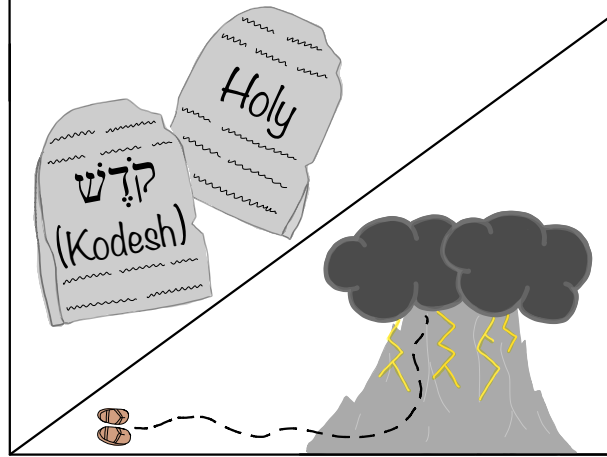


# Yitro

# יִתְרוֹ

## “Jethro”



And Yitro said, “Blessed be the LORD who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them.

Exodus 18:10-11

## Exodus 18:1-20:26

In this week’s Parasha Moshe (Moses) returned to Mount Horeb, also called Mount Sinai, with the Yisra’elites (Israelites) just as God had foretold him (Exodus 3:12). Moshe returned to the place of holy ground, where the bush had burned but was not consumed, in order to serve God there. Holy (קֹדֶשׁ - **kodesh**) means to be set apart for God’s purposes.

Yitro (Jethro), Moshe’s father-in-law, brought Moshe’s wife, Zipporah, and their two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, to meet him. When Yitro heard all the miraculous things the LORD had done, he believed in God, blessed Him and worshipped Him. Yitro then counseled Moshe to teach the people to walk with God. He advised Moshe to select honest, able men who feared God and hated covetousness to govern the people at all times. Moshe followed the advice of Yitro and judged only the difficult cases himself.

Following Yitro’s departure back to Midian, God met Moshe and the Yisra’elites at Mount Sinai. God offered them a unique opportunity to serve Him without the influence of sin. The Yisra’elites rejected God’s offer and stood at a distance from Him.

### Pray First

Father God,

Blessed are You LORD our God over all creation. You alone are God, and there is no other. You deliver from death to life with the redeeming blood of the Lamb. You alone provide the only way to be saved. May the whole world be filled with Your glory.

In Yeshua’s name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

Exodus 18:1-20:26

## ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~ Exodus 19:1-25

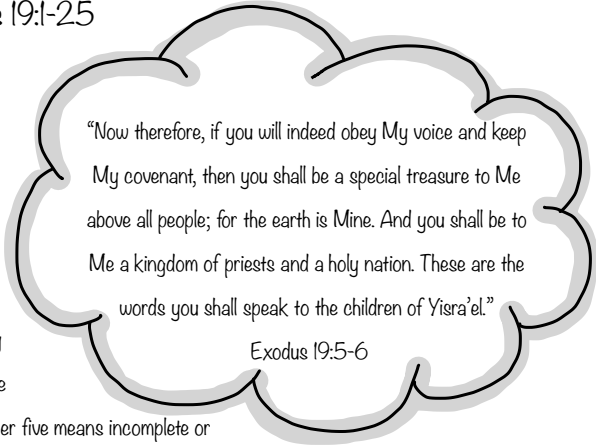
In Exodus 19:1-2 we learn that after God saved the people from bondage in the land for Egypt, a place where they were not free to worship Him, He led them to the wilderness of Sinai. The wilderness is a place where total dependence on God is required. After the people were redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb and sent out of Egypt, they set up camp before Mount Sinai in the third month. They arrived at the mountain of God in the Sinai Wilderness on the same day they left Egypt - the fifth day or Thursday. In the Bible the number three refers to victory, testing, revealing, providing or documenting. The number five means incomplete or lacking. God took the people to this place at this time to reveal Himself fully to them, testing their desire to be united with Him for complete victory over sin. This miraculous experience would serve to prove and document to the world the perfect character of God. The people realized how very sinful they were and lacked the ability to remain alive in the presence of such a perfect God.

In Exodus 19:3 Moshe went up to God, and the LORD spoke to him from the mountain. He gave Moshe a message for the descendants of Ya'kov (Jacob) and the children of Yisra'el (Israel). Many people who were not related to Ya'kov by birth joined the descendants of Ya'kov who had left Egypt. They were now considered the children of Yisra'el.

