

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning we are continuing our study through the book of Exodus – we are going to be in Exodus 34 –

We finished our study last week with this intimate meeting between God and Moses.

Now what led to this meeting?

You might remember that the Children of Israel broke the covenant before it even began as they worshipped the Golden Calf.

And at first, God told Moses that He wanted to do a do-over because the Children of Israel were too stubborn. (stiff necked)

But Moses interceded on their behalf and God relented.

Then God told Moses that not only were the Children of Israel still going to get their inheritance, He was going to provide protection for them (by sending an angel before them) as they made their way into the Promised Land but He (God) was not going to go with them –

Once again Moses interceded and God relented.

Moses once again found grace in the sight of the Lord.

But Moses wasn't done yet –

He moved his tent outside the camp and waited for God.– and God showed up at the door of his tent.

And it is here that Moses make another request -

“Please show me Your glory”

I want to know You more!!!

“You can't see my face and live Moses – but this is what I will do – I will hide you on a crack within a rock, I will cover you with My hand – and as I pass you and I will give you a glimpse of my afterglow.”

So at the end of the chapter, we find Moses with the hope of glory in his heart.

And in our text, God is going to fulfill His promise to Moses.

Turn with me to John 17 –

[Jhn 17:20-26 NKJV] 20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, [are] in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have

sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare [it], that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Our greater Moses (Jesus Christ) said that to know God is to know His glory, and this is an eternal pursuit.

It is a hope that will be continually and eternally realized.

This hope is not a wishful thought, but the confident, expectant, joyful knowledge that we are being changed by God and will one day see Christ face to face, having been conformed to His image

Let's pray...

[Exo 34:1-35 NKJV] 1 And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first [ones], and I will write on [these] tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.

So the first thing God instructs Moses to do is to cut up two tablets so that God can write on them the Ten Commandments.

You might remember that Moses broke the original tablets as he was coming down the mountain and saw and heard what the Children of Israel were doing as they worshipped the Golden Calf.

So the reason that God is instructing Moses to do this is because God is going to re-establish His covenant with the Children of Israel.

Church, we must understand that God only reveals His glory to those who have been confronted with His law.

It is necessary for us to first feel the weight of God's law before we will ever know anything of His grace.

2 "So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. 3 "And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain." 4 So he cut two tablets of stone like the first [ones]. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

Notice there is no mention of Joshua or any of the elders going up with Moses this time.

We see Moses once again acting as a mediator between God and the Children of Israel.

Because of their sin and rebellion, Moses is bridging the gap between God and the people.

So God tells Moses to be ready – and we find in verse four that – that is exactly what Moses did.

Church, Moses has had encounter after encounter with the Lord –

The burning bush

The forty days spent on top of Mt Sinai

The intimate meeting at the tent

But he still wants more of the Lord.

Rockefeller who at the peak of his wealth had a net worth of 1% of the entire US economy and owned 90% of all the oil and gas industry was once asked – how much money is enough.

And his response was – just a little bit more.

That should be our heart toward the Lord.

5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

So here is where God reveals His glory to Moses.

You want to know me Moses – this is who I am.

The first thing God does is remind Moses of His name.

At the burning bush (Exodus 3) Moses asked God His name and God said, "I AM Who I AM"

The always existing One

That is what YHWY means – I AM I AM

God is "merciful," not giving us what we deserve.

He is "gracious," giving us what we don't deserve.

His "longsuffering" is not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to eternal life.

“Abounding in goodness and truth” reminds me of His promise that all things will work together for the good.

“Keeping mercy for thousands” means for thousands of generations. God makes Himself available to all, and at all times.

God is willing forgive everything.

Don't confuse God's “forgiveness” with our sin being “okay”.

God **does** love you just the way you are, but He also loves you too much to leave you in the mess you're in.

Forgiveness comes when there are two things going on in our lives:

1. Acknowledgement – confession

(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Turning – repentance

This was the message of Jesus and the disciples:

(Acts 3:19 NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Church, don't forget the context here.

What has just happened to the nation of Israel?

They have sinned terribly with making and worshipping the golden calf.

What do they need?

They need mercy and forgiveness.

8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. 9 Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we [are] a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

In vs 8 we see Moses' humble response to the revelation of God's glory.

He was moved by the glorious revelation of the goodness of God, and showed it by reverently bowing to Him—and worshipping Him.

He was compelled to worship God when he saw so clearly whom God was.

Church, when we don't have a compelling drive to worship God, its clear evidence we don't really appreciate who He is.

10 And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you [are] shall see the work of the LORD. For it [is] an awesome thing that I will do with you.

God's plan was to glorify Himself to all the nations (all the people) through Israel, and to show His glory through the great things He did among them.

The Children of Israel had a choice regarding those great things.

Either the great things would be blessings – those blessings would be so impressive that every nation would know that God alone had blessed Israel (as was the case with Solomon).

