

THE PASSOVER FEAST

(Exodus 11-12)

The Passover feast was the last meal that the Israelites had in Egypt that eventually led to their liberation and marked the beginning of their journey to the promised land through the wilderness.

It involved the offering of sacrifices on which the people of Israel feasted the whole night before living for the promised land under the leadership of Moses.

It was on this occasion that the angel of the Lord passed or jumped over the houses of the Israelites which had been identified by the blood of the sacrificial animal smeared on the doorposts and killed the firstborn sons of the Egyptians in order to let their king allow Israel leave their land.

Besides, it was on this same occasion God protected and spared the Israelites as he killed the Egyptians as Moses had announced.

Moses prepared the people of Israel for Passover meal after the ninth refusal of the Egyptian king or let them leave for the promised land to the annoyance of God.

Moses went on to announce the death of the firstborn of the Egyptians both of humans and animals upon God's instruction.

The death of the firstborns proved to be the last disaster that broke the arrogance of the king of Egypt who had initially counteracted the previous plague including water from the river turning into blood, death of animals and hailstorm among others.

God also instructed Moses to give some instructions to the Israelites on how they were to prepare themselves to celebrate the day of their freedom.

God gave some instructions to Moses to pass them to the whole community of Israel as basic guides for the Passover feast.

The month of the Passover feast would be the first month of the year in the Jewish calendar as God revealed to Moses.

Moses urged each man to choose either a lamb or a young goat for his household on the tenth day of the month of the Passover feast.

However, if a family was too small to eat a whole animal, it had to share it with the next neighbor in equal proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person could eat. This signified unity among the Israelites.

The lamb or the goat chosen had to be one-year old male without any defects to signify Israel is the firstborn sons of God and the holiness of God respectively.

Moses urged the people of Israel to slaughter their animals on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month of the Passover.

He urged the Israelites to put some of the blood of the slaughtered animal on the doorpost above the doors of the houses where the animals were to be eaten. This blood helped to doorposts and protect the people of Israel from the deadly disaster that struck Egypt at night.

Besides, Moses urged the Israelites to roast and eat with bitter herbs and with bread made without yeast to signify their bitter experience in Egypt and their way to the promised land.

The Israelites were forbidden from eating any raw or boiled meat for they were only to eat roasted one including the head, the legs and the internal organs.

Moses instructed the Israelites to eat everything until morning. In case of any left over, they had to be burnt it.

Besides, they were required to eat their meat quickly while dressed with sandals on their feet and sticks in their hands to show their readiness for the journey.

Moses revealed to the people of Israel that the Passover festival was intended for the honor of the Lord.

The Israelites were told that the Lord would kill every firstborn male of both human and animals would also punish all the gods of Egypt as well.

Moses urged the Israelites to celebrate the Passover day as a religious festival to remind them of the Lord's mighty act.

The Israelites were instructed to eat only the unleavened bread for seven days as they were to rid of all the yeast in their houses thus eating of bread made with yeast would deny a person a chance of God's people.

Moses urged the Israelites to meet on the first and seventh day to worship the Lord. There on one had to work on these days.

Moses urged the Israelites and their children to obey all the rules they been given forever.

Besides, he instructed the Israelites to perform the Passover rituals upon entering the promised land purposely as sacrifices to honor the Lord.

The Lord appeared and killed all the first-born sons; both of human and animals including Pharaoh's son. This actually broke the king's arrogance who asked the Israelites to leave his land.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PASSOVER TO THE JEWS

It marked the end of Jewish slavery and exile as they left Egypt immediately after having their meals following the deadly plague during the festival that saw all the firstborns of the Egyptians get killed.

It proved the omnipotence of God as He killed firstborns of the Egyptians both of human beings and animals.

It confirmed Moses as the leader of the chosen people of God for it was him who struggled for their liberation and went on to lead them in the wilderness.

It confirmed Israel as the chosen people of God as He referred to them as His people. Besides, only the circumcised celebrated the Passover meal.

It fulfilled the promises that God had made to Israel's ancestor, Abraham that his descendants were to be enslaved in a foreign land delivered later.

It signified God's protection over the people of Israel for He protected their firstborns from the deadly disaster that hit Egypt killing all their firstborns.

It revealed God's love for the people of Israel for He set them free from the bondage. Even later generation was constantly reminded of this love He portrayed to their ancestors by rescuing them.

