Worship Based on His Words

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This message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia. It is our prayer that you'll be blessed by the preaching of God's Word. Take your Bibles and go to Exodus 20. This is a great chapter. Of course, they're all great chapters, aren't they?

That we were riding in today, and Brother Kevin and I were talking, and Kevin said, you know, when you preach to the Bible, it's like it was just made to be preached. And I said, yeah, sounds like somebody else preached it, doesn't it? It's the good stuff.

And this is just one of those chapters. And if you write notes down, write this down. Worship based on His words. Worship based on His words. And I want you to read with me Exodus chapter 24.

And we're going to go through some beautiful things. The Bible says, and He said unto Moses, Come up unto the Lord, thou, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and the seventy of the elders, and worship ye afar off.

And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come nigh, neither shall the people go up with him. And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments, and all the people answered one voice and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do.

And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and he built an altar upon the hill, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.

And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in the basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and he read in the audience of the people, and they said, All that the Lord has said will we do, and be obedient.

And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you, concerning all these words. Skip down, if you would, with me to verse 12.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me in the mount, and be there, and I will give thee the tables of stone, and a law, and the commandments, which I have written, that thou mayest teach them.

I love that phrase. I wish you'd outline that. I wrote them, you teach them. How about that? I wrote them, you teach them. That's what he said. I have written, that thou mayest teach.

[2:14] And he took with him Moses, he took, Moses took with him his minister, Joshua, up into the mountain. Father, I pray now, that you would take these words, and help them come alive, in the hearts of your children, your people that love you, and seek you.

They're here tonight, because they love you. They're here tonight, because they honor you, and they want to worship, and obey you. And I thank you for your word, and I thank you for how clear it is, and how beautiful it is. And I just pray, that you'd be magnified, and glorified, as we go through this time, of studying your word.

Help me to speak clearly, and then God, I pray you'd touch the hearts, of your people, in Jesus name, amen. The first saying, is private worship. Look if you would, God calls the leadership, to private worship.

Chapter 24, verse 1, God calls, for all 70 elders, or 74, or 75 of them, because Joshua's name, isn't mentioned here.

Moses goes up, and Aaron, and Nadab, and Abihu, and 70 elders of Israel, and they go up. Those were the spiritual leaders, in the ministry of Israel. They were all respected leaders, and they were the priestly leaders, that were Aaron, and Nadab, and Abihu, and Moses was the one, that God had put in charge, to lead through the others.

[3:27] However, they all will worship, from a distance. If you have your, Bibles there, you'll mark these verses. In verse 2, it says, Moses alone, shall come near the Lord. However, they'll all worship, from a distance.

Now go up, but they would worship, from a distance. Worship can feel, distant, to us sometimes. We should count ourselves, blessed that we get to worship. We're invited to worship him.

We should take this, never take it lightly. So our only Moses, got to go up really close, in verse 2. Moses alone. Won't you circle that? Moses alone.

I hope a great truth, will come to you, before we're through with this. Moses is the go-between. He stood between, the people and God. Today, Jesus, stands there.

In Jesus, we all, get to go near, to worship. Back then, 75 guys, get caught up in the mount. And I'd have been, standing down there, and you'd have been, standing down there, and we'd have either been, said I'm scared, I'm glad I don't have to go.

Or we'd have been, saying man, I wish I could have gone up. I wish I could have been close. I wish I could have heard. But today, in Jesus, we get to go, up to him. The way's been opened, the veil's been torn, and we are allowed to come in.

God honored the large leadership group, with having them come, before him, and participate, in a special worship service. Even in the Old Testament, God wasn't excluding everyone, from his presence.

The leadership, should be the most faithful, in the presence of God. So they all went up, they're in the presence of God. But God gave Moses, a very special place, alone with him.

God did have Moses, in that place. God seemed to be, marking the leadership, in a special way. He called Moses up, he called the 70 up, the other four guys, are called up, and they said, you stand way over there.

