Source Sheet for shiur on: "Ma'amad Har Sinai",

Shmot Chapter 19 - From Covenant to Commandment for TSC www.tanach.org

Arrival at Har Sinai:

1 In the third month after the children of Israel left the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 And when they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mount.

The Proposition:

3 And Moses went up unto God, and Hashem called unto him out of the mountain, saying: 'Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself. 5 Now therefore,

if you will hearken unto My voice, and keep My covenant, [then] you shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples;

for [because/eventhough] all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be for Me a: kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

These are the words which you shall speak unto the children of Israel.'

Bnei Yisrael accept -

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which Hashem commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, and said: 'All that Hashem has spoken we will do.' And Moses reported the words of the people unto Hashem.

God's Plan(s) for how to transmit the laws

- 9 And Hashem said unto Moses: 'Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and may also believe thee for ever.' And Moses told the words of the people unto Hashem. [PLAN 'A' - via Moshe]
- 10 And Hashem said unto Moses: 'Go unto the people, and sanctify them to-day and to-morrow, and let them wash their garments, 11 and be ready against the third day; for the third day Hashem will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. [PLAN 'B' -direct]

Arrival at Har Sinai:

א בַּחדֶשׁ, הַשְּׁלִישִׁי, לְצֵאת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם--בִּיּוֹם הַזֶּה, בָּאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינָי. ב וַיִּסְעוּ מֵרְפִידִים, וַיָּבאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינֵי, וַיַּחֲנוּ, בַּמִּדְבָּר; וַיָּחַן-שָׁם יִשְׁרָאֵל, נֶגֶד הָהָר.

The Proposition:

ג וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה, מְן-הָהָר לֵאמֹר: כֹּ*הׁ תֹאמֵר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב, וְתַגֵּיד לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.* ד אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרָיִם; וָאֶשָּׁא אֶתְכֶם עַל-כַּנְפֵי נְשָׁרִים, וָאָבָא אֶתְכֶם אֵלָי. ה וְעַתָּה,

אִם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקלִי, וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִּי--וִהְיִיתֶם לִי סְגֻלָּה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, בִּי-לִי בָּל-הָאָרֶץ. ו וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מַמְלֶכֶת כֹּהֲנִים, וְגוִי קָדושׁ:

אַבֶּה, הַדְּבָּרִים, אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Bnei Yisrael accept -

ז וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה, וַיִּקְרָא לְזִקְנֵי הָעָם; וַיָּשֶׂם לִפְנֵיהֶם, אֵת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר צִּוָּהוּ, יְהֹוָה. ח וַיַּצְנוּ כָל-הָעָם יַחְדָּו וַיֹּאמְרוּ, כֹּל אֲשֶׁר-דָּבֶּר יְהֹוָה נַעֲשֶׂה; וַיָּשֶׁב משֶׁה אֶת-דְּבְרֵי הָעָם, אֶל-יְהוָה.

God's Plan(s) for how to transmit the laws

ט וַיּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי בָּא אֵלֶידְ בְּעֵב הֶעָנָן, בַּעֲבוּר יִשְׁמֵע הָעָם בְּדַבְּרִי עִמְּדְ, וְנֵם-בְּּךְ יַאֲמִינוּ לְעוֹלָם; וַיַּנֵּד מֹשֶׁה אֶת-דִּבְרֵי הָעָם, אֶל-יְהוָהּ.PLAN 'A' - via Moshe]

י וַיּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מִשָּׁה לֵדְ אֶל-הָעָם, וְקְדַּשְּׁתָּם הַיּוֹם וּמְחָר; וְכִבְּסוֹ, שִׁמְלֹתָם. יא וְהָיוּ נְכֹנִים, לַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי: כִּי בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִשִׁי, וַרֵדְ יְהֹוָה לִעִינֵי כָל-הָעָם--עַל-הַר סִינֵי. [B' PLAN]

PREPARATION:

12 And you shall set bounds unto the people round about, saying: Take heed to yourselves, that you go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it; whosoever touches the mount shall be surely put to death; 13 no hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live; when the ram's horn soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.' 14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their garments. 15 And he said unto the people: 'Be ready against the third day; come not near a woman.'

REVELATION

16 And it came to pass on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of a horn exceeding loud; and all the people that were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18 Now mount Sinai was altogether on smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19 And when the voice of the horn waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him with a voice.

