

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.”

Moses alone, however, shall come near to the Lord

The people remained at the foot of the mountain

Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders were allowed to ascend the mountain with Moses but only to a certain distance from the Lord

Only Moses could come near to the Lord

Verses 3-4

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.

Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord

It was only right that the people be told exactly what was expected of them

All the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!

These laws had to be communicated to all of Israel (2.5 million people), except for the very young of course, but this still involved around 2 million people.

At this point in time everyone agreed to the covenant

Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord

Moses was brought up in the palace of Pharaoh and was well learned.

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

Moses built an altar with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

All 12 tribes were represented by the 12 pillars in this altar.

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.

He sent young men and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings

There was no priesthood at this point so they could have been from any tribe.

In any case, offerings were made on behalf of all the people.

Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

Half the blood was sprinkled on the altar and the rest will be sprinkled 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

Moses had already told the people what God expected just a short time ago, but here he also reads it to them

The book of the Covenant means the entire religious system of the Jews,

The 10 Commandments,

All the other laws that are mentioned

The priesthood,

The sacrifices,

The tabernacle rituals,

All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient

This was the third time Israel had promised to obey God's laws

In Exodus 19:8, in verse 3 above, and here in verse 7

So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people

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 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.

They saw the God of Israel

Immediately after the establishment of the covenant these 74 representatives were granted a special theophany to stress the epic importance of what had just occurred.

And under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.

Every once in a while we are given a small insight into the majesty of heaven

Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel

There was a widespread conviction among the ancients that anyone who beheld God's face would die at once

They had experienced a glimpse of God's glory but they did not see God "face to face" in all of his glory

See 1 John 4:12

And they saw God, and they ate and drank

After the covenant was ratified, God revealed Himself to these men and they ate a meal of fellowship.

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 New Covenant was ratified.

This was also when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper

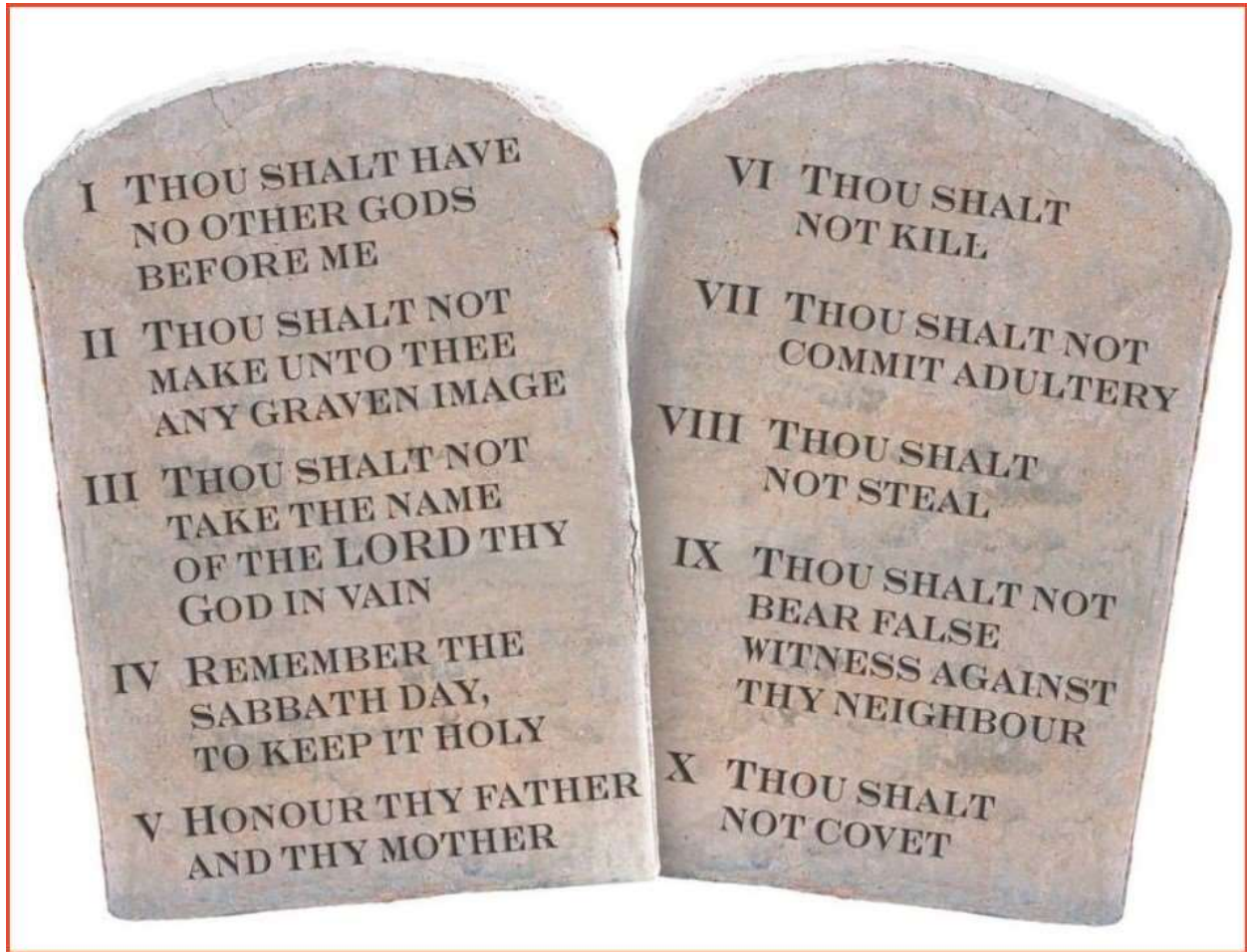
Verses 12-14

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses arose 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, let him approach them."

I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandments

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.

Chapters 21, 22 and 23

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

See Exodus 32:15

So Moses arose 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

This time Joshua went with Moses

He was not present when the 74 men saw God and had the fellowship meal.

The elders were farther down the mountain as they were before

Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them.

Aaron and Hur were assigned the duty of taking care of legal matters

During the amazing events of this chapter it seems the people were busy with day to day activities including conflicts that involved legal matters.

Did the 70 elders spread the news about their meal with God and the beauty of the pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself that appeared under the feet of God?

It seems the people have not grasped the importance of the events taking place.

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.

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

The glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire to all of Israel.

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 2430



However, we should not jump to any conclusions too quickly because the surrounding area looks very similar.

See map 2415



As we can see, the surrounding area to the north and east is much lighter but the dark rock extends well beyond Mount Sinai to the West and South.

Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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	

Many people assume Moses was on the Mountain 40 days & 40 nights to get the law.

But this was not the case, because Moses got the Law on trip 4.

It would be interesting to know how long he stayed on the mountain during trips 1 thru 5.

On the 6th trip he stays the 40 days and nights and gets the instructions for building the tabernacle.

This was long enough for the people to forget what they had promised about keeping the commandments and law of God.