

**Additional notes for teachers:**

Many of the notes comprise deeper matters which have arisen in the course of preparation of the Students Notes. Other material has been appended for the purpose of providing background, explanations or interesting detail.

**Lesson 23 ISRAEL AT MT SINAI****1. MOSES' EIGHT ASCENTS OF MT. SINAI**

Six ascents of Mt. Sinai by Moses are described by Bro. H. Tennant in chapter 4 of "Moses, My Servant". The seventh and eighth ascents, when Moses received the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone the second time, are described in chapter 5, p.90.

**2. "IF SO MUCH AS A BEAST TOUCH THE MOUNTAIN" - Hebrews 12:20**

If even an animal strayed onto the mountain it must be stoned or thrust through with a dart (small throwing spear or arrow) i.e. killed from a distance so that executioner did not trespass on the mountain. (Heb. 12:20).

**3. THE "SHEMA"**

The "Shema" (Deut. 6:4) acknowledged by Jesus as the 1<sup>st</sup> and great commandment, still forms the central basis of Jewish Liturgy to the present day. Twice daily in the synagogue, the Shema is recited with related scriptures and elaborations:- "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might".

**4. THE SABBATH OF THE LORD" - EXODUS 20:10**

God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, not for refreshment, but to allow man to have fellowship with Him. So it was "made for man". So Israel should remember this and in their remembrance of creation, reflect on the purpose of the Sabbath and use it to that end. (Isa. 56:2,4,6).

**5. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL**

The Law was "holy, just and good". Those who faithfully kept its provisions would find life through Christ to whom it pointed. So Abraham - John 8:56; Gal. 3:8; David - Acts 2:31; also "these all" Heb. 4:2; 11:35, 39-40.

Thus inherent in the Law and Promises was the Hope of the Gospel. The Law revealed man as a sinner in need of the Grace of God (Gal. 3:19). By its own inadequacy it showed the necessity for Christ (Heb. 10:8-10) and would therefore lead forward in faith to the Lamb of God and Redemption from all transgressions (Acts 13:39; Heb. 9:15).

## TEACHING METHODS

1. Recall the commissioning of Moses at the burning bush and describe the nature and reasons for the preparations for this momentous occasion of receiving the covenant.
2. Contemplate the majesty of God descended to the Mount, the fear of the people, the mediatorship of Moses.
3. Encourage discussion on the principles and effects of the ten commandments on us today.
4. Explain the purpose of a covenant – Law and the “accountability” of covenant – people to God.