Israel became a monotheistic community as they left which allowed them worship God as opposed to worshipping of many Egyptian gods.

Besides, Israel became a theocratic nation as God constantly guided them when they left Egypt on their way to and even after they settled in the promised.

The Passover meal created unity among the Israelites. Smaller families shared the sacrificial meal thus this enhanced the spirit of brotherhood.

The Passover feast separated the Israelites from the Egyptians. The blood of the sacrificial animals smeared on the door-posts differentiate the Israelites and the Egyptians.

It showed the holiness of God as the Israelites to enter and occupy the land that continued to be with them even they had left and week now in the wilderness

It marked the beginning of prophetic institution in Israel as Moses mediated between God and them during the Passover festival and in their later history.

It signified Israel as the first born sons of God symbolized by the offering of one year animals as sacrifice during the festivals.

The Passover celebration became the basis of teaching among the people of Israel in their later history. The later generation was constantly reminded of this event.

THE PASSOVER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Passover festival had become a tradition and an annual celebration at the time of Jesus Christ among the Jews in memory of God's mighty act of delivering their ancestors from their Egyptian slavery.

Jesus participated in the Passover celebrations at the age of 12 as he went together with his parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival (Luke 2:41ff).

Jesus had a positive attitude towards the Passover celebration as he identified himself with it since he belonged to some community.

However, the Jews had misinterpreted and commercialized the celebration of the Passover that they eagerly looked forward for the day to come.

In cleaning of the temple, Jesus gave the Passover its true meaning as they showed that it had to be a day of worship.

Jesus transformed the Passover festival into a new covenant to mean deliverance of every believer from the bondage of sins.

Before the last supper, Jesus and his apostles prepared meal for the Passover meal. He showed that he knew about everything well in advance (Luke 22:7-13)

Jesus expresses eagerness to share pass over meal with his disciples before eventual suffering

He revealed that he would never again have the Passover until given the full meaning in the kingdom of God.

During the last supper, Jesus went on to refer to the bread as his body which believers had to feed on. Therefore, his body becomes the sacrificial meal.

In the same way, Jesus referred to the wine as his blood poured out encouraged everyone to take for their own salvation (Luke 22:20)

In essence, Jesus presented himself as the sacrifice animals offered during the Passover celebrations.

Just like the blood of the sacrificial animals protected the Israelites were united during the celebration of the Passover celebrations.

Jesus is presented as a new leader replacing Moses. Therefore, the coming of Jesus Christ making free from the slavery of sins.

The significance of the Passover to modern Christians

- To Christians, the Passover meal is transformed into the lord's supper
- It acts reminder of the death and resurrection of Jesus
- It gives assurance to Christians the hope of sharing in Jesus' resurrection

- It calls upon Christian to prepare for the second coming of the Christian.
- It creates unity among Christians as they share blood and body of Jesus Christ.
- It calls for repentance among Christians in preparation for their own salvation.
- It helps Christian to remember the death of Jesus Christ their sins
- It prepares Christian s to inherit the kingdom of God.
- It calls upon Christian a to believe in the saving power of Jesus Christian
- It is an avenue of fellowshiping with God through his son, Jesus Christ.
- Christians should respect the sacrament of Holy communion
- There is need for Christians to observe and celebrate Good Friday
- He calls Christians to trust in Jesus Christ as their savior.

The Sinai covenant (Exodus 19-24)

The Sinai convent was an agreement between God and the people of Israel immediately by Moses on the foot of Mount Snail. This was the same mountain where Moses met God in an ordinary vision of the burning but unconsumed bush before returning to Egypt.

God had revealed to Moses that they would worship him on this same mountain after brining the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:12) Therefore, the Israelites upon leaving Egypt later embed at the foot of Mount Sinai.

The Sinai covenant came on the first day of the third month after the Israelites had left Egypt on their way to the promised land.

This covenant was the first fellowship that the people of Israel had with God that brought them nearer to him.

Preparation for the making of the Sinai covenant

Moses went up the mountain to meet with God after the Israelites had set up a camp at foot of it from where he was given instructions on how the people had to prepare themselves for the covenant.

Through Moses God remained the Israelites that they were witnesses to which to what he had done to the Egyptians and how he had carried them like an eagle up to where they were.

The Israelites were urged to obey God and keep His covenant if they were to remain His people. This meant that their chosen status from now on would be dependent on their obedience to God.

God confirmed His willingness to keep Israel as His own chosen people. They had to dedicate themselves to him alone and serve as His priest.

