

The World of Torah and Temple

TORAH

I. The Mt. Sinai Event

This is the critical nation founding event for Israel—the moment they were given their calling (Ex 19.5–6), their law (Ex 20.1–17), the time when they met their God (Ex 19.16–20). It is the one event burned into the public consciousness of the people of God that marks the beginning of the covenant, the revealing of the Torah, and the moment when the Yahweh took to himself a people as his possession.

Exodus 19:3-6 ³ Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. ⁵ 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Exodus 19:9-11 ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. ¹⁰ The LORD also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; ¹¹ and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."

Exodus 19:16-20 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. ¹⁹ When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. ²⁰ The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Exodus 20:1-17 Then God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ ¶ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ ¶ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷ ¶ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. ⁸ ¶ "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. ¹¹ "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² ¶ "Honor your father and your mother, that your days

may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. ¹³ ¶ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ ¶ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ ¶ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ ¶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ ¶ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

II. Moses as mediator

Moses is the go between. The people cannot handle direct communication with God. Moses is there as the one mediator between God and Israel. He is the undisputed leader and he has a unique relationship with God.

Exodus 20:18-21 ¹⁸ All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." ²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

Deuteronomy 5:22-31 ²² "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire, *of* the cloud and *of* the thick gloom, with a great voice, and He added no more. He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. ²³ "And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. ²⁴ "You said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives. ²⁵ 'Now then why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer, then we will die. ²⁶ 'For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? ²⁷ 'Go near and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do *it*.' ²⁸ "The LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me, 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever! ³⁰ 'Go, say to them, "Return to your tents." ³¹ 'But as for you, stand here by Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe *them* in the land which I give them to possess.'

Exodus 33:7-11 ⁷ ¶ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. ⁸ And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. ⁹ Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Numbers 12:1-8 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); ² and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it. ³ (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.) ⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to

Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them came out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, ⁶ He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. ⁷ "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"

III. God's covenant

The covenant marks the formal agreement, the sanctified promise, the moment of oath, commitment, and no turning back.

Exodus 24:3-8 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!" 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. ⁵ 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. ⁷ 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."

Blessings (Deut 28.1–15)

Imprecations (Deut 28.16–68)

IV. Moral

Ten commandments etc.

Don't remove ancient boundaries

Don't harvest all your food

Etc.

V. Levitical & Sacrificial

Levites were one of the twelve tribes. They were to be ministers. Of the Levites, the descendants of Aaron were chosen to be the priests to offer sacrifices.

Numbers 1:48-53 ⁴⁸ For the LORD had spoken to Moses, saying, ⁴⁹ "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor shall you take their census among the sons of Israel. ⁵⁰ "But you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings and over all that belongs to it. They shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it; they shall also camp around the tabernacle. ⁵¹ "So when the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the Levites shall set it up. But the layman who comes near shall be put to death. ⁵² "The sons of Israel shall camp, each man by his own camp, and each man by his own standard,

according to their armies. ⁵³ "But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there will be no wrath on the congregation of the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the testimony."

Numbers 8:6-20 ⁶ "Take the Levites from among the sons of Israel and cleanse them. ⁷ "Thus you shall do to them, for their cleansing: sprinkle purifying water on them, and let them use a razor over their whole body and wash their clothes, and they will be clean. ⁸ "Then let them take a bull with its grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil; and a second bull you shall take for a sin offering. ⁹ "So you shall present the Levites before the tent of meeting. You shall also assemble the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and present the Levites before the LORD; and the sons of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites. ¹¹ "Aaron then shall present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, that they may qualify to perform the service of the LORD. ¹² "Now the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls; then offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites. ¹³ "You shall have the Levites stand before Aaron and before his sons so as to present them as a wave offering to the LORD. ¹⁴ ¶ "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine. ¹⁵ "Then after that the Levites may go in to serve the tent of meeting. But you shall cleanse them and present them as a wave offering; ¹⁶ for they are wholly given to Me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for Myself instead of every first issue of the womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel. ¹⁷ "For every firstborn among the sons of Israel is Mine, among the men and among the animals; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for Myself. ¹⁸ "But I have taken the Levites instead of every firstborn among the sons of Israel. ¹⁹ "I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the sons of Israel, to perform the service of the sons of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on behalf of the sons of Israel, so that there will be no plague among the sons of Israel by their coming near to the sanctuary."

Numbers 18:23-28 ²³ "Only the Levites shall perform the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the sons of Israel they shall have no inheritance. ²⁴ "For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said concerning them, 'They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.'" ²⁵ ¶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁶ "Moreover, you shall speak to the Levites and say to them, 'When you take from the sons of Israel the tithe which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then you shall present an offering from it to the LORD, a tithe of the tithe. ²⁷ 'Your offering shall be reckoned to you as the grain from the threshing floor or the full produce from the wine vat. ²⁸ 'So you shall also present an offering to the LORD from your tithes, which you receive from the sons of Israel; and from it you shall give the LORD'S offering to Aaron the priest."

