

Parashat Yitro- The Magnificence of Sinai



Torah: Shemoth [Exodus] 18:1- 20:23

Introduction: This portion is called Yitro as it honours Mosheh's Father-in-law who exalts in Yahweh as being the greatest of all because of all the feats He has performed for his people Yisrael. However, when we read on the next day in **Shemoth [Exodus] 18:13** the sages tell us that it was in fact the day after Mosheh descended from the Mountain after receiving the second set of tablets which he received on Yom Kippur. Therefore, this whole portion does not come to us in correct Chronological order. We will therefore spend the time looking at the most magnificent though terrifying event after the exodus from Mitsrayim. This of course is **Shavuot [Pentecost]** when YHUH descends upon **Mount Sinai** to directly address the whole Assembly of Yisrael which becomes such an epic event that was never to be repeated so absolutely magnificent it was.

The Events in Our Portion:

1. Yitro comes from Midian with the wife & sons of Mosheh after hearing of all the great deeds Yahweh did for Yisrael.
2. Yitro instructs Mosheh concerning a more efficient way of Judging the people.
3. Mosheh ascends Mt. Sinai to receive instruction from YHUH.
4. Mosheh calls the people to prepare themselves for YHUH to come down upon the Mountain.
5. The 3rd day there is thundering, lightning, a thick cloud & the terrifying sound of the shophar.
6. Mosheh then only ascends the mountain & Yahweh speaks the ten utterances **[Commandments]** to all Yisrael & they plead desperately with Mosheh that they not hear more but that Mosheh alone speak to them.
7. Finally, instructions are given against graven images & instructions given on how to construct a sacrificial Altar to Yahweh.

The Unique Timeline:

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Yisrael Enters the Wilderness of Sinai

Shemoth [Exodus] 19:1 In the 3rd month after the children of Yisrael had come out of the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt] on this day they came to the wilderness of Sinai.

The 3rd Month- Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Shabbat
1 Day 43	2 Day 44	3 Day 45	4 Day 46	5 Day 47	6 Day 48	7 Day 49
8 Day 50 Shavuot	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

As an extension of the journey that we detailed last week we can determine that Yisrael entered the wilderness of Sinai on Wednesday based on **Exodus 19:1** which says

In the 3rd month after the children of Yisrael had come out of the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt] on this day they came to the wilderness of Sinai.

“on this day” suggesting the same day they left **Mitsrayim** [Egypt] being a Wednesday as it could not be **the 15th** of the 3rd month being beyond **Shavuot [the Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost]** though the day they left Mitsrayim was the 15th of Aviv. They however were not yet at the foot of Mount Sinai which they reached the next day being **the 47th day** of the Omer count if we count from **the 1st day of the week** taken after the Shabbat being the day after their magnificent delivery from Mitsrayim through the sea & also based on this verse:

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Shavuot שבועות

Vayiqra [Leviticus] 23:15 And from the morrow after the Shabbat, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, you shall count for yourselves: seven completed Sabbaths. 16 Until the morrow after the seventh Sabbath you count fifty days, then you shall bring a new grain offering to YHWH.

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From this we can know that the celebration of this great event falls on the 1st day of the week though in Judaism this is not so & can fall in the middle of the Week therefore it does not follow a Shabbat. However now we see Mosheh going up the mountain on Thursday returning to the people who then say, **“all that YHUH has spoken we shall do.”**

Mosheh then goes up the mountain again on the preparation day of the Shabbat [Sivan 6] & returns with these words from YHWH in:



Shemoth [Ex] 19:10 And YHWH said to Mosheh, “Go to the people and set them apart today and tomorrow. And they shall wash their garments, **11**and shall be prepared by the third day. For on the third day YHWH shall come down upon Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.

What great truth does this reveal? On the preparation day they were to purify their physical clothes etc & on the Shabbat they would cleanse themselves spiritually ready for YHWH to come down on the 1st day of the week when he revealed himself to his followers.

Surely what we see here is reflected in the **Brit Chadashah [New Testament]** too.



