3rd day	
19:20	3		Moses goes back up	
19:25		3	Moses goes down to warn the people	
20:1-17			The ten commandments	
20:21	4		Moses goes to God	
20 thru 23			God gives Moses the law	
24:3		4	Moses goes down to the people	
24:9	5		Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and	
			70 elders go up to God	
24:14		5	They all go back down	
24:13	6		Moses & Joshua go up	
24:16			On the 7th day Moses goes farther up	
24:18			40 days & 40 nights	
25 thru 31			Instructions for the Tabernacle	
32			The Golden Calf	5th or 6th month
32:15		6	Moses goes down the mountain	
32:31	7		Moses goes back to the Lord	
33:1		7	Moses goes back to the people	
34:4	8		Moses goes back up with the tablets	
34:28			40 days & 40 nights	6th or 7th month
34:29		8	Moses comes back down with the tablets	

Moses will make 2 more trips up the mountain for a total of 8 trips.