Moses called all the leaders of people together and told them everything that the Lord had said upon coming down the mountain.

The leaders of the people promised to do everything that the Lord had said and Moses communicated their commitment to God.

God revealed to Moses that He would come to him in a thick cloud so that the people could hear them speak. In this way, they would believe in Him. This meant that God wanted the Israelites to realize His presence.

The Israelites were instructed to spend two days purifying themselves for worship. They were required to wash their clothes and be ready to meet God. This signified the holiness of God.

Moses was instructed to mark a boundary round the mountain that no one was allowed to cross required to wash their clothes and be ready to meet God. This signified the holiness of God.

Moses was instructed to make a boundary around the mountain that no one allowed to across. He also forbade them from going up the mountain getting near. The penalty for their disobedience would be being put to death.

Moses urged the people of Israel to obtain from sexual intercourses as they were waiting meet. Having sex would make them unclean before God.

There was thunder and lightning on the morning of the third say. This was followed by a thick could and a very loud trumpet blast that made people to tremble with fear. This showed the presence of God.

Moses led the Israelites out of the camp to meet God and they all stood at the foot of the mountain.

The whole mount Sinai was covered with smoke signifying presence of God symbolized by fire.

God responded to Moses with thunder as the sound of trumpet has become louder that it had made the people tremble violently.

Moses went up the mountain with Aaron upon the command of God and reminded them about His mighty act of bringing Israel out of their bondage in Egypt.

God went on to give various laws in His spoken words. These became the basis commands and ordinances of God ideally to safe guard the people's relationship with him and among themselves.

The people of Israel promised to do everything that the Lord had said after Moses had finished telling them His commands and all the ordinances.

Moses is presented as having written down all the commands of the Lord. This meant had that Moses knew how to write thus he was important person in putting down the commands of God.

Besides, he built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set twelve stones each representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

Some young men burnt sacrifices to the Lord and presented some cattle as fellowship offerings.

Moses put half of the blood of the animals in the bowl and three other half against the altar.

Moses read the book of the covenant in which the commands of the Lord had been written and read it aloud to the people who promised to obey him.

Besides, he threw the blood in the bowls on to the people to signify the sealing of the covenant which God had made with the people of Israel.

God handed over to Moses two stones tablets containing all the laws that had been written to act as instructions to the Israelites.

God went on to instruct Moses and the people to make a sacred tent for His dwelling place. Besides, they had to make a covenant box and place it in the two stone tablets on which His Commandments were written.

The Ten Commandments (Decalogue)

These were spoken commands of God to the people of Israel through Moses who mediated the covenant at the foot of Mount Sinai. In other words, they were a set of laws that God gave people of Israel to safe guard their relationship with Him and among themselves as they prepared to enter and possess the promised land.

These laws were written on two stone tablets and kept in a specially made box called the Covenant Box housed in a special tent as the lord's dwelling place. They are also referred to as the Decalogue.

The first stone tablet contained three laws which are concerned with the relationship between God and mankind and the last seven laws written in the second stone are meant to safe guard the relationship among the human being.

Content of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17)

In the first commandment, God called upon Israel to worship only Him. This showed the oneness of God as He presented himself as the ultimate power worthy to be worshipped.

In verse 3, God forbade the Israelites from making images of anything. This came along with a call for Israel to desist from bowing down to any idol of worship it. He revealed His character as a Jealous god who tolerates no rival but one who punishes those hating Him and one who loves those loving Him.

In the third command, God forbade Israel from using His name for evil purposes or else they stood to be punished. This meant that the Israelites were supposed to respect the name of God.

The fourth Commandment required the Israelites to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. They had to do their work in six and dedicate the seventh day to Him. This showed the importance of work as He went on to portray himself as having worked for six days creating the universe before resting and blessing the seventh day as a holy one meant for Him.

In the fifth commandment, God urged the people of Israel to give respect to their fathers and mothers if they were to live longer in the land they were about to given. This confirms the roles of parents through whom. He gives life to the world.

The sixth commandment forbade the Israelites from murdering. They had to respect and preserve human life. This reiterates the earlier call in the fifth command that suggests that He has exclusive rights over human life.

The seventh forbade the Israelites from committing adultery. Therefore, these required that the people remained faithful in their marriage and avoid any misuses of sex.

The people of Israel were forbidden from stealing in the eight commandments. This meant they had to respect each other's property and put their trust in God's providence.