VI. Civil

Exodus 22:16-21 ¹⁶ ¶ "If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry for her *to be* his wife. ¹⁷ "If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the dowry for virgins. ¹⁸ ¶ "You shall not allow a sorceress to live. ¹⁹ ¶ "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death. ²⁰ ¶ "He who sacrifices to any god, other than to the LORD alone, shall be utterly destroyed. ²¹ ¶ "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Exodus 23:1-3 "You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. ² "You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert *justice*; ³ nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute."

VII. Holiness: Dietary, Sabbath, Fabrics, holiness

The purpose of these commands is to make a distinction between Israel and the rest of the nations.

The rest of the world eats ham, shrimp, lobster, clams, etc.

The rest of the world works on Saturday

The rest of the world blends fabrics together

Israel does not, why? Because they are separate from the world, they are a holy nation, separated unto Yahweh, a holy God.

1 Kings 8:53 ⁵³ "For You have separated them from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers forth from Egypt, O Lord GOD."

Dietary rules

Leviticus 11:24-47 ²⁴ ¶ 'By these, moreover, you will be made unclean: whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, ²⁵ and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. ²⁶ 'Concerning all the animals which divide the hoof but do not make a split *hoof*, or which do not chew cud, they are unclean to you: whoever touches them becomes unclean. ²⁷ 'Also whatever walks on its paws, among all the creatures that walk on *all* fours, are unclean to you; whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, ²⁸ and the one who picks up their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; they are unclean to you. ²⁹ ¶ 'Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole, and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds, ³⁰ and the gecko, and the crocodile, and the lizard, and the sand reptile, and the chameleon. ³¹ 'These are to you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead becomes unclean until evening. ³² 'Also anything on which one of them may fall when they are dead becomes unclean, including any wooden article, or clothing, or a skin, or a sack-- any article of which use is made-- it shall be put in the water and be unclean until evening, then it becomes clean. ³³ 'As for any earthenware vessel into which one of them may fall, whatever is in it becomes unclean and you shall break the vessel. ³⁴ 'Any of the food which may be eaten, on which water comes, shall become unclean, and any liquid which may be drunk in every vessel shall become unclean. ³⁵ 'Everything, moreover, on which part of their carcass may fall becomes unclean; an oven or a stove shall be smashed; they are unclean and shall continue as unclean to you. ³⁶ 'Nevertheless a spring or a cistern collecting water shall be clean, though the one who touches their carcass shall be unclean. ³⁷ 'If a part of their carcass falls on any seed for sowing which is to be sown, it is clean. ³⁸ 'Though if water is put on the seed and a part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you. ³⁹ ¶ 'Also if one of the animals dies which you have for food, the one who touches its carcass becomes unclean until evening. ⁴⁰ 'He too, who eats some of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening, and the one who picks up its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. ⁴¹ ¶ 'Now every swarming thing that swarms on the earth is detestable, not to be eaten. ⁴² 'Whatever crawls on its belly, and whatever walks on *all* fours, whatever has many feet, in respect to every swarming thing that swarms on the earth, you shall not eat them, for they are detestable. ⁴³ 'Do not render yourselves detestable through any of the swarming things that swarm; and you shall not make yourselves unclean with them so that you become unclean. ⁴⁴ 'For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. ⁴⁵ 'For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.'" ⁴⁶ ¶ This is the law regarding the animal and the bird, and every living thing that moves in the waters and everything that swarms on the earth, ⁴⁷ to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the edible creature and the creature which is not to be eaten.

VIII. Health

TEMPLE

I. Tabernacle as Prototype

II. David's Intention

2 Samuel 7:1-11 Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, ² that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you." ⁴ ¶ But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, ⁵ "Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD, "Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?'" ⁶ "For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. ⁷ "Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'" ⁸ "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. ⁹ "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰ "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, ¹¹ even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.

1 Kings 8:15-19 ¹⁵ He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled *it* with His hand, saying, ¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel *in which* to build a house that My name might be there, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.' ¹⁷ "Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ "But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. ¹⁹ 'Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for My name.'

III. Solomon Builds it

1 Kings 6:37-38 ³⁷ ¶ In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv. ³⁸ In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished throughout all its parts and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

IV. Symbol of the Presence of God

Temple of the lord in Jeremiah

V. Temple Destroyed under Nebuchadnezzar

VI. Temple rebuilt

Second temple Judaism

VII. Temple under renovation by Herod the Great

VIII. Temple Destroyed by Titus

70 ad