



# TREASURED POSSESSION

EXODUS 19:1-25



Written by

**ALISHA BALLENGER**

Director of Elementary Ministry

**"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all people for all the earth is mine." Exodus 19: 5**

I would consider myself a pretty nostalgic person, especially when it comes to the holidays. There are always a few items that I put out for decoration that hold a special memory for me. Usually, it's an ornament that commemorates a special time in the life of my children.

Memories with my loved ones are the things I treasure the most and being with those people brings me the most delight. In this portion of scripture, we see the emphasis that God places on His relationship with His people. He wants His people to be His treasured possessions.

The people of Israel have just been brought out of slavery from Egypt and are in the process of going to the land God has promised them. God has done many signs and wonders at this point including the parting of the Red Sea. Then God calls Moses to meet Him on Mount Sinai to give Him directions on how the people can come to meet with God.

God gives a beautiful description of what He wants His covenant relationship with His people to look like. His covenant includes what He has done in the past, what He wants

to do in the present and what He hopes for in the future. First, in the past, God says, "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." God delivered them. Then God says, "if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant you shall be my treasured possession." God wants to be in a covenant relationship with His people. His stipulation is that the people join him in a trusting relationship that includes listening and obeying. Then for the future God says, "you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

The story then turns sad as the people are called to come to the mountain and join in a relationship with God, but they choose not to. They ask Moses to just be a mediator between them and God. A few chapters later, they really betray God by building a golden calf to worship. The good news is that God doesn't abandon his pursuit. Much like a person who has misplaced a treasured possession and searches for a long time until it is found, that is what God continues to do.

A greater Mediator than Moses comes in the person of Jesus. We have a similar covenant promise of past, present and future. Jesus came and died for our sins so we could have a relationship with God. We all presently have a choice about whether or not we will trust and obey. Our future promise is that we too can be priests who live our lives in the world in such a way that we draw others to Christ. We can also look forward to the promise of a new heavens and new earth with an ongoing relationship with God forever. We too are God's treasured possession.

**God, You have always longed for a relationship with Your people. Forgive us for the times when we choose to turn away and not fully trust You. We trust Your Promise of past - You saved us through Jesus, present - we can have a relationship with You, and future that You will use us as priests in the world drawing others to You. Thank you for considering me your treasured possession. Amen.**