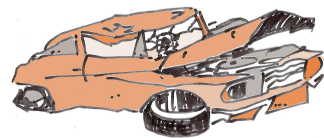
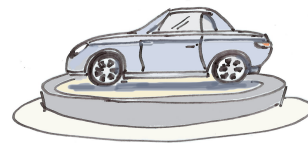


### *Three categories of possessions*

- What is something that...
  - is so precious we hardly use it?
  - only matters as long as it works?  
*That is, we use it up, then we recycle it or throw it out*
  - is both very precious and well used?
- How does God view His people?
  - How do you view yourself?
  - How do we view others in the church?

## Highly Valued and Well Used Exodus 19

Chinese: page 123  
Spanish: page 96  
Brown: page 74  
Blue: page 52



### **The Torah / Pentateuch:**

Forming the identity of a new nation

**Genesis:** Patriarchs and the beginning of God's work in humanity

**Exodus:** Exiting slavery/becoming a nation

**Leviticus:** (Levites) Being holy

**Numbers:** The faithless generation

**Deuteronomy:** 2<sup>nd</sup> start / a new generation

## Crossway Membership Series

- **Who we are** as a church
  - Core values
  - Central theology
- **How we live together** as a church
  - Vision and purpose
  - Key practices

*Looking at the formation of the people of Israel...*

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

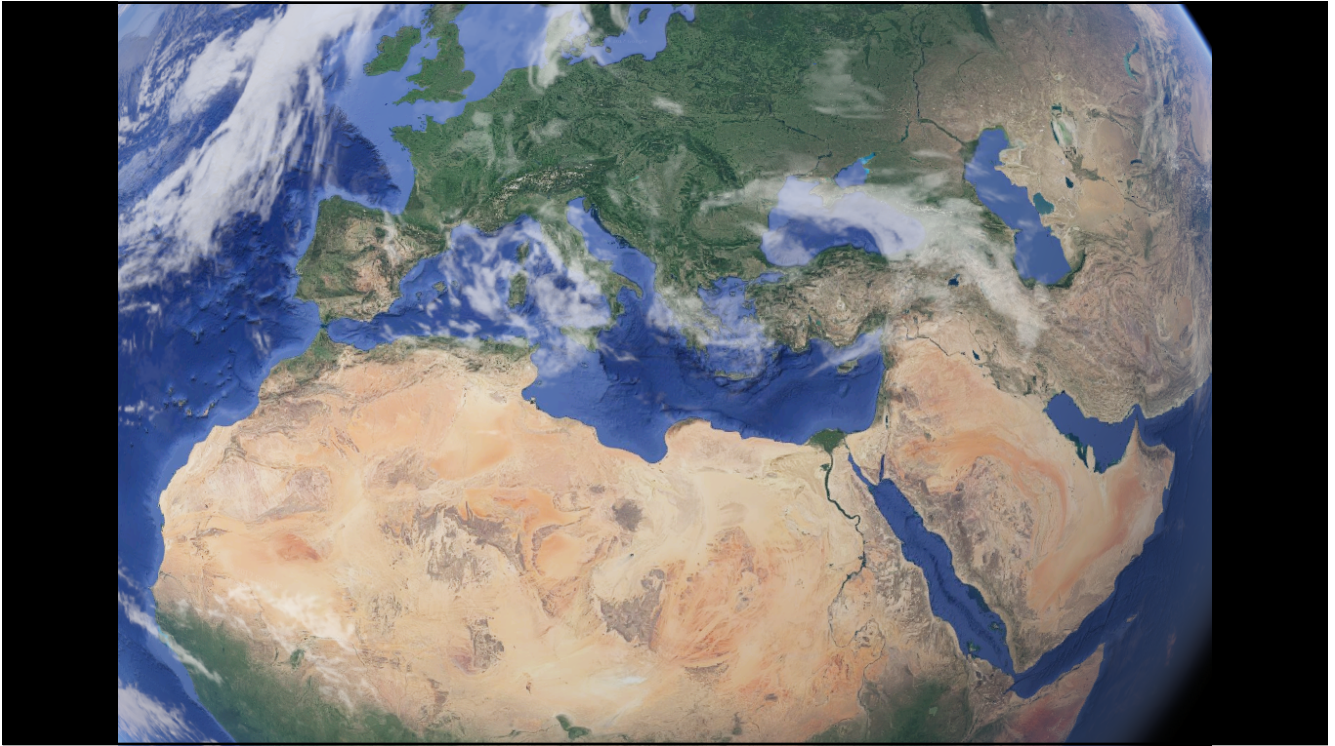
“I will make you into **a great nation,**  
and **I will bless you;**