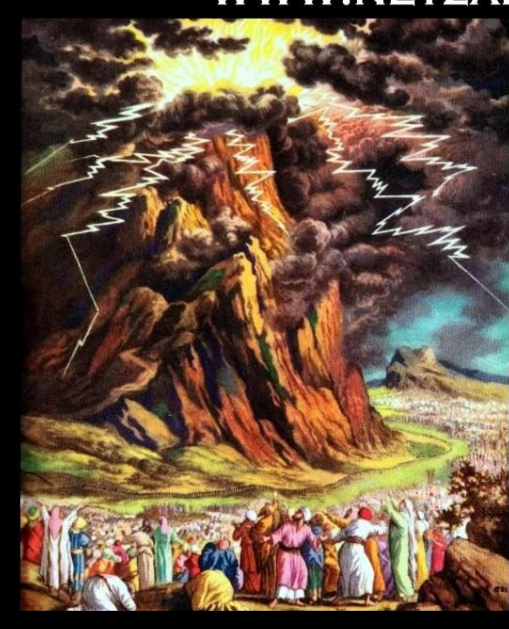
We remember that Yahusha [Yeshua] revealed himself to his Disciples on the **1st Day of the week**

after 3 days in the Tomb & then gave them his instructions to bring the knowledge of him & the forgiveness of sins to the whole world. Timing is so important so we must take notice of everything in scripture as **YHWH** always works according to his appointed times as we can see, that it may encourage us in the faith that his plan never fails to reveal him.

Shavuot [Pentecost] is a scene where all Yisrael ritually cleansed their garments as well as themselves so we can be sure that the **Talmidim (the Disciples)** would also be purifying themselves before this feast since the Temple would have facilities for a **Mikveh (Immersion of Purification)** since they certainly remembered this first Shavuot Feast with great awe and though they did not know what would happen they had the promise from the **Master Yeshua** that they would be endowed with power from on high not many days from the Ascension so there was great expectation.

Though Yisrael had prepared to see YHWH descend on Mt. Sinai the appearance of this once in all time manifestation was beyond anything that they could comprehend so we read how they responded to such a frightening display of power through the following words:

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Shemoth (exodus) 20:18-20 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the Shofar (trumpet), and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. **19** Then they said to Mosheh, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not Elohim speak with us, lest we die."


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So terrifying was this ordeal that the people feared greatly for their lives since they came to realize just how **Kadosh (Holy)** was YHWH and how exceedingly powerful. Because of this awesome display they felt that they could not hear his voice and live though this was a most special occasion in which it was the desire of **YHWH** to directly communicate with his chosen people Yisrael. This was for the greatest purpose ever devised. As his Kadosh (Holy) nation betrothed to him they would be called to bring his name & great esteem to the World, but they failed to see their great purpose because they feared so exceedingly.

With **Yeshua's** promise of the Ruach Ha Kodesh [the Holy Spirit] also came the way that YHWH could relate to mankind for all time and this promise is further given to us in the **Brit Chadashah** (New

Testament) to greatly encourage all believers for all time so this would be not just be a onetime event as we read in:

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Acts 2:39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as YHWH our Elohim will call."

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Sadly, the Modern Church has totally misunderstood the reading by implying that all the believers were gathered in a house or lodging. This error however has led to the replacement theology that has gained much acceptance. Possibly with most this is simply an oversight not knowing the Scriptures. However, when we read **the Beyth (the House)** instinctively all Yahudim [Jews] know that this refers to the **Beyth Ha Mikdash** (the sanctified House/the Temple) since by the commandment all men were required to be on the Temple Mount on this day as we read in:

Shemoth [Exodus 23:17 Three times a year all your males shall appear before YHWH Elohim.

We must believe the disciples were faithful Yahudim [Jews] & anticipating an act almost conquerable to the 1st Shavuot since the master had promised them power as we read in:

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The Promise of the Ruach [the Spirit]

Maaseh Ha Shilichiyim [Acts] 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Ruach Ha Kodesh [the Holy Spirit] has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Yerushalayim [Jerusalem], and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

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Not only do we have this evidence, but we read after the ascension the Disciples had definitely lost their fear & were ready to embrace their call as we should be too, as revealed to us here:



Luke 24:52 And they, having bowed down to Him [Yeshua], returned to Yerushalayim with great joy, **53** and were continually in the Set-apart Place [the Temple] praising and blessing Elohim!

