

# Intimacy

By Steve Pruitt

*And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.*

Exodus 19:3-4 NJKV

God brought Israel out of the bondage of Egypt, delivered them from the armies of Egypt at the Red Sea and later took his people into the Promised Land. However, before he brought them to the borders of Canaan he led them to Sinai.

The Lord instructed Moses to have Israel wash their clothes because on the third day he would descend on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Moses obeyed all the words of the Lord and on the third day led Israel out of the camp to meet with God.

Many of us have in our memory bank the movie "The Ten Commandments" starring Charlton Heston. In the movie when God gave Moses the commandments a huge fireball burned the words on a large stone while this booming voice sited the commandment that was being written. However, in the biblical account, the first time the commandments were recited was in the hearing of all the children of Israel. All of Israel had the opportunity for God to speak to them personally and witness his glory.

Moses recalls the scene forty years later. *Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.* (Deuteronomy 4:11-13)

As the children of Israel drew near the mountain and heard the voice and saw the glory of God they became afraid. The bible says, "They stood afar off" (Exodus 19:18). Moses encouraged them not to be afraid and said that God was testing them so that they would fear him and not sin. Israel's response to Moses was, "You go hear what God has to say and come tell us; all that the Lord says we will do. But don't let God talk to us or we will die."

Their response must have broken the heart of God. His greatest desire for Israel was not to take them into Canaan. It was to bring Israel to himself. He wanted to speak with all of Israel face to face. God's desire was to have an intimate relationship with his people.

Has sin tarnished your relationship with God? Do you stand "afar off" from God? Would you rather someone else approach God for you? Ask the Father to remove anything in your life that would keep you from having an intimate relationship with him.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Scriptures for meditation:**

- Ephesians 2:13
- Hebrews 10:22
- James 4:8