In Exodus 19:4-6 God revealed to Moshe His purpose and plan for the people. God explained that the reason He had supernaturally brought them to Himself at this location was to offer them an experience only He could make happen. It would be a miracle performed by God for the redeemed children of Yisra'el. If the people would obey His voice and keep His covenant, they would be a special treasure to Him - a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

In Exodus 19:7-9 Moshe delivered God's message to the elders who relayed it to the people. All the people agreed and responded that they would do all the words the LORD had spoken. Moshe returned to the LORD on the mountain with their response to His words. The LORD told Moshe that He would come to him in a thick cloud so that the people could hear His voice when He spoke to Moshe. Then the people could believe forever.

In Exodus 19:10-13 the LORD instructed Moshe to tell the people what they needed to do in order to receive this miracle from God. First, they had to sanctify themselves and then wash their garments. This meant that they needed to stop what they were doing and ask God to cleanse them from their sins. They were also to wash their clothes as an outward expression of their repentance. The people were to obey these instructions over a three day period to prepare themselves to experience a miracle from God. When they were prepared physically and spiritually, the LORD would come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. They were not to go up the mountain nor touch its base during this three day period. They were to wait until they had heard the trumpet sound before coming near the mountain. Anyone, whether man or beast who approached the mountain before the trumpet sounded, would be killed. They would be killed, not by a man's hand, but by arrow or stone. All these commandments came from God and had to be followed to sanctify the people. Sanctification is the process one must go through to become holy or set apart for the purposes of God.



"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you shall speak to the children of Yisra'el."

Exodus 19:5-6

In Exodus 19:14-15 Moshe went down the mountain and gave all the instructions to the people. All the people obeyed and washed their clothes to be prepared on the third day. Moshe instructed them to remain sanctified or set apart for this experience to meet with the LORD by not engaging in any other activities. They were not allowed to go near their wives. This suggests a separation between male and female to include those joined together as one by the covenant of marriage. Each person would stand before God alone.

In Exodus 19:16-19 we learn that on the morning following the three day sanctification period there were thunderings, lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain. The sound of a very loud trumpet was heard, and all the people in the camp trembled. Moshe led the people out of the camp to meet God at the base of the mountain. Then the LORD descended in fire upon the mountain, and the entire mountain was in smoke and quaked greatly. When the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moshe spoke. Then the voice of God was heard answering him.

In Exodus 19:20-25 the LORD called Moshe to the top of the mountain. He told Moshe to go down and warn the people not to come up the mountain, lest He break out against them and many die. The LORD commanded Moshe to instruct the priests who came near to sanctify themselves, lest He break out against them and they die. Moshe responded to the LORD's commands, saying that he had placed boundaries around the base of the mountain, setting it apart as holy because of the LORD's warning. The LORD commanded Moshe to go down and then come up, bringing only Aharon (Aaron) with him. Once again, the LORD warned Moshe that neither the priests nor the people should break through the barrier and come up the mountain. If they did, the LORD would break out against them. Moshe went down to the people and gave them the instructions from the LORD.

This teaches us three spiritual laws. The first being that no one can come near God without being prepared to do so. The second is that the only way to be prepared is to follow God's commandments. The third is that only those who God calls can come into His presence.



## ~ Exodus 20:18-21 ~

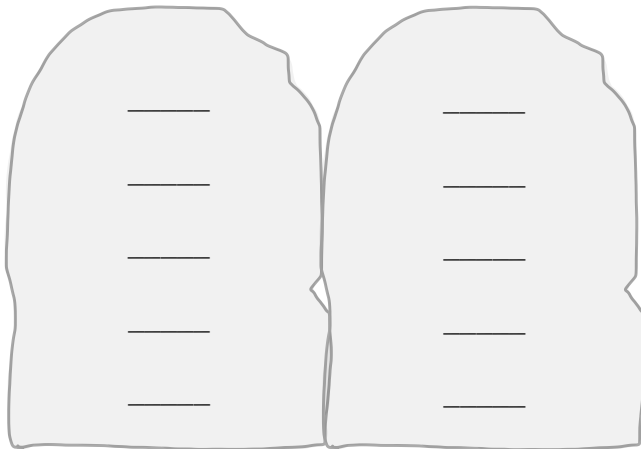
In Exodus 20:18-21 the people saw all the words God spoke. The words which are found in Exodus 20:1-17 are often referred to as the Ten Commandments. They express God's character and His expectations for living a sinless life. The words of God were felt, seen and heard with thunderings, lightening flashes, smoke, the sound of the trumpet and the mountain quaking. When the people saw the word, they trembled and stood far off.

In Exodus 20:19 the people told Moshe to speak to them instead of having God speak to them. They said that they would listen to Moshe, but if God spoke to them anymore, they would die.