The ninth commandment requires that the Israelites desist from accusing anyone falsely. This was an encouragement for the people to speak the truth and it brings out God's desire for justice to prevail in Israel.

The tenth commandment was against having desire for another man's house or any of his possession. This was a call for the people of Israel to be satisfied with their own possessions.

The role or significance of the Ten Commandments to the Jews

It revealed the character of God to the Israelites as being Jealous since He showed His inability tolerate any rival.

It showed the Israelites that sinfulness was an act of disobedience and punishable by God since it was against His will.

It reminded the Israelites of their monotheistic faith as they were required to worship only God.

It showed the holiness of God as I required Israelites to observe the Sabbath as a holy day dedicated to Him

It revealed God's love for the people of Israel as He promised to show love to thousands of generations if they would love Him and obey His law.

It showed the holiness of God's love for the people of Israel as He promised to show love to thousand of generations if they would love Him and obey His laws.

It signified the presence of God among the people as he continued revealing himself through his commands which they were required to observe.

It helped to maintain harmony among the Israelites in their since acts of injustices like killing, stealing and lying were forbidden.

It created unity among the people of Israel as they were all bound by God's laws and the oneness in him.

It became the basis of the teaching among the Israelites in later history. The parents were required to teach their children about the laws; Besides the prophets constantly remained them about their obedience to the laws.

The laws were used as a measure of determining Israel's faithfulness to God. Obedience to the law meant that they were faithful to him and their disobedience showed their unfairness.

It showed the people of Israel that God was active in their day-to-day life for He continued guiding them through His spoken words.

It helped to shape the morals of the people of Israel as they were forbidden from acts of immorality like lustful, stealing and committing adultery .

It remained the Israelites about the importance of work in their daily life. They had to do their work in six days and rest on the seventh day.

It showed the uniqueness of the Israelites as God's chosen people as they had a code of conduct.

Jesus' teaching about the commandments

Jesus interpreted and preached about the Ten Commandments when the Pharisees questioned why his disciples were picking some grain to eat on the Sabbath.

Jesus declared that the Sabbath was made for man but not man for the Sabbath. By his, he meant that it was good for man to benefit on the Sabbath day.

Jesus revealed himself as a Lord of Sabbath and challenged the Jews for questioning his authority.

Jesus revealed that he was the fulfillment of the law for he had not come to destroy the laws but rather to give it more meaning and make the teaching of the prophets come true.

Jesus said that his coming was because laws were imperfect as they had failed to put man right with God. Therefore, he had come to perfect to the laws.

To Jesus, disobeying the least important of the commandments meant disobeying all the others. Such person would be least in the kingdom of heaven (Mathew 5:19)

In the same way, whoever obeys the laws and teaches others to do the same would be great in the heavenly kingdom. Therefore, Jesus upheld the view that obedience to the laws a gate way to the father's kingdom.

However, Jesus viewed that having faith is more important than the laws in doing what God requires for it is by one's faith that one joins the kingdom of God.

Jesus emphasized that greatest commandment is the love of God with all one's heart, soul mind and strength. Jesus seemed to suggest that love was the driving force for a person to worship only himself (Mark 12: 28-31).

Jesus declared that looking at a woman with the desire to possess her makes a person guilty of committing adultery with her his heart (Mathew 5:28)

In the same way, having an evil thought against someone is the same as the act of killing itself.

Jesus urged every believer to desist from swearing in whatever the circumstance that a person may be. Instead, he called for the need of either saying yes or no (Mathew 5:33-37)

Relevance of the Decalogue to Christians today

- Christians should worship one God.
- Christians should respect the Sabbath day.
- Christian should be holy in the service of God.
- Christians should respect and preserve human life
- Christians should give respect to their parents
- Christians should be faithful in their parents
- Christian should rest from their work.
- Christians should praise and glorify God's name
- Christians should speak the truth
- Christians maintain justice
- Christians should live in harmony with each other.
- Christian should follow laws governing the society.
- Christians should respect each other's property.

Features or characteristic of the Sinai covenant

The Sinai covenant was initiated by God himself after Israelites had camped at the foot of the mountain for He called Moses and gave him some instructions on how people were to prepare for the making of the covenant.

The Sinai covenant involved the use of a mediator. Moses played this role as he kept linked God and his people during the covenant

The Sinai covenant involved two unequal parties. God was a superior being and the Israelites were the inferior beings.

