

Lesson 15b: Married in the Wilderness

Key Search Words - Egypt, Israel, bondage, redeem, wilderness, cloud, sea, mountain, Husband

In Egypt, after the death of Joseph, the children of Israel became slaves to the Egyptians. The new king forced them into hard bondage in order to keep them in submission to him. They were oppressed and were filled with sorrow and pain, so they cried out to God to deliver them from their captivity. God heard their cries and felt compassion for them. That is when God called Moses to lead them out of Egypt and into the wilderness where He would redeem them and take them as His own people.

Exo 3:7 (KJV)

Exo 3:10 (KJV)

Exo 6:6-7 (KJV)

Exo 5:1 (KJV)

God sent ten plagues on Egypt before Pharaoh finally let them go. Moses lead the children of Israel out of Egypt by the presence of God in a cloud, and into the wilderness by God's Power through the parting of the Red Sea.

Exo 13:21-22 (MSG)

1Co 10:1 (ISV)

Exo 14:16 (MSG)

Exo 19:1-2 (LITV)

Deu 4:37 (LITV)

At the mountain in the wilderness, God made a union by covenant between Himself and the children of Israel. Exodus chapters 19 and 24 explain how Moses recited to the children of Israel the words that God had given to Him, which he had written in the Book of the Covenant (Ten Commandments and the Law). Then the children of Israel agreed to accept God's Covenant. God had vowed to love, treasure, protect, heal, and provide for them (Groom says "I do" – see Exo 19:5-6, Deu 7:6-24). United together, the children of Israel vowed to love, honor, and obey God and His Word (Bride says "I do" – see Exo 24:3, Exo 19:7). So, here is the bride vowing to love, honor, and obey, and here is the Groom vowing to cherish, protect, and provide for His bride.

Then the covenant was sealed with a sacrifice of blood at the mountain of God (Exo 24:8). **The children of Israel became a "wife" and God Himself became their "Husband"**. It was a formal and legally binding commitment, just like a legal marriage. God did this in order to preserve a people for Himself in this sinful world.

Isa 54:5 (LITV)