

Moses' Trips Up and Down Mount Sinai

Exodus 19—24 and 32—34

UP		DOWN
There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while <u>Moses went up to God. (19:3)</u>	1	So <u>Moses came and called the elders</u> of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. (19:7)
<i>God tells Moses to tell people: if you obey, you'll be a kingdom of priests</i>		<i>The people say, we will do it!</i>
And <u>Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. (19:8)</u>	2	So <u>Moses went down from the mountain</u> to the people and consecrated the people ... ¹⁵ And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day" (19:14)
<i>God tells Moses to tell the people to get ready for Him to come down on Sinai: set limits, etc. Because when God comes down to the mountain, the people are to come up.</i>		<i>On the third day, there is thunder, lightning, and trumpet blast, and the people tremble</i>
The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and <u>Moses went up. (19:20)</u>	3	So <u>Moses went down</u> to the people and told them. (19:25)
<i>God tells Moses to tell the people: beware, do not 'break through' and perish</i>		<i>Perhaps this is when God speaks the ten commandments in the hearing of all the people</i>
The people stood far off, while <u>Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. (20:21)</u>	4	<u>Moses came and told the people</u> all the words of the LORD and all the rules. (24:3)
<i>Moses receives the 42 laws we call the Book of the Covenant</i>		<i>Again, the people say, we will do it! And Moses sprinkles the blood of the covenant on the people.</i>
The LORD said to Moses, " <u>Come up to me on the mountain</u> and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone" (24:12)	5	Then <u>Moses turned and went down from the mountain</u> with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand (32:15)
<i>Moses will be on Sinai for 40 days, during which time God will give him the tabernacle instructions. Presumably on day 40, God tells Moses about the people's idolatry at the base of Sinai and Moses intercedes for them.</i>		<i>Moses destroys both the tablets and the golden calf. Faithful Levites respond to Moses' call to execute the idolaters. Three thousand die.</i>
³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." ³¹ So <u>Moses returned to the LORD (32:31)</u>	6	When <u>the people heard this disastrous word</u> , they mourned (33:4)
<i>Moses asks for Yahweh to forgive their sin, or to blot him out. Yahweh promises to send an angel, but says that He Himself will not go with them.</i>		<i>Moses intercedes (from the tent of meeting?) pleading for God's presence to go with them and Yahweh agrees to accompany Israel.</i>
So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and <u>went up on Mount Sinai (34:4)</u>	7	When <u>Moses came down from Mount Sinai</u> , with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand ... the skin of his face shone (34:29)
<i>Yahweh displays His glory to Moses, proclaims His character, and renews the covenant.</i>		<i>Collection for and construction of the tabernacle commences.</i>