EXODUS 16-19

16 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel
came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the
fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of
Egypt. **2** And the whole congregation of the people of Israel **grumbled**
against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, **3** and the people of Israel said
to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of
Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for **you have
brought us out into this wilderness** to kill this whole assembly with
hunger."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from
heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion
every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.
5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as
much as they gather daily." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of
Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out
of the land of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you shall see the glory of the
Lord, **because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord**. For what
are we, that you **grumble** against us?" **8** And Moses said, "When the Lord
gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full,
**because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against
him**–what are we? **Your grumbling is not against us but against the
Lord**."

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the
people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, **for he has heard your
grumbling**.' " **10** And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of
the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the
glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** And the Lord said to Moses, **12** "**I
have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel**. Say to them, 'At
twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with
bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "

13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the
morning dew lay around the camp. **14** And when the dew had gone up,
there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost
on the ground. **15** When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one
another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to
them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. **16** This is what the
Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat.

You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that
each of you has in his tent.' " 17 And the people of Israel did so. They
gathered, some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with an
omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever
gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.
19 And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the
morning." 20 But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the
morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.
21 Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but
when the sun grew hot, it melted.

22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each.
And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, 23 he
said to them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of
solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you will bake and boil
what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the
morning.' " 24 So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded
them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it. 25 Moses said,
"Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in
the field. 26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a
Sabbath, there will be none."

27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they
found none. 28 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to
keep my commandments and my laws? 29 See! The Lord has given you the
Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days.
Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the
seventh day." 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander
seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. 32 Moses
said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept
throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I
fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "
33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it,
and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations." 34 As
the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be
kept. 35 The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a
habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land
of Canaan. 36 (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

17 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the
wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord,
and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
2 Therefore the people **quarreled** with Moses and said, "Give us water to
drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you **quarrel** with me? Why do
you test the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people
grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt,
to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried to
the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone
me." **5** And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with
you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which
you struck the Nile, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the
rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it,
and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of
Israel. **7** And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because
of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord
by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. **9** So Moses
said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek.
Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my
hand." **10** So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while
Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** Whenever Moses
held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand,
Amalek prevailed. **12** But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone
and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his
hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were
steady until the going down of the sun. **13** And Joshua overwhelmed
Amalek and his people with the sword.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and
recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of
Amalek from under heaven." **15** And Moses built an altar and called the
name of it, The Lord Is My Banner, **16** saying, "A hand upon the throne of the
Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

18 Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God
had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the Lord had brought
Israel out of Egypt. **2** Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah,
Moses' wife, after he had sent her home, **3** along with her two sons. The
name of the one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a

foreign land"), 4 and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of
my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh").
5 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in
the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. 6 And
when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to
you with your wife and her two sons with her," 7 Moses went out to meet
his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each
other of their welfare and went into the tent. 8 Then Moses told his father-
in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for
Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and
how the Lord had delivered them. 9 And Jethro rejoiced for all the good
that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the
hand of the Egyptians.

10 Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the
hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered
the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11 **Now I know that the
Lord is greater than all gods**, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly
with the people." 12 And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt
offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel
to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

13 The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood
around Moses from morning till evening. 14 When Moses' father-in-law saw
all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are
doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand
around you from morning till evening?" 15 And Moses said to his father-in-
law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; 16 when they have
a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another,
and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." 17 Moses' father-
in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and the people
with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for
you. You are not able to do it alone. 19 Now obey my voice; I will give you
advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God
and bring their cases to God, 20 and you shall warn them about the statutes
and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and
what they must do. 21 Moreover, look for able men from all the people,
men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such
men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of
tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they
shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it

will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do
this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also
will go to their place in peace."

24 So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he
had said. 25 Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads
over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.
26 And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to
Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. 27 Then Moses let
his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

19 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the
land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set
out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they
encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,
3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain,
saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of
Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I
bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if
you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my
treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you
shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words
that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before
them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 All the people
answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And
Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. 9 And the Lord said to
Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may
hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, 10 the Lord said to
Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let
them wash their garments 11 and be ready for the third day. For on the third
day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.
12 And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not
to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the
mountain shall be put to death. 13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall be
stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet
sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." 14 So Moses
went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people;

and they washed their garments. 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready
for the third day; do not go near a woman."

16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings
and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all
the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of
the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the
mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord
had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a
kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the
trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in
thunder. 20 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
Moses went up.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they
break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. 22 Also let the
priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord
break out against them." 23 And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot
come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits
around the mountain and consecrate it.' " 24 And the Lord said to him, "Go
down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and
the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against
them." 25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

HOMEWORK – Read Exodus 20-24

What observations can we make about the commands that the Lord gives the Hebrews?

What is the function of Exodus 23:20-33? What promises does God make to the Hebrews?

What is the significance of Exodus 24? What other passages of scripture does this remind you of?