And he said, Moses, you come close. And in verse 13, he took Joshua with him, who was his minister, who's going to be the next guy. Who's going to be the next guy. We don't know that yet, in the passage where we are, but we know that, after he finished Deuteronomy.

[5:29] The very next book, will be Joshua, and he took him with him. And Moses was marked, very specially. Look at verse 18. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and he got him up into the mountain.

And Moses was in the mountain, 40 days and 40 nights. Tonight, by God's grace, and Jesus' sacrifice, we're all brought near. Through God, through God, though God met with Moses, in a very special way, he meets with you, in the same way, today.

You don't get new revelation, but he will teach you, and understand the revelation, that he has already given. The great privilege, just makes us much more responsible. You realize, it was a very special day, they caught many.

Can you imagine that? God said, hey, all you millions of people, stand over there, send me the 75 guys, up here into the mountain with me. The rest of you, stand over there. Moses, you come up here.

Moses, you're my man. He talks to Moses, Moses gets the word, Moses goes back, and preaches. Now, if I wanted to be a typical pastor, I'd say to you, I'm Moses in this story.

[6:31] And you guys need to realize, I'm the special guy. But the truth is, Jesus is the special guy. He's the one that made the way open. He's the one that gets the door open. And you and I, all get to go, through Jesus, into that special place.

If you take notes, I wish you'd write down, the priesthood of the believer. That's something you ought to write down. That's a strong, baptistic doctrine. Priesthood of the believer. Which means this, that every one of us, have the privilege, through Jesus Christ, to go directly to God in prayer.

You don't have to come to the pastor. You don't have to go through Moses. You don't have to go through any priest. You don't need anybody else. God deals directly with you. That's a great truth. Say amen. You are a man of God.

You have a special place. You're a woman of God, for you women. But we have a very special place, and a very special relationship. And we have liberty. We have individual soul liberty.

You can write that one down. We can study the word of God, and learn for ourselves. You don't need, always the other guy. Number two. Second thing I want you to look at, go with me to verse three. And I wish you'd underline, all the words in the verse.

[7:36] Just underline the word, all the words. Don't underline all the words. Just underline the words, all the words. Okay? But look at verse three. It says, And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord.

So Moses' job was to go get all the words. Then Moses came and he told the people all the words. So in verse three, it says all the words, all the words. Two times. I hope you underline that.

Moses got the words from God himself. Moses didn't get them. Moses didn't write them. God gave the words. The people responded correctly when they said, we promise to obey the words.

Now would you look here just a second? And I'd like to explain something to you about our church. It's a little bit unusual. This is a different kind of church because honestly, I just preached next verse, next verse, next verse.

And we do expositional preaching. But I think this passage of scripture kind of says to you, this is what we're supposed to do. So it takes out the element of me saying what I want to say, me being the special guy, me getting some kind of special revelation from God about what to say to you.

[8:39] I think it takes it out. So it says here, it says here, verse three, Moses came and told the people all the words, not some of them, not the ones he wanted to emphasize, but all the words.

And they said, we'll obey all the words. Moses, the preacher, us, we are to expound the words, explain the words, make sure we understand the words.

The other is the commitment to obey the words as we understand what God is saying. So typically what we're supposed to do when we're preaching in our church, I'm supposed to come out and say, here's all the words and we're working our way through all the words.

And it's what all the words say. And I'm supposed to say, I'll obey all the words. And you're supposed to say, I'll obey all the words. And we want the word of God to make a difference in our life. Can you say amen right there? That's what we're trying to do when we preach.

It's not about learning more, but living more. It's not about learning more, but living more. It's not about saying, man, I got my head full. It's about living it.

[9:34] It's not about filling your head up, but affecting your entire life. I love verse 12. I hope you go down and mark verse 12. God would write down the commandments so that Moses would teach them.

The Lord said unto Moses, come up to me in the mountain, be there, and I will give you the tables of stone and a law and commandments. And I love this.

I hope you mark it, which I have written, which I have written that you can teach them. I have written that you may teach them.

