

Oct 08, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Our salvation is secure because God does the holding

**HYMN FOR THE WEEK:**

He will never fail us, He will not forsake; His eternal covenant He will never break. Onward then, and fear not, children of the day; For His Word shall never, never pass away. —Havergal

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces*  
(Gen 15:17 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 9, 2014)

**Series: Covenants with God**

**UNIT: Called into Covenant with God**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Obeying God's Law**  
(Exodus 20:18-26)

## God's Covenant with Israel Exodus 19:16-25

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews the events preceding the giving of the Ten Commandments and the eventual creation of **God's Covenant with Israel**. The study's aim is to sense the solemnness and fearfulness of God's covenant with Israel. The study's application is to have a proper sense of fear and respect in our relationship with God.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Despite its seemingly modest content, this text is very significant. God called Abram into a covenant relationship with Himself. This was later extended to the other patriarchs of the faith, Isaac and Jacob. And in this important passage, the covenant was shown to include the whole nation. After the passing of the patriarchal era, Israel grew to become a nation even while enduring slavery in Egypt. God delivered them from bondage, and they made their exodus. At the "nether part of the mount" (that is, Mount Sinai), the nation met with God, and the Mosaic covenant was instituted between Him and them. They became the inheritors of God's great messianic promise. Through them salvation would come to the world. What a privilege to be included in this great covenantal plan and promise! There are two things we should notice about this extension of the covenant to Israel. First, it was a holy transaction. As the people were led by Moses into the vicinity of the mount, there was great stress laid upon what a holy moment it was. All sorts of phenomena broke out that conveyed the awesome presence of God. There was a thick cloud, as if to obscure the unseeable God (Exod. 19:9); there was a demand for the washing of clothes and for cleanliness (vs. 10); there was instruction that the people not come closer (vs. 12); and there came thunder and lightning, fire and smoke (vss. 16,18), as well as the sounding of the trumpet (vss. 16, 19). The whole mountain "quaked greatly" (vs. 18). What an experience! By all this God was saying to His people, "It is a holy thing when you come to know Me. I must be approached with reverence, humility, and care." This teaches us that when we are redeemed, we have entered into a relationship with a holy God. Our lives become holy to the Lord, set apart to Him. A covenant with God is a holy thing because God is holy. Everything changes when we are in a relationship with Him. Are we living holy lives? The second thing we should notice about God's covenant with Israel is that it is a blessed thing. We might be tempted to think it is a heavy burden to be called into a covenant with God. We are going to have all kinds of responsibilities; we have expectations placed upon us. However, these concerns pale in comparison to the privilege it is to belong to God and to inherit all His precious promises. Today, being part of God's new covenant not only grants us redemption in Christ; it also unites believers together as part of His "royal priesthood" and "holy nation" (1 Pet. 2:9). Those who enter a covenant with God are a treasure unto God. There is great joy in realizing that through His covenant-keeping love, God has made us His special people, saving and securing us for all eternity for Himself. The Apostle Peter was filled with the glory of this truth as he wrote to the early Christians and used the same kind of language. What a blessing to inherit all the precious promises of God, sealed by a faithful, covenant-keeping God.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **The Power of God in His Covenant (Exodus 19:16-19)**

#### *Power in His coming (16-17)*

Power in His coming causes fear in people (Jer 5:22)

Power in His coming causes trembling in people (Heb 12:21)

Power in His coming causes God to warn people (Exod 19:10-12)

Power in His coming because of holy ground (Exod 19:23)

Power in His coming could cause death for people (Josh 3:2-5)

#### *Power in His presence (18-19)*

Power in His presence because He is high and exalted (Isa 6:1-5)

Power in His presence because His presence is holy (1 Kings 8:10-11)

Power in His presence because of the radiance of His glory (Ezek 10:1-4)

Power in His presence because His throne has power like a flaming fire (Dan 7:9)

### **The Holiness of God in His Covenant (Exodus 19:20-25)**

#### *Holiness related to His call (20-21)*

Holiness because it is a call to life (Deut 30:15)

Holiness because it is a call to service (Josh 24:15)

Holiness because it is a call to follow (1 Kings 18:21)

Holiness because it is a call that if rejected will bring disaster and calamity (Prov 1:22-26)

Holiness because it is a call that when heard, the heart must not be hardened (Heb 4:7)

#### *Holiness related to His leaders (22-23)*

Holiness because leaders sometimes almost die for the work of Christ (Phil 2:29-30)

Holiness because leaders must give an account of their watch-care (Heb 13:17)

Holiness because leaders carry on the work of Jesus (1 Cor 16:10)

Holiness because leaders risk their life for the name of Jesus (Acts 15:25-26)

Holiness because leaders should be above reproach (1 Tim 3:2)

Holiness because leaders should be morally tested (1 Tim 3:10)

#### *Holiness related to His people (24-25)*

Holiness in His people because Jesus will bring them to God (1 Thess 3:13)

Holiness in His people because God called His saints to be holy (Eph 1:3-4)

Holiness in His people because the firstborn is holy, then all His people are holy (Rom 11:16)

Holiness in His people because Jesus was sacrificed for His Church (Eph 5:25-27)

Holiness in His people because Jesus reconciled His people (Col 1:22)