In Exodus 20:20 Moshe told the people not to fear, and he explained that God had come to give them a miraculous experience. This experience would allow the people to know God and put Him first place in their lives. They would be able to understand His character and requirements and live without sinning against Him.

In Exodus 20:21 the people continued to stand far away from the mountain. They did not draw near to God. Only Moshe drew near to the thick darkness so that he could be in the presence of God.

By these events we learn that all the people understood the perfect righteousness and power of God. They also understand how sinful they were in comparison to the LORD God Almighty. They realized that their sinful flesh, or bodies, must die before they could dwell in the presence of God forever. For this reason the people asked Moshe to be a mediator between them and God. This would allow them to come near to God and hear His word without their bodies dying. They also understood that it would not be possible to see His word or hear His voice unless they were first redeemed by the blood of the lamb and totally dependent on God to forgive and cleanse them. Only after these steps of sanctification would the people be set apart to serve God and worship Him intimately, or one-on-one.



**Reread Exodus 20:1-17 and place the abbreviated commandments of God in order on the tablets of stone above.**

N. Do not take My name in vain

A. Do not make any graven images

E. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor

I. Do not murder

T. Honor your father and mother

C. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy

I. Do not steal

D. Do not covet anything that is your neighbors

S. Have no other gods before Me

F. Do not commit adultery

# ~ Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6 & 9:5-6 ~

In this week's Haftarah the prophet of God, Isaiah, saw the LORD sitting on a throne - high and lifted up with the train of His robe filling the holy place. Seraphim, a type of angel, were above the throne, proclaiming the holiness of the LORD of armies, who was seated on the throne (Isaiah 6:3). The seraphim had six wings. In the Bible six means grace. This indicated that it was by God's grace that they were created with the knowledge of the LORD's holiness and able to proclaim it. Two wings were used to fly so that they would not touch the holy ground. Two wings were needed to shield their eyes from the magnificent light of God's glory, and two wings were used to cover their feet. This meant that their only purpose was to proclaim the holiness and glory of God.

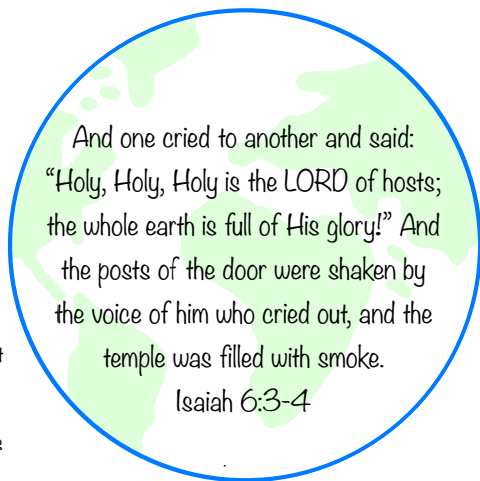
When Isaiah saw these things, he understood - just like all the people at Mount Sinai - how sinful and unworthy he was in comparison to God. One of the seraphim touched Isaiah's lips with a burning coal from the altar of God. This demonstrated God's ability to forgive and cover the sins of Isaiah to set him apart for His purposes. Then Isaiah heard the voice of the LORD and responded to serve Him as an act of worship. The LORD instructed Isaiah to speak truth to His people even while they continued to live sinful lives, serving themselves instead of God.

When God's people are committed to disobeying Him, they cannot hear Him nor understand Him. They cannot see Him nor know Him. Their hearts become hardened, their ears become heavy and their eyes are clouded to His purposes. The only way to come near to God is to prepare to do so; this preparation is called sanctification. To be sanctified one must first be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Once a person is redeemed, it is important to submit to God's character and instruction. Failure to submit to God is a sin against Him. After a person is redeemed, they still sin but are free to repent of their sins. Repentance means to stop doing what is against God, ask for His forgiveness and return to Him in submission to His authority.

Isaiah asked that the LORD tell him how long he should continue to proclaim the truth to the people. God told him that he should continue until He judged the unrepentant people of their sins. God explained to Isaiah that the sin of the people would not stop His will or covenant promises. God stated that He would judge them for their disobedience, and they would be cut down like a tree with only the stump remaining. This stump that remained would be the Holy Seed that would obediently complete the righteous will of God.

Reread Isaiah 9:5-6 and fill in the blanks below to find clues about the Holy Seed who would accomplish the perfect will of God.

“For unto us a \_\_\_\_\_ is born, unto us a \_\_\_\_\_ is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”



## ~ New Testament: Hebrews 12:18-24 ~

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

Hebrews 12:22

... to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Hebrews 12:23

In today's New Testament portion of Scripture the author of the book of Hebrews fully understood the prophecy of Isaiah 9:5-6. The Child who was born unto us and the Son who was given is the Son of God. His name is Yeshua (Jesus), which means salvation. He alone is the Holy Seed, who is able to complete the righteous work of His Father.

