

Purpose

- To learn more about Moses
- To learn the Ten Commandments

Background Information

MOSES

Once the Israelites survived the Red Sea they expected to have an easy time on their journey. This was not true. The people constantly complained about their conditions and were always challenging Moses and wanted him to prove that God was with them. Even though the Israelites complained God continued to provide bread and water for them each day.

They crossed the wilderness to the place where God had spoken with Moses at the burning bush. This time the whole mountain was on fire, covered with smoke and clouds. The people became so afraid that they begged Moses to go up and talk with God. Moses went up on the mountain to talk to God. God came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. God called Moses and Aaron to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Moses came down from the mountain with two things. First, God gave Moses the Law. These were the “rules” under which God’s people were to live. God’s Law was summarized in the principles called the Ten Commandments. They introduced a more detailed code of law in Exodus 20-24. The Law is expanded further in the next book of the Bible, Leviticus.

People who lived in the Old Testament era were not made right before God by keeping the Law. God provides for us what we do not deserve and can never earn. The people of the Old Testament received forgiveness and new life when they believed God’s promise. They kept the Law as an act of love and devotion to God, who had delivered them from sin’s bondage.

God entered into an agreement with Israel at Mount Sinai. The covenant, or treaty, was that God would be their God and they would be his people. When Moses read the Book of the Covenant to the people of

Israel, they said “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey. The foundation for the rest of the Old Testament was established in this treaty.

THE TABERNACLE

The second thing Moses received from God was a set of detailed instructions for building the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting. The tabernacle was the place where God and his people would meet. The tabernacle did not contain God, but the tabernacle was a visible reminder to Israel of God’s presence and protection. This was to be the center of Israel’s worship to God. The tabernacle was a portable tent surrounded by a curtained courtyard and filled with certain articles of furniture. The outer courtyard was where animal sacrifices were made. The sacrifice of an animal was a substitute for the sinning person. Various parts of the animal were then burned and the blood was sprinkled on the corners of the altar. The other pieces of furniture were large basins where the priests washed their hands.

Only one member of the priestly family could enter the inner room of the Tabernacle. This room was called the Most Holy Place. Once a year, on a special day of repentance, the high priest took a bowl of blood and went behind the heavy curtain that separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place. One piece of furniture stood in the center of this room – a chest called the ark of the covenant or ark of the Testimony. Inside the box were stone tables inscribed with God’s Law.

Procedure

- Study 8-1, 8-2, 8-3 but bring to class
- 8-4, 8-5, and 8-6 can be done for fun.