Notice these are the words, the commandments, the laws that God himself has written. By the way, these are the laws, the commandments, and the words that God has written. You hold them in your hand between some pieces of leather or a piece of paper or on an electronic device, but you hold in your hands the words that came from God.

Moses' job was simply to teach the people what God had said. That was Moses' job. It wasn't his job to come up with anything new. The job of a preacher or a teacher today is not to have innovative ideas.

[10:42] It's not to be creative. We're simply to tell God's people what God said. That's pretty wild, isn't it? Just tell God's people what God said. We're to study it and learn it so we can say it.

This is what God said. The entire ministry of God's people today is based on all the words. You'll find that in here. All the words still. We're to read and study all the words.

We should go to church and hear them explained, expounded. We should be teaching them to our children. We should be hungry for learning and sharing all the words. Our church should be a place that teaches the Bible all the words.

That's why we are going through the Bible. That's why we've already finished Genesis. We're a little over halfway through with Exodus. We've already done Leviticus. We'll jump to Deuteronomy. That's why we're in the book of Matthew. That's why we're working our way through the Bible books because he gave the words.

Our job is to teach the words and not be creative. Third thing, look at the altar and the blood. The altar and the blood. Go to verse 4 with me. The altar and the blood. There's two words or two things that are exciting to me in the passage.

[11:48] One is, I think you'd have fun if you did this kind of stuff but the word book and words is in this chapter. Book and words. Go through it. Book, the book of the covenant and the words.

That's what God gave him. The book and the words. The book and the words. And then another word that keeps jumping off the page is blood. Blood, blood, blood. And if you know anything about the Bible, you know anything about the New Testament, the blood.

It's the blood of Jesus Christ that saves us and that's what's in this passage. Look at verse 4. Moses wrote all the words, there it is, of the Lord. And he rose up early in the morning and he built an altar up under the hill and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Moses was careful to keep the words that God had given. He brought the words. He got up early and he wrote down the words. And he wrote all the words. And he rose up early in the morning and he built an altar.

Moses, having met with God, God was anxious and ready to obey so he got up early. I can only imagine he just came from the very presence of God and somehow he gets out of there and he's overwriting furiously.

[12:50] Somebody says, what are you doing? He said, man, God said a whole lot. I've got to write it down while I've got it fresh. I've got to get the words of God written down. And then apparently he didn't sleep or he got up really early and built an altar.

But if you'd met with God, you'd seen God, you'd probably be saying, I think we'd better get us an altar built. Amen? He's just met with God. He's got the word of God. He's building an altar and he puts the 12 pillars for the 12 tribes.

Hearing God's word should always inspire us to worship. Man, we hear the word of God while it's 10 minutes. Whoa, God's talking to us here. God's word says this. I want this to apply to us.

We should humbly, we should want to humble ourselves. We should want to humble ourselves. We should want to respond in thanksgiving and praise. We want to respond in thanksgiving and praise.

We want to confess our failures and seek to draw near. The word drives us to worship. The word drives us to worship. And when they worshiped, they gave offerings and sacrifice.

[13:51] Look, if you would, in Exodus chapter 24 and verse 5. And he sent the young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace of the oxen unto the Lord.

So underline the words there. The young men are offering burnt offerings and they're sacrificing peace offerings. Now, why are young men doing that? Because calves weigh a bunch

If you tell me to pick up a 500 pound calf after we've gutted him, he's a thousand pounds, you gut him, and tell me to pick him up, I won't be down in the back for a month. So we're calling all the teenagers.

Get up here. We're calling all the young men. The 30 year olds who are saying, hey, get up here. And they picked up that offering and they made it. It was hard work. But everybody's heart was united in the offering.

Everyone would share in the expenses. The sacrifices were about blood. Blood. Look at verse 6. And Moses took half the blood and he put it in basins and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

You should mark the word blood two times there. Now, you can't be a New Testament Christian and not know that we talk a lot about blood. We talk about the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary.

