



GOD GIVES LAW TO MOSES

EXODUS 24:1-18



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"Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel...they beheld God, and ate and drank." Exodus 24: 9-11

My wife, Deanna, and I watched a show recently involving a wedding. As the bridesmaids commented on the wedding dress, I remarked to Deanna how similar the length was to her wedding dress. She looked at me and asked, "What are you talking about? It was way different!" What ensued was an animated discussion regarding the length of her dress. Apparently, I could not recall a single accurate detail of her dress. I told her it's not my fault. She has piercing green eyes and a beautiful smile and I was captivated by her radiance. So yes, fine, I don't remember the length of her dress because everything paled in comparison to her beauty. And although she rolled her eyes, I do believe I won that argument, er, discussion (read: she won). The point is, nothing else mattered when I saw my bride. Her glory and beauty captivated me. That is all I cared about.

In our passage, we read that Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy Israelite elders see God himself! What an event! Earlier, in Exodus 19-23, God comes to Israel in dark, billowing clouds with peals of thunder and flashes of lightning. He gives them the law on Mount Sinai, explicitly stating that none shall come near His holy mountain. But here, a mere few chapters later, God is inviting Moses and his entourage to come worship him.

Before they go up, they confirm their covenant with God. A covenant is where two parties enter into a relationship where each side makes promises to the other. God promises to bring them safely into the Promised Land, to protect and fight for them and bless them. Israel promises to obey the

law and worship God alone. Then Moses takes blood from a sacrifice and sprinkles it on the people, expressing that if they don't keep their end of the covenant, they must pay for it with their life.

Then we get to verses 9-11. Moses and the elders "saw the God of Israel... they beheld God and ate and drank"! I know I'm a pastor, but I have no idea what this was like. Was God in physical form? Was the food Chick-fil-a or Brown Bag? No idea. But I bet the elders wouldn't be able to tell you either, because they were simply captivated by the glory and beauty of God.

What would it be like to be captivated by God this Advent season? The blood of this covenant points us to Jesus who tells us that his sacrifice on the cross is the blood of a "new covenant". Rather than making us pay for our sins with our life, God spills his own blood. This is grace. And this is the only way for us to see God face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Take a moment today to soak up the glorious presence of a loved one. Behold them and marvel. And know that one day, we will experience this with God himself!

Father, we long for the day when we set aside our mortal bodies and dwell in Your Presence in immortal glory. Thank you for Your Son's spilt blood on our behalf. And Spirit, help us to persevere, that we might see You face to face. Amen