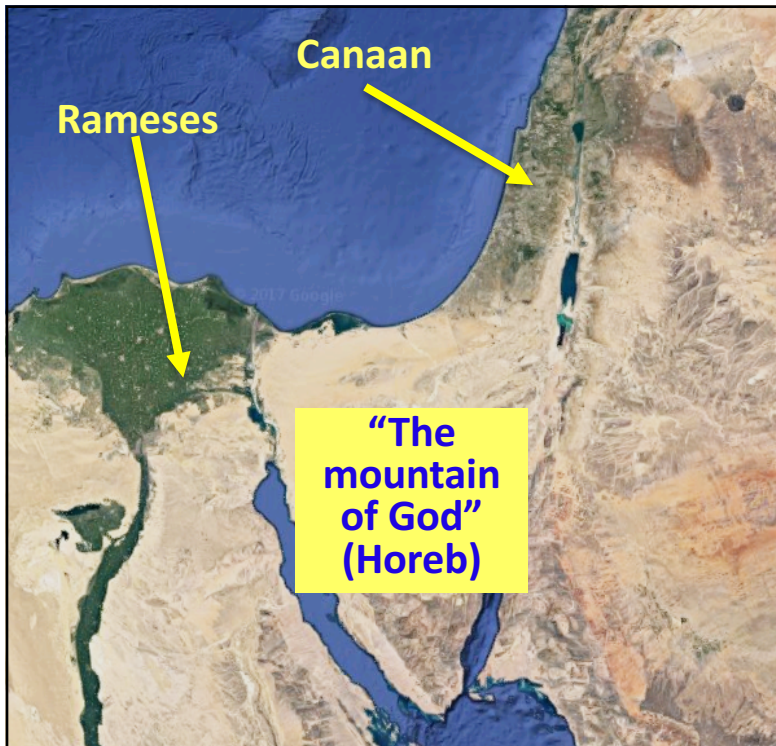
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;

**and all peoples on earth**  
**will be blessed through you.”**

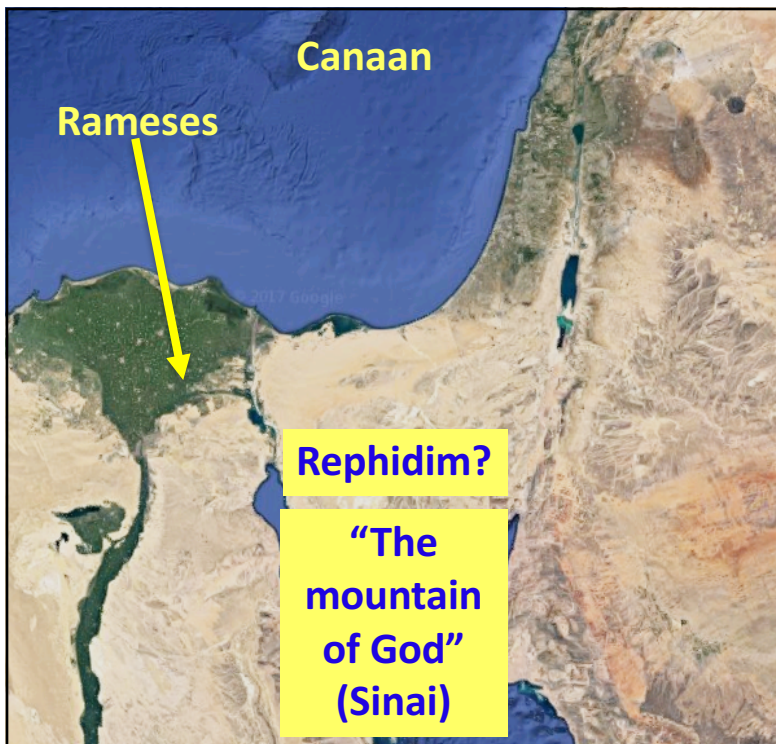
*Genesis 12:1-3*





### **Moses** (Exodus 3, 4)

- God's sign for Moses: "When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."
- Where Moses and his brother Aaron met to prepare to go to Egypt



