

- I. Setting, verses 1-2 (see Exodus 3:12)
- II. Moses' first ascent, verses 3-8
 - A. Purpose: to give Israel an important message
 - B. "You have seen what I did ... If you will keep my covenant, you will be ... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"
- III. Preparation for God's presence, verses 9-15
 - A. God is going to appear in might – a "theophany"
 - B. Purpose: so that the people will believe and accept Moses
 - C. Preparations (see 1 Samuel 21:4)
 - D. Temple-mountain and priestly people
- IV. God's visible presence, verses 16-19
 - A. On the third day, the people draw near to the mountain to meet with God (v. 17)
 - B. God arrives in power
 - C. Moses speaks, and God responds in thunder
 - D. The people's reaction: trembling in fear (v. 16)
- V. Moses' second ascent, verses 20-25
- VI. The people's fear, 20:18-20 (probably records what happens *before* the Ten Commandments)
 - A. The people are terrified, and dare not come near
 - B. The people cry out for Moses to speak on God's behalf
 - C. God's purpose in the theophany: to cause you to fear him
 - D. Moses makes his third ascent (20:21)
- VII. Why did God reveal himself in this way?
 - A. To cause the people to listen to his appointed messenger (19:9).
 - B. In the face of their repeated unbelief God manifests his power.
 - C. The kingdom of priests needs a priest.
- VIII. Is God loving or holy?
 - A. The presence of God is a terror to people who are not as holy as he is.
 - B. The presence of God is deadly to people who are not as holy as he is.
 - C. There seems to be a conflict between God's righteousness and his love.
 - D. There seems to be a conflict in whether God's people can approach him.
 - E. There seems to be a conflict between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- IX. The Royal Priest
 - A. We approach God through Jesus Christ.
 - B. Why this is important: you will tend to pick one or the other.
 - C. "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9 with Exodus 19:5-6; Zechariah 6:13; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 12:18-29)