We talk about the blood that forgives our sins. We talk about the blood. The animals were killed and their blood was placed on the altar. Jesus was being represented because we cannot worship God without Jesus opening the door for us.

Moses has gone up. Moses has met with God. Moses has got the words of God. Moses comes down and writes down the words of God. Moses builds an altar. Moses calls them and says, bring me some sacrifices.

Let's offer some sacrifices because when we meet with God, something's got to fix things between us because we're not worthy to meet with God. They heard the word, but they weren't good enough to come to God on their own merit.

A sacrifice had to be made for peace. You need to go back up and look at verse 5 with me and underline the word peace. A peace offering. Blood was shed to bring them into the presence of God.

[15:55] And all of their worship was based on the book. Look at verse 7. And he took the book. Boy, I hope you circle that word. And he took the book.

He took the book. It's like took the book of the covenant and he read in the audience of the people and they said all that the Lord has said we will do and be obedient.

Moses had been up on the mountain. Moses has talked to God. God has given Moses the words. Moses has come down off the mountain. Moses has written the words. Moses has gotten up early.

Moses has built an altar. He's got 12 pillars there. He sent the young guys to go get animals to sacrifice. They brought the animals to sacrifice. The young men had been working killing the animals and shedding the blood.

But all the things they were doing was because it was in the book. That's why we do what we do. We're following the book. We are people of the book. I hope that's really your heart.

[16:50] We are people of the book. They knew what was expected of them because of the book. The covenant was a promise from God to them. The covenant was how they could respond to God's great offer.

You go up there and underline the word covenant in that verse. In verse 7 the word covenant the promise the pact the agreement between them. God said I made you my people. This is what I want out of you.

This is what I expect out of you. But it was a one-sided thing as far as them being as people. God did it. God brought it to them but they were offering that offering because they were to offer it. They read the book to the people.

The people responded saying they would obey the book. The only answer for them was blood. The blood was the basis of the covenant.

Look at verse 8. And Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.

Before I go on you ever take the Lord's supper and hear that? This is the blood of the covenant. We take the Lord's supper we're taking the blood of the covenant. He's made a promise to us. The promise that my sins are forgiven is the blood of Jesus shed to pay my sin did not because I got baptized not because I joined the church not because of something I did but because of what Jesus did on the cross we take the Lord's supper and that little bitty cup has got that red grape juice in it we take that juice knowing we're remembering his blood that was shed for us taught all through your Old Testament they met with God they got God's word they read the book they met at the altar and the blood is mentioned the altar and the blood should motivate several things in our lives we should be very interested in all the words he's given us you should be hungry to know this book if this is the book of God if God gave us this book if God wrote this book you should be hungry to know this book and know it's the word of

God you should be hungry to know what's inside of it be interested we should get up early worshiping Moses got up early he built an altar and Moses did what God wanted to do the word of God ought to be more than a book to learn about but a truth to live out could I just stop and say to you I don't know how to say this without just saying it and you ought to be people of the book you need to set aside time every day and say God wrote a book and the book was from him to me and I'm going to spend some time in the book when you come to church you need to bring the book in your hand you need to open the book you need to read the book you need to mark the book because this is the book from God this is the book from God I mean if we were there in Moses day and we watched Moses go up empty handed and come back down with something in his hands we'd say what you got there Moses he said I got a book came from God we'd say whoa read it to us we got a book that they were amazingly ready to sacrifice and to give to our worthy

God Moses went up got the words came down wrote the words got up early built an altar called the guys to bring the sacrifice kill the animals put the animals on there all the people are gathered around the people said we hear the words we'll obey the words we build the altar we make the sacrifice you ought to be ready to sacrifice we ought to be like hey we don't deserve any of this I couldn't get to God I have no right to be with God I have no right to be in his presence if it wasn't that Jesus paid my sin debt so that I could be saved we should always remember that all we have is due to the shed blood of Jesus Christ I think probably I will never ever be good enough for God to love me what made me who I am is he loved me and he paid my sin debt and who I am and what I am is based on one thing Jesus died for me