If they were so full of joy praising in **the Beyth Ha Mikdash** surely on the Torah prescribed command being this most **Kadosh [Holy] day** they would by no means be Assembled in an upper room that could not hold so many people but be there awaiting the great promise given by the Master of power from on High.

The Teaching of the Feasts:

The feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits represent the personal covenant relationship, which is where we begin our journey, but **Shavuot (Pentecost)** is the first Communal Covenant. Through it we become the bride in **Echad** or unity as seen in **Shemot (Exodus) 19** where all the Nation of Yisrael is gathered beneath the Mountain. Therefore, the outpouring of **the Ruach** (Spirit) became the unifying force to bring the body of Messiah into oneness. It is about a **Kadosh** (Holy) nation and a set-apart Priesthood in unity and not about an individual personal faith. This is so clearly expressed by Kepha in his addressing the believers found in the following verses:

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Kepha Addresses the Believers



Kepha Aleph (1 Peter) 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;

Thankfully, we have not come to such a mountain of darkness, fire and deafening, fearful noise, but to Mount Zion, the city of the living Elohim [God], the heavenly Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] and the **Malakim [Messengers/Angels]**—to Yeshua.

We are, therefore, entering a kingdom that cannot be shaken. We are entering according to scripture:

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The City of the Living Elohim

“The city of the living Elohim [God], heavenly Yerushalayim; to myriads of **Malakim [Messengers/Angels]** in festive assembly; to a community of the firstborn whose names have been recorded in Heaven; to a Judge who is Elohim

[God] of everyone; to spirits of righteous people who have been brought to the goal; to the mediator of a new covenant, Yeshua; and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better things than the blood of Abel.” (Ibriim [Hebrews] 12:22-24)

Even though we are under the **Chased [Favour/grace]** of the New Covenant, in which the laws of Elohim [God] are written on our hearts, the commands of Elohim [God], written with His very own finger on tablets of stone are eternal and true for all people in all covenants.

Keeping His commandments is how we show our **love for YHWH** our Elohim [God]. His commandments provide a guide for a healthy, happy, productive, and harmonious life in relationship with **Elohim** [God] and with other people. When we think of the favour, we have received may we truly desire to serve him not for our own benefit but to bring his name to the world in the hope of seeing the return of our Lord & Master Yahusha **[Yeshua]** who alone can restore this World to its intended Esteem & magnificence.

Haftarah: YeshaYahu [Isaiah] 6:1-13



At the death of King UzziYahu [Uzziah] from leprosy in 739 B.C. YeshaYahu [Isaiah] was thrown into his prophetic ministry when he envisioned the throne of Yahweh high & lifted up with his majestic robe filling the whole Hekal [Temple]. The esteem he saw was so great that he cried out that he was a man of unclean lips but when the call came, he answered **“here am I! send me.”** This too is the call we have but truth remains hidden from those who will not hear & so we even find Yeshua revealing truth through parables which only the called can possibly understand. May we never cease in responding when we find ourselves called to proclaim the truth of our High & lifted up Lord & Elohim.

Netzarim Ketuvim: MattithYahu [Matthew] 8:5-20



The story of the faith of this Centurion so amazed Yeshua because this Centurion understood authority & remained very humble. Just like Yitro [Jethro] who understood the call of Mosheh & the great power of Yahweh the Centurion accepted that Yeshua was the anointed of Yahweh & was able to heal by the words of his mouth. Yeshua marveled at this so much that he said that he had not seen such faith in all Yisrael. May we be encouraged by this foreigner's faith to believe that all things are possibly for those who believe. This faith is what can move mountains & brings the greatest esteem to the one we profess to believe in.

Amein & Shavua Tov Aleychem! [A Good Week unto You All]