

Sermon Handout

The Sinai Experience

Numbers 10:1-13

I. Overall narrative structure Exodus 19:3 – Numb 10:10

A Giving of the Ten Words Ex 19:3-20:21

B Civil standards – application of the Ten Words Ex 20:22-24:11

C Instructions concerning sacrifice Ex 24:12-34:28

D Completion of the Tabernacle Ex 34:29-40:38

C¹ Instructions concerning sacrifice Lev 1-10

B¹ Purity standards – application of the Ten Words Lev 11-18

A¹ Reiteration of the Ten Words Lev 19:1-Numb 10:10

II. The Beginning and the End Ex 19:3-20:21; Lev 19:1-Numb 10:10

Note: Ex 19:1-2 and Numb 10:11-13 help frame the narrative.

a. Israel arrives at Sinai Ex 19:2

Israel departs from Sinai Numb 10:12-13

b. The date of arrival Ex 19:1 (third month after leaving Egypt)

The date of departure Numb 10:11a (14 months, 20 days at Sinai)

c. The cloud & fire of glory Ex 19:9, 16, 18 (*cf.* 20:18)

The cloud & fire of glory Numb 19:15-22; 10:11b

d. Trumpets – the sound of God’s voice Ex 19:9, 16, 19 (*cf.* 20:18)

Trumpets – instructions from God Numb 10:2-10

e. Commandments given Ex 20:3-17

Commandments reiterated Lev 19:3-27; 20:8, 22 (*etc.*)

f. Focus on holiness Ex 19:5-6, 10-12, 22; 20:18-21

Focus on holiness Lev 19:1; 20:7-8, 26; 21:6 (*etc.*)

III. Instruction for the Church

a. God’s revelation is tied to history – (the events are dated)

God acts in space/time; Bible is not a container of “religious precepts”

b. God’s self-revelation is central to the Faith (revealed in the glory-cloud)

In the center of the narrative as well as the bookends.

Christ is the ultimate revelation of the glory and presence of God

c. The Commandments are the framework of our relationship to God

The Commandments *define* holiness (actions, not feelings)

The presentation of God’s glory is a call to obedience (true worship - Rom 12)