20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, to

LIMITATION

the top of the mount; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. 21 And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. 22 And let the priests also, that come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.' 23 And Moses said unto the LORD: 'The people cannot come up to mount Sinai; for thou didst charge us, saying: Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.' 24 And the LORD said unto him: 'Go, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee; but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest He break forth upon them.' 25 So Moses went down unto the people, and told them.

PREPARATION:

יב וְהִגְּבַּלְתָּ שֶׁת- הָעָם סָבִיב לֵאמֹר, הִשְּׁמְרוּ לָכֶם ַלֹּוֹת בָּהָר וּנְגֹעַ בְּקְצֵהוּ: כָּל-הַנֹגֵעַ בָּהָר, מוֹת יוּמָת. יג לֹא-תָגַע בּוֹ יָד, כִּי-סָקוֹל יִסְקֵל אוֹ-יָרֹה יִיָּרֶה--אִם-בְּהֵמָה אִם-אִישׁ, לֹא יִחְיֶה; בִּמְשׁדְ, הַיּבֵל, הַמְּה, יַצְלוּ בָהָר יד וַיֵּרֶד מֹשֶׁה מִן-הָהָר, שֶּל-הָעָם; וַיְקַדֵּשׁ, שֶת-הָעָם, וַיְכַבְּסוּ, שִׁמְלֹתָם. טו וַיִּאמֶר, שֶל-הָעָם, הֱיוּ נְכֹנִים, לִשְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים: אַל-תָּגְשׁוּ, אֵל-אִשָּׁה.

REVELATION

טז וַיְהִי בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בִּהְיֹת הַבּּקֶר, וַיְהִי קּלֹת וּבְּרָקִים וְעָנָן כָּבֵד עַל-הָהָר, וְקֹל שׁבָּר, חָזָּק מְאֹד; **וַיְּחֲרַד בְּל-הָעָם, אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה**. יז וַיּוֹצֵא משָׁה אֶת-הָעָם לִקְרַאת הָאֱלֹהִים, מִן-הַמַּחֲנֶה; וַיִּתְיַצְבִּוּ, בְּתַחְתִּית הָהָר. יח וְהַר סִינֵי, עַשַׁן כָּלוּ, מִבְּנִי אֲשֶׁר יָרַד עָלָיו יְהוָה, בָּאֲשׁ; וַיַּעַל עֲשָׁנוֹ כְּעֶשֶׁן הַבְּבְשָׁן, וַיְּחֲרַד בָּל-הָהָר מְאֹד.

יט וַיְהִי קוֹל הַשֹּבְּר, הוֹלֵדְ וְחָזֵק מְאֹד; מֹשֶׁה יִדְבֵּר, וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶנוּ בְקוֹל.

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כ וַיֵּרֶד יְהוָה עַל-הַר סִינַי, אֶל-רֹאשׁ הָהָר; וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה לְמשֶׁה אֶל-רֹאשׁ הָהָר, וַיַּעַל משֶׁה.

כא וַיּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-משֶׁה, רֵד הְעֵד בְּעָם: פֶּן-יֶהֶרְסוּ אֶל-יְהוָה לִרְאוֹת, וְנָפַל מִמֶּנוּ רָב. כב וְגִם הַכּהְנִים הַנּגְּשִׁים אֶל-יְהוָה, יִתְקַדָּשׁוּ: פֵּן-יִפְרֹץ בָּהֶם, יְהוָה.

כג וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-יְהוָה, לֹא-יוּכַל הָעֶם, לַעֲלֹת אֶל-הַר סִינִי: כִּי-אַתָּה הַעֲדֹתָה בָּנוּ, לֵאמֹר, הַגְּבֵּל אֶת-הָהָר, וְקִדַּשְׁתּוֹ. כֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְהֹוָה לֶּךְ-רֵד, וְעָלִיתָ אַתְּה וְאַהְרֹן עִמְּדְ; וְהַכּּהְנִים וְהָעָם, אַל-יָהֶרְסוּ לַעֲלֹת אֶל-יְהוָה--בֶּּן-יִבְרָץ-בַּם.

כה וַיֵּרֶד מֹשָׁה, אֶל-הָעָם; וַיּאמֶר, אֲלֵהֶם.