Jesus forgave my sins because he shed God forgave my sins because Jesus blood was shed on the cross of Calvary we are people of the book we are people of the book can I emphasize to you enough we are people of the book we have in our hands the word of God you come to church tonight not because we're good singers you come to church not because I'm a good speaker you come to church not because we love the great God of heaven and we got the book we got the book open the book preacher read the book to us preacher talk to us about the book hey Sunday school teacher talk to us about the book hey the supper talk to us about the book hey dad show us the book we want to hear about the book God wrote a book I'd like to hear about the book God wrote we seek out his promise we seek to live out what he has put in us we want God go with me if you would to verse nine

God had invited them to come up and worship they went to worship and God revealed himself to them now you got to understand this is the God who created the earth we're in the book of Exodus just back in the book of Genesis God created the earth this is the God that destroyed the earth with a flood that God it's the God who thunder and all these things were happening they knew he was God they were scared to death this is not just some religious service we're having this isn't Austin talking to us this is the God of heaven and in this passage of scripture those guys go up in that mountain all the leadership of that group goes up in that mountain and here's what they're going to say when they get back we saw him we'll show it to you we saw him we saw him check out that very thought we saw him look if you will with me in your Bible Genesis or Exodus chapter 24 verse 9 Moses went up and

Aaron and Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders we also know Joshua was there with them verse 10 you should underline this and they saw the God of Israel they saw the God of Israel they saw the one that made the mountain shake the thunder and all that they saw that God and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness they saw the God of Israel they saw the God of Israel verse 11 the elders found out that God was not going to hurt them they found out God wasn't going to hurt them they watched him kill all the firstborn they watched him work all the plagues they watched all the horrible stuff that happened in Egypt they watched the Red sea be split they watched all the people get drowned in the Red sea they watched as the thunder in the mountains shook they knew

God was a great and awesome and powerful God God didn't hurt us we didn't know what he was going to do to us but he didn't hurt us and also they saw God and they ate and drank they saw God they went up there they were up there the 70 elders the leaders the spiritual leaders of the nation of Israel and Moses and the priest and Joshua the servant and they saw God underline that in verse 11 they said it in verse 10 now it says it in verse 11 they saw God and he didn't put his hand on them and the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain the eyes of the children of Israel they said man he's an awesome God he's a scary God he's a great God he shakes the earth he could split the saw

God we saw God verse 14 if you would maybe I didn't make my verses clear there so let me because Betty always tells me I mess up so go back that was verse 11 they saw God in verse 11 and hey you ought to have Betty correcting you all the time you'd be nervous too and verse 7 and the sight of the 17 and the sight of the glory of the Lord Betty said you mess up all the time if you want for them guys in the back rescuing you so we know what verse we're supposed to be on thank you guys for all that help verse 17 the sight of the glory of the Lord is like the devouring fire I want you to notice in verse 14 what happened the congregation was organized in such a way that God's man could be else and has very little time to study his Bible in the book of Acts chapter 6 if you recall the men of

God were having to take care of the arguments between the widows the Greek widows and Hebrew widows were fighting and fussing and they were in the middle of that mess and we need time for God and prayer we need somebody else to watch over this mess that happens right here in chapter 24 verse 14 and he said unto the elders tarry ye here for us until we come again unto you and behold Aaron and her are with you if any man have any matters to do let him come unto them that congregation was so organized they got Moses they got Joshua helping Moses they got these priestly guys doing their work they got 70 guys in charge all of them go up in the mountain and there's two guys still left to take care of things and we do know this so every one of us need to remember a wearing is going to mess up one of these trips right he's going to mess up build a golden calf so you and I you know it's not just Austin carrying the spiritual leadership here there's deacons carrying the spiritual leadership here do because

Aaron and her were there it's a good lesson for us go to verse 15 with me Moses was alone with God Moses was alone with God in verse 15 Moses went up into the mount and a cloud covered the mount and the glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it six days on the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst about you being Moses it would be pretty scary to go up to the very presence of God I mean this is the God who's done all those things I told you about as we've been coming through this and now God says Moses you come come by yourself buddy leave everybody else over me and you are going to have a talk then he goes alone the cloud comes down and it it will be six days Moses said okay Lord you said come I'm here just waiting on you but you know the important person can come late the important person gets to come when they want to come the the peon needs to show up on time and