Yeshua was born of a virgin and shed His blood on the cross as the Lamb of God to redeem the world from slavery to sin and eternal death. His Father in heaven was satisfied with His work of redemption and raised Him from the dead after three days and nights. This makes Yeshua the firstborn of the dead.

Yeshua is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Anyone who confesses the name Yeshua as the only way to be redeemed is registered among the firstborn in heaven by God the Judge of all creation. All who are registered in this way will one day be made perfect. This will be a miraculous experience that God alone can make happen. In this perfect state one will fully know God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. That one will put Him first place in their life and will no longer be capable of sinning against Him. This is the promise of the new covenant God made with man through His one and only begotten Son, Yeshua.

... to Yeshua the Mediator of the new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:24

### Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for the new covenant You have established through Your Son, Yeshua. We thank You for His redeeming blood, which was shed for Your creation. We thank You for sanctifying us by Your word and commandments. We praise You for forgiving us and cleansing us from our sins. We look forward to the day when we can worship and serve You forever without the influence of sin in our lives.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

Hebrews 12:18-24

# Crossword Puzzle

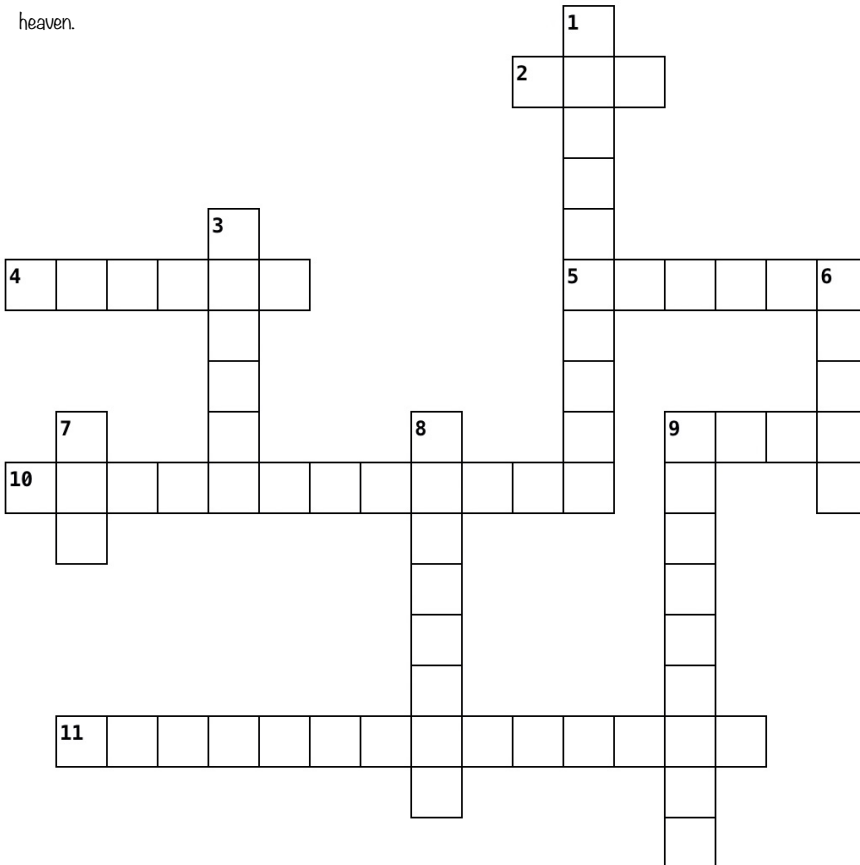
Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using the word bank.

## Down

1. This is a place where total dependence on God is required.
3. This name means salvation.
6. In the Bible this number can mean victory, testing, revealing, providing or documenting.
7. One must prepare to come near to \_\_\_\_.
8. This is a type of angel that has six wings and proclaims God's holiness.
9. Everyone who is redeemed by Yeshua is registered as a \_\_\_\_ in heaven.

## Across

2. In the Bible this number means grace.
4. Only those who are \_\_\_\_ by God can come to Him.
5. One must \_\_\_\_ to be forgiven by God.
9. In the Bible this number means incomplete or lacking.
10. To prepare to be in God's presence one must follow His \_\_\_\_.
11. The process one must go through to become holy or set apart for the purposes of God.



## Word Bank

- Yeshua
- Sanctification
- Three
- God
- Firstborn
- Six
- Five
- Called
- Repent
- Commandments
- Seraphim
- Wilderness