

Exegetical Notes, Exodus 19:1-6

“These Are the Words”

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Exodus 19:1-6

Verse 1-2

In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt -- on the very day -- they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

- It is three months into the journey to the Promised Land.
- Here, they will camp for almost an entire year. All of the rest of Exodus, all of Leviticus, and up to chapter 10 of Numbers describe events that happened at this place.

Verse 3-6

Then Moses went up to God, and YHWH called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 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, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

- In these verses God tells Moses what he is to say to the people of Israel on behalf of the Lord. This is a specific message that Moses is to tell the people. This message comes directly from the mouth of God.
- The message has several parts:
 1. Moses is to remind the people that they witnessed acts on their behalf while they were in Egypt.
 2. Moses is to remind them that God had brought them safely out of Egypt to the place where they were.

3. Moses is told to tell the people to listen to his word and to do what he says. If they do, God says that he will bless them with favored status in his sight and a favored role. They will be a nation of priests.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *These Are the Words*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)