### **Rephidim** (Exodus 17)

- People argued with Moses and accused him of bad planning in leaving Egypt
- God rescued the people from those who went to war against them
- Then they came to "the mountain of God"

### *Exodus 19*

1-2: Moses and the people arrive at the mountain of God

3-6:

7-8:

9-15:

16-25:

Chinese: page 123  
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### *Exodus 19*

1-2: Moses and the people arrive at the mountain of God

3-6: God's words to the people (through Moses):

Rescued by God, with a purpose

- Treasured possession: freed and adopted
- Kingdom of priests: going between God & people
- Holy nation

7-8:

9-15:

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### *Exodus 19*

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Rescued by God, with a purpose

- Treasured possession: freed and adopted
- Kingdom of priests: going between God & people
- Holy nation

7-8: People agree with God's covenant (through Moses)

9-15: Preparation for God's appearance

- Holiness of God

16-25: God appears and speaks

- Moses meets God on the mountain

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my **treasured possession**.

Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.' *Exodus 19:5-6*

But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, God's **special possession**, that you may **declare the praises** of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2:9*

“Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?” *1 Corinthians 3:16*

### *The Big Idea*

God has rescued people in Jesus Christ  
 so that every one of us would be His treasured priest  
 to communicate His word of grace and truth  
 and to embody His glorious presence  
 to the ends of the earth

→ starting with where we live and work and study and play

### **Application: Be God's treasured priests**

- Embody His glorious presence
  - By the quality of everything we do
    - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” *Galatians 5:22-23*
    - Ex: God wants us to have joy, **and** to give His joy for others
    - Pray, meditate, work to be an embodiment of His glory
    - Maybe 1 per day or 1 per week

forbearance = patient self-control



### Application: Be God's treasured priests

- Embody His glorious presence
  - By the quality of everything we do
  - By the specific ways each of us serves and leads
    - God in His wisdom gives each person abilities to serve, and sometimes also to “lead”, in ways that benefit others
    - Our work together: discover those ways, and grow in them
    - Less honored forms of serving deserve honored treatment

### Application: Be God's treasured priests

- Embody His glorious presence
- Communicate His Word of grace and truth
  - “So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and **set before them all the words the LORD** had commanded him to speak. ... Moses **brought their answer back to the LORD.**” *Exodus 19:7-8*
  - Bring the words and needs of people to God
  - Bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people

## Application: Be God's treasured priests

- Embody His glorious presence
- Communicate His Word of grace and truth
- View self and each other as God views us
  - Highly valued
    - Each person in Christ is God's gift to us as a family member
  - Well used
    - Each person in Christ is God's gift to us to bring good
    - We are blessed in God when we serve others
  - If we respond to the invitation: Come to God in Christ

**In Christ,  
we are highly valued and  
we should be well used**

- **God highly values each of us**
- **And so He gives each of us very valuable work to do**
- **Individually and together**



## PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

We believe that **God equips all of His people in various ways to lead and/or to serve in the church**, including men and women, the older and the younger as well as all people irrespective of their experience with English and the length of staying in the US.

- So we endeavor to recognize God's equipping of each of His people, to participate in His work of equipping people, and to empower people who are in the process of being equipped to lead and to serve. (Ephesians 4:1-16)
- We endeavor to engage in frequent, meaningful dialogue together as a congregation about issues that are important to us as a church.
- We endeavor to learn from believers from around the world. We as a church in the US have much to learn from brothers and sisters of other parts of the world, and so we are eager to welcome them as a part of our body.

### *The Big Idea*

God has rescued people in Christ

**YOU ARE GOD'S TREASURED POSSESSION IN CHRIST!**

**GOD HAS DESIGNED YOU TO BRING GOOD TO US  
AND TO THE WORLD**

→ starting with where we live and work and study and play