God finally comes on the seventh day and he talks to him several lessons for us your walk with God is often a lonely walk ministry can often be very lonely we're an unusual people we walk with God we spend time alone with God and sometimes you might spend six days waiting on God to speak to you that's what happened to Moses here God hadn't said anything until the seventh day Moses is alone with God people might not have understood Moses because of this when you walk with God and you spend time with God you kind of nervous fearful he wanted and needed to hear from God it was a pretty scary thing to be alone six whole days waiting on God to speak we too see and know God as we understand that he calls for worship worship means humbling yourself before him we come to serve not receive there's not one mention of this whole situation in chapter 24 where

Moses and the 70 and the other guys are with him and say God we're here with our list we've been making a list these are the things we're going to be needing if you don't mind we need some new tents we'd like some new shoes and we've got a food list here that's not what goes on in the list to him because he is God worship is humbling yourself makes our church different also you come in here and we read the Bible and you say we don't even work at trying to get you stirred up emotionally I don't even work at that there's not one thing going on here where I say to them pump the crowd work the crowd get everybody excited because we're not really here for you we're here for him we're not really here to meet your needs we're really here for you and me to talk to him for him to talk to us so he can tell us what to do we're here to worship him we've come to serve not receive that it is his word that will guide everything we do and not what we desire we come to him and say here we are to worship you without the shed blood of

Jesus we have no opportunity that it is God himself that made the covenant and our worship includes our giving our everything to him so here's the chapter in a nutshell for you if you can get it with me chapter starts off with God saying hey I want to talk to you bring all your leadership and come on up in the mountain and they go up in the mountain and God says hey some of you guys hang over there and stay there Moses you come up here Moses gets along with God and God gives him his word we don't get alone with God to get his word we already got his word we get along with God to understand his word because we already have his word I'm not Moses and you aren't when they got his word they wrote it down and they built an altar they came down and Moses got an altar built and represented everybody in the group all twelve tribes there's a pillar for all twelve tribes and he calls all the people together and says it's time to worship tell the young guys go start killing the animals and put them on the altar so people are giving up their animals to be offered on the sacrifice and

Moses said here's the words from our God listen to the words from our God and they said we'll obey the words you just read them to us you just tell us what they are so when you come to church here at vision I hope you come saying this we want to hear the words we want to hear the words we want you read us the words so you need a Bible with you when you come you need it open when you come you need to read it you need to write it down you need to mark it you need to read it all week long you spend time all about the book he gave us I want to walk with him you be sharing it with your children you be sharing it with your family you need to spend time in the book and you never forget the blood that's the words that are mentioned in the chapter because the only way I have any right to be in the presence of God is the blood I give you one more thing I said it already but I want to get it to you again there's no Moses in this room that gets to go you have free access to him if you're a born again man or woman you have access through

Jesus by Jesus to get into the very presence of God how can we take that lightly and say I know I could go in there but I'm not that interested how could we say how could you know if we had a thundering powerful preacher that came up and you know they had a pedestal that lifted me up and and and smoke and mirrors up here to show you I was a big shot you might be impressed you might if you wouldn't by the way they fill plenty of auditoriums up with that stuff but you and I have a place to go to him now to him we're people of the book we're people of the book so we worship based on his words I challenge you to get in the book I challenge you to get under the blood if you're not I challenge you to say we will worship based on what he said in his book father I love you and I praise you and I magnify you and I pray that you help us to worship you and magnify you and believe in you and look to you and

I give you praise for it help us be more and more a people of your book to not be satisfied with cute creative sermons preached by preachers playing a game but just take your book and get into it and find out what it says and I'll give you praise and honor and glory for what you do we love you and thank you times location contact information and more audio and video recordings