It involved God's presence who revealed himself to the people of Israel through voice, thick cloud and thunder among others.

The Sinai covenant was characterized by God's holiness. Moses urged the Israelites to purify themselves by washing the clothes before meeting God.

It involved God identifying himself to the Israelites as being God who delivered them from their Egyptian slavery.

The Sinai covenant involved conditions being given to the Israelite. They had to obey God and keep His covenant if they were to remain His people (Exodus 19:5).

The Sinai covenant involved purification. Moses urged the Israelites to wash their clothes before meeting the following day. This signified the holiness of God.

It involved the giving of laws God gave the Israelites the Ten commandments which he were required to follow as a basis of their relationship with Him and among themselves.

The Sinai covenant was characterized by promises. God promised to protect the Israelites against their enemies and they also promised do everything that the Lord had said.

The Sinai covenant involved the building of an altar. Moses built an altar using twelve stones each representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

It was also characterized by offering of sacrifices. The people of Israel presented burnt and fellowship offering to God.

The Sinai covenant involved God's love for the people of Israel for He revealed that he would show His love for thousand generations.

The Sinai covenant was sealed using blood. Moses threw the blood in some bowls to show that he had sealed their covenant with God.

It involved responsibility and obligations of the parties. Each party was required to play some roles in order to maintain and fulfill the conditions of the covenant.

Obligations and responsibility of the Sinai covenant

Obligations and responsibilities as contained in the covenant were the conditions and tasks the parties involved has to fulfill or do if they were maintain the relationship established

The Israelites were required to obey God and serve Him loyally if they were to remain His people.

The Israelites were supposed to worship God only and were forbidden from bowing down to any idol or worship. God showed that He could not tolerate any rival. This means that He was a Jealous God.

Israelites were obliged to pass on the covenant faith to their children by teaching them about the relationship therein.

Israelites were required to make other nations know the divine nature of their God.

They had to remain holy since they were serving a holy God. This meant that they were always to take precaution and avoid defiling their holiness.

The Israelites were required to live as God's chosen people. This echoed their dependence on God in all aspects of life.

The Israelites were required to follow and obey all the commands of God and make them the basis of their lives.

They had the obligation to keep their promises God particularly that of obedience to Him and doing everything expected from them.

The people of Israel were urged to love God if he they wanted Him to show his love to thousands of the generations.

The Israelites had to destroy the gods of the enemies and break down their sacred stone pillars. They were forbidden from adopting their religious practices.

God forbade the Israelites from making agreement with their enemies including the Amorites, the Hittites and the Jebusites among others. They were to drive them away from their land or else they sin against Him (Exodus 23:32-33).

Besides, the people of Israel were expected to show respect to one another as they continued to serve God faithfully.

The Israelites had to take care of the disadvantaged including the orphans, the widows and the foreigners. God reminded them of their experience as foreigner in Egypt (Exodus 23:9)

Besides, they had God has the responsibility of taking care of the people of Israel all the way through until they promised Land.

He had to protect the people of Israel from their enemies by defeating of driving them away from their path until they reached the land He had promised them through their ancestor. Abraham (Exodus 23:20)

Besides, God had had to fulfill His promise and give the Israelites the land he had prepared for them.

God promised to bless people of Israel with food, better health, and children and long lives in the land they had prepared for themselves.

He had to extend the border of the land of Israel for and beyond the desert thus they would have enough space for themselves.

God promised to give power to the Israelites over the inhabitants of the land He prepared for them for they would drive them out of it.

The significance of the Sinai covenant to the Israelites

Israel became a great and special nation as God had promised their ancestor, Abraham. Therefore, it was a fulfillment of the promises that God had made to their ancestor.

The Israelites received a code of conduct from God for He gave them the Ten commandments to safe guard their relationship with Him and among themselves.

It marked a new relationship between Israel and God for the covenant brought to their awareness that they were God's chosen people through their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Sinai covenant signified God's holiness as the people were instructed to purify themselves before meeting him the following day.

Besides, it signified monotheism in Israel for the people were obliged worship God only God if they were to remain his people.

It confirmed Israel as the theocratic nation. God showed them how He had been active in their history and was still willing to continue being with them .

It confirmed God's love for the people of Israel. Because of His love; He rescued them from their slavery in Egypt, protected them and went on to promise to show His love for thousands of generations.

The Sinai covenant confirmed Moses' leadership over the Israelites for it was him who struggle for the liberation from the bondage in Egypt and continued to be from then on.