Or, the great things would be curses so horrible that every nation would know God had disciplined Israel and yet kept them a nation (as was the case with the exile).

Either way, God would glorify Himself through Israel among the nations.

God dictated the terms to the people of Israel through Moses – there was no negotiation.

11 "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. 12 "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 "But you shall destroy their altars, break their [sacred] pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 "(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God),

God is warning them – that once they get into the Promised Land, the Canaanites and all the “ites” – they are going to have their own collection of gods that they worshipped – just like the Egyptians – and God wants to make sure that they take preventative measures by eliminating the temptation – before they succumb to the worship of their pagan gods.

Jealous means that He desires to be the only One we go to.

He wanted to make the relationship exclusive.

Much later on, one of the reasons that God chastised them was because they added other gods to their worship.

They added Baal and Asherah. The gods of pleasure and prosperity.

15 "lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and [one of them] invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons **play the harlot with their gods. 17 "You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.**

God didn't want them intermarrying the Canaanites because He knew that they would influence the Children of Israel into worshipping the Canaanite gods as their own.

As Christians, it's a good thing to be friends with our neighbors – with our coworkers.

I think God wants us **to be** an influence on those around us.

But sometimes the influence works the other way around, and our own compromise can lead to the world influencing our lives.

We need to pay attention to the things that influence our lives.

I think one of the things that caught my eye on the text is that we have to deal with the influences directly.

God didn't rain down fire on the altars of the Canaanite gods – He asked Israel to destroy them.

Now, the covenant not only needed a limit on bad influences, but a building in of time with God.

And that is what we have in the next few verses –

I am not going to spend a lot of time and expound on these verse because we have already gone through all the feasts and the Sabbath in our studies through Exodus – again you can find them on our website.

18 "The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.

The Feast of the Unleavened bread of course spoke of God deliverance –

19 "All that open the womb [are] Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, [whether] ox or sheep. 20 "But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem [him], then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

All the first born were supposed to be dedicated to the Lord.

They belonged to Him.

Except for the donkey -

Donkeys were considered an unclean animal, they could not be sacrificed to the Lord; therefore, it had to be redeemed by the death of a lamb; that is, a lamb had to die in its place.

The Lamb of course is a picture of Jesus Christ.

The concept here is that of buying something back from God.

If God now "owns" all the firstborn, and you don't want to give a firstborn to God, then you must buy it back by offering a lamb to take it's place.

If the donkey was not redeemed by a substitute, then its neck had to be broken.

It was a choice between redemption and destruction.

By the way, we already established that Jesus is the lamb – do you know who the donkey is? Me and you!

21 "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. 22 "And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. 23 "Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel. 24 "For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year. 25 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning. 26 "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall **not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."**

Regarding the boiling the goat in milk –

The Children of Israel will be given a set of dietary laws that they will have to adhere to – one of them is not mixing dairy with meat products – so no cheeseburgers allowed.

However, this had more to do with God not wanting the Children of Israel to offer the same sacrifices that the Canaanites were offering their own pagan gods.

27 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." 28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Because Moses had seen something of the glory of God, he was to remind the people that in order to keep an understanding of His glory fresh, they were to keep His commandments.

These commandments not only defined His nature but also would point to and be fulfilled in His Son.

So this is the second time that Moses spent 40 days in the presence of the Lord.

And we are going to see that this descent was going to be much different than the first one.

29 Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony [were] in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

After spending time with the Lord, after listening to the renewing of the covenant and catching a glimpse of the afterglow of God, Moses' face begins to have an afterglow of its own.

It's shining and he doesn't know that it is shining.

30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, **he put a veil on his face. 34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. 35 And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.**

Why did Moses put on the veil?

If all we had was the Old Testament, we would say that Moses put on the veil because the people were afraid.

But I want you turn to 2 Corinthians 3,

Because Paul uses what happened to Moses to compare the Old and the New Covenant.

[2Co 3:12-16 NKJV] 12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- 13 unlike Moses, [who] put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the [veil] is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Paul says that Moses put the veil over his face – not because the people were afraid but because he didn't want them to see the glory fade –

As glorious as the Old Covenant was for Israel, it was only temporary.

It would give way when Jesus came to give His life as the final sacrificial Lamb.

Instead of God's Laws being written merely on stones, they would be written on the hearts of believers who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Look at verse 18 –

[2Co 3:18 NKJV] 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

As a believer who is in Christ looks into the mirror of God's word, he or she sees "the glory of the Lord" Jesus as it is revealed there.

The indwelling "Spirit of the Lord" utilizes the Word to transform us day-by-day to be more like Jesus.

That is why it is so essential we see Jesus as He truly is.

And here is the good news church -

Instead of a fading glory, ours is a growing in glory.

May we continue to glow

Amen

Let's pray....



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