

## Who Is This God We Serve?

### Introduction

Introduction— from the beginning of time, man has had an inherent sense that there is someone beyond himself who is greater than he is.

- Almost every civilization has worshipped some kind of god as their source of provision and protection
- Philosophers have said that if there is not really a god, man would invent one because he needs to have one
- Is our need to have a god so deep that we will create one for ourselves? As Christians who worship God, how do we know that the god we worship is the real one and what is He like?
- How can we know and what can we know about a god who is invisible to us?
- The answer for us is the foundation for our relationship with God and of our faith of Who we think He is and what we think He is like determines how we relate to Him or How real He is and involved with us we believe is crucial to understand
- These are what we are going to explore over next few weeks

If there is a real god and he is invisible to us, it is clear that the only way we can know him is if he reveals himself to us. And we can only know about him what he wants us to know.

Exodus 19 – God reveals Himself to Israel

### Background

- Generations before, God had chosen a man, Abram, to form out of him a people for His own purposes
- God had prospered them and increased them through his sons, Isaac then Jacob
- 300 years later God brought Jacob and his family of 70 to Egypt to escape a famine
- After another 400 years they had grown into a nation of many thousands and had become slaves to the Egyptians
- God raised up a deliverer, Moses, in answer to the cry of the people for freedom
- In Ex 19, God has just delivered His people from Egypt by mighty miracles and had destroyed Egypt's army before their eyes • 3 months after their deliverance, God wants to meet with His people

**Ex 19:1-6** God tells Moses what He wants His people to know & what He wants to do for them He has brought them out to belong to Him. They are a special treasure to Him above all other people. They are a holy nation –set apart to be like Him.

Condition – they obey words **Ex 19:7-9** Moses reports God's words to the people

The people's response is a promise to keep God's words. God's answer is that He will come down on the mountain and show Himself to them.

**Ex 19:10-15** God's instructions for preparing them to meet with their God

**Ex 19:16-20** God shows Himself to His people

**Ex 20:1-17** is what God spoke to Moses for the – 10 Commandments

**Ex 20:18-21** the people's response to seeing God's presence. They became afraid and turned away from God – like Adam & Eve after they sinned. They chose to have Moses act as their mediator with God **Vs 20** God's purpose was to "test" = to train by teaching them to fear Him Note there are two different "fears" mentioned in this verse **Vs 21** Moses draws near to God the people pull away.

Understanding

God's people had lived for 430 years in a nation that worshipped thousands of gods.

God has formed this nation to belong to Him and look only to Him – be holy God came to reveal Himself in His power so they might know. As opposed to the Egyptians gods, He is real. Whereas the Egyptian gods were idols made by man's hands and skill, the real God could not be controlled by man God was teaching them to reverence Him. This was the first and most basic thing God wanted them to know about Him

**Ex 20:1-2** the first commandment is the foundation for everything in our relationship with God