The Israelites were given responsibilities and obligations during the Sinai convent which became part of their lives like worshipping God only .

It signified the divine election of Israel as God constantly reminded them that they were His chosen and special people.

It united the people of Israel as they came to realize that they all belonged to their ancestor, Abraham chose by God himself.

It proved God as the initiator of all events in the lives of the Israelites .He had initiated their liberation from Egypt and still it was Him who initiated their covenant with him.

It proved the omnipotence of God to the Israel as He promised to defeat all their enemies.

It raised the status of Israel to that of a priestly house for God required them to serve Him as His priests.

It signified the omnipresence of God to the Israelites who experienced His presence and promised to continue being with them in the land .He had prepared for them .

The Sinai covenant revealed the character of God to the Israelites as one who could not tolerate His rival. Therefore He desired to be worshipped alone.

Comparison between the Sinai and the Abraham covenant

Similarities

Both the Sinai and Abraham covenant were initiated by God himself as the first fellowship.

In both covenants involved unequal parties. God remained superior in both covenants as the Israelites and Abraham were inferior.

In both covenants, God showed His love for Human beings as He promised to love Israel and so was the case in the Abraham covenant in which He started His salvation plan.

In both, sacrifices were offered to God. Moses as well as Abraham presented their offerings to God.

Both covenants involved the holiness of God as the Israelites purified themselves during the Sinai covenant and the fire appeared during the Abraham covenant signified the holiness of God.

In both covenants God pursued His salvation plan for mankind. The Sinai covenant came after God had just delivered the Israelites from their Egyptians slavery and in the Abraham covenant; God intended to bring man nearer to him following the fall of man in Gen 3.

God revealed His presence in both covenant. The Israelites felt his presence through the lighting and thunder and Abraham saw a flaming torch which consumed the sacrifices.

Both the Sinai and the Abraham covenant were sealed with blood. Moses the blood in the bowls on the people to signify the sealing of the covenant and Abraham also used blood to seal his covenant with God.

Difference

The Sinai covenant was made between God and a multitude, the is Israelites while in the Abrahamic covenant, there was God and a person, Abraham.

The Sinai covenant was mediated by Moses but Abraham talked directly with God during his covenant with him.

The Sinai covenant involved giving the laws, which required the obedience of the people but the Abraham covenant required faith

The Sinai covenant involved purification before it was made but in the Abraham covenant, God accepted Abraham with his sinfulness.

In the Sinai covenant, there were conditions for ht Israelites to fulfill in order to maintain the relationship established while the Abraham covenant was free from any conditions

The Sinai covenant was made with the already circumcised people but in the Abrahamic covenant, circumcision came as physical sign of it.

In the Sinai covenant, the Israelites were in a journey to the Promised Land but Abraham movement came after his covenant with God.

The Sinai covenant was completed after a number of days before being sealed but Abraham sealed his covenant with God in one day.

The Sinai covenant involved the change of heart but Abraham changed his name and that of his wife after his covenant with. His name changed from Abram and his wife became known as Sarah from Sarai.

The two covenants took place in different geographical places .Israelites were at the foot of Mount Sinai in the land of Moab while Abraham was in Ur.

In the Sinai covenant, God revelation was violent that it made the people to tremble. There were lightning and thunder but God revealed himself of Abraham in a calm and quiet way.

The Sinai covenant was a fulfillment of God's salvation plans for humanity while God's covenant with Abraham was the beginning of His salvation plan to mankind following the fall of man in Genesis chapter 3.

THE ROLE OF MOSES IN THE EXODUS EVENTS

Moses left the Midian land and returned to Egypt as God commanded him to rescue the people of Israel from Slavery.

Moses helped to liberate the people of Israel from their Egyptian slavery. It was him who placed before the Egyptian the request about the release of the Israelites and this later marked the end of their suffering.

Moses was guided and led the Israelites into the Passover celebrations. He gave instructions from God to the people of Israelites on how to celebrate the Passover.

Moses recruited the Israelites into army especially when they were in the land of Moab. This secured their passages to the Promised Land as they defeated their enemies.

He also led the people of Israel in fighting their enemies as they were in the wilderness.

Moses acted as a judge by setting disputes among the people of Israel. This was important in maintaining harmony (Exodus 18:13ff).

