

Climbing Mount Sinai - From Proposition to Preparation /Obfuscation

Outline for Torah in Motion class # 2/ by Menachem Leibtag -

Review of class #1 -

From redemption to Proposition

The goal of leaving Egypt - to become a nation

Nation not ready to enter a commitment

Seven weeks of 'activities' to motivate the nation

[process, leading to Mt. Sinai

At Mt. Sinai, in prep for Matan Torah - formal proposition

"look what I did for you...."

& now, - what you can do for Me

Matan Torah - a 'gift' or an 'obligation'

II. Review the Proposition and its two sides

A. What is the "brit"

B What is the "mamlechet kohanim" ...

. The covenant at Mt. Sinai & the Biblical concept of "kedusha" (Shmot 19:5-6)

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| <p>5 Now therefore, if you will hearken unto My voice, and keep My covenant, [then] you shall be My treasure from among all the nations; for: [because/even though] all the earth is Mine; 6 [thus] you shall be for a priestly kingdom - and a holy nation. <i>These are the words which you shall speak</i></p> | <p>ה. וְעַתָּה, אִם-שָׁמַעַתְּ תִשְׁמָעוּ בְּקוֹלִי, וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי-- וְהִיִּיתֶם לִי סֻגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָּל-הָאָרֶץ. וּ וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי - מְמַלְכֶת כְּהֹנִים, וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ: אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר....</p> |
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... followed by the 'Ten Commandments' in Shmot chapter 20

... and defined 'how' to become "kadosh" in Vayikra chapter 19

C. Kedusha in three realms - time; space; & people

- in the realm of time (Shabbat) - Breishit 2:3

ג וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיְקַדְּשׁ אֹתוֹ: כִּי בּו שְׁבַת...

- in the realm of space (burning bush) - Shmot 3:5

שֶׁל-נִעְלָיָה, מִעַל רִגְלֵיךָ--כִּי הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אֲתָה עוֹמֵד עָלָיו, אֲדַמָּת-קֹדֶשׁ הוּא .

- in the realm of people (first born/ after Exodus) - Shmot 13:2

ב קֹדֶשׁ-לִי כָל-בְּכוֹר פֶּטֶר כָּל-רֶחֶם, בְּבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Concept of 'separate'; or 'separated' (for a purpose)

III. What should happen next -

A. Ratification 19:7-8

B. HOW to accomplish that goal

The need for a 'contract'

& instructions for how to become that nation

IV. Study of 19:9-19

How will God speak to His people?

Concept of 'obfuscation'

V. Parallel sources in Sefer Devarim chapter 5