Moses also appointed judges to help him in the administration of justice among the Israelites (Exodus 18:24-26)

Moses provided for the people of Israel when they were in the wilderness. God responded to his prayer and gave the people food in form of manna and quails (Exodus 16:1ff).

Moses mediated the covenant between God and the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai. He guided the people upon receiving instructions from God on how they had to prepare themselves for the covenant.

Moses helped the people of Israel to purify them. Before the Sinai covenant, he commanded people to wash their clothes before meeting God the following day.

Moses offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the people of Israel particularly during the Sinai covenant.

Moses received the Ten Commandments on behalf of the people of Israel. These commands helped to safeguard the relationship with God and among themselves.

Moses wrote down all the laws God had given to the people of Israel through him and kept them safely in a box specially made for it (Exodus 24:4).

Moses called the Israelites back to monotheism by destroying the golden calf they had made and worshipped while at the foot of Mount Sinai (32:1ff).

Moses interceded on behalf of the people of Israel when God wanted them punished for having made and worshipped the golden calf.

Moses prayed to God on several occasions on behalf of the Israelites like when they wanted to have food upon reaching the wilderness.

He performed a number of miracles for the benefit of the Israelites. For example, he struck a rock and water came out of it.

Moses ordained Aaron and his sons as priests among the Israelites. This helped to cater for the religious life of the people (Leviticus 8:1ff).

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXODUS EVENTS TO THE JEWS

Israel became a theocratic nation as God gave the people His commands which they were obliged to obey. Besides, He constantly guided Israel from then on.

It fulfilled the promises that God had made to Israel's ancestor, Abraham that his descendants would be slaves in a strange land but He would set them free.

Israel became monotheistic community. They started worshipping only God as a requirement for maintaining their covenant with Him.

The Israelites came to realize that they were the divinely elected people of God as He constantly referred to them as His own people.

Though it, the Israelites were able to repossess the land promised to them through their ancestor, Abraham.

It initiated new cultures, special days and feasts among the people of Israel. The cultures of circumcision and celebration of the Passover among others started during this period.

The Israelites made covenants with God during their movement to the Promised Land. This gave meaning to the later covenant between God and Israel like that at Shechem (Joshua 24:1ff).

The event revealed God's character to the people of Israel. They came to realize that He was a God of justice and a jealous among others.

The event marked the beginning of Israel's religious festivals and rituals like the offering of sacrifices to God and the celebrations of unleavened bread.

The Israelites came to realize God's miraculous power which He showed through Moses for their benefit.

The Exodus events became the basis of teaching in the later history of Israel for they were constantly reminded of such events as the Passover and the Sinai covenant.

It showed the Israelites the dangers of rebellion against God who promised to punish them in case of acts of disobedience.

The Israelites received a code of conduct from God during the exodus event. They were given the Ten Commandments which became a measure of safe guarding their relationship with God and among themselves.

It created unity among the people of Israel as they came to realize they were the chosen people of God.

The Exodus event proved the omnipotence of God. The people saw how He destroyed the Egyptians during their liberation.

Besides, the Israelites came to realize the omnipresence of God who was ever with them beginning from the Passover feasts throughout the wilderness.

It marked the beginning of God's provision to the Israelites who gave them food and water during their journey to the Promised Land.

The event confirmed the Israelites as the first born sons of God as revealed to Moses. This was also symbolized by the offering of first born male lambs during the Passover.

It proved the holiness of God to the Israelites. During the Passover, the Israelites offered animals without defects to signify His holiness and they purified themselves before meeting at the foot of Mount Sinai.

It marked the beginning of the prophetic age in Israel which started with Moses and lasted throughout their history.

The exodus event marked the beginning of God's divine revelation to the people of Israel. He appeared in many forms including thunder, fire and cloud among others.

The event proved God as being a historical God for He identified himself to the Israelites as being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It confirmed God's love for the people of Israel. Because of His love, He rescued them from their slavery in Egypt, protected them and went on to promise to show His love for thousands of generation.

THE RELEVANCE OF THE EXODUS EVENTS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

- Christians should worship God only
- Christians should fulfill their promises
- Christians should approach God with holiness
- Christians should be ready to meet God anywhere
- Christians should pray to God
- Christians should be united
- Christians should seek protection from God
- Christians should promote justice
- Christians should enter into a personal relationship with God
- Christians should respect the laws governing the society
- Christians should repent of their sins
- Christians should help the oppressed people
- Christians should serve as examples in the community
- Christians should seek blessings from God

END OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS: 2020