

The Goodness of Our God

Exodus Chapter 34

Exd 34:1 1) The Lord Reveals Himself v. 1 - 8

Now the LORD said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered.

Exd 34:2 "So be ready by morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain.

Exd 34:3 "No man is to come up with you, nor let any man be seen anywhere on the mountain; even the flocks and the herds may not graze in front of that mountain."

- God tells Moses to cut two stone tablets like the ones that God Cut. Like the ones Moses broke due to the sin of Israel (Exodus 32:15-19)
- "be ready by morning and come up in the morning" - God will meet with Moses in the Morning. But Moses needs to be ready. There is a preparation that must happen to meet with God. It is purposeful.
- A day is wasted if it is not begun with time with God. How many hours must pass before you give your day to God? Do you conduct your whole day as you wish then give the last sleepy moments to God? Some do not even get around to that.
- A teaching on Early in the Morning:
 - Abraham rose up early in the morning (Gen 19:27; Gen 21:14; Gen 22:3)
 - Jacob rose up early in the morning (Gen 28:18)
 - The Lord told Moses to rise up early in the morning (Ex 8:20; Ex 9:13)
 - So, Moses rose up early in the morning (Ex 24:4; Ex 34:4)
 - Those seeking repentance before Moses rose up early in the morning (Num 14:40)
 - Joshua rose up early in the morning (Jos 3:1; Jos 6:12; Jos 7:16; Jos 8:18)
 - Hannah rose up early in the morning (1 Sam 1:19) -- Samuel's Mom
 - David rose up early in the morning (1 Sam 17:20; 1 Sam 29:11)
 - Jehosaphat rose up early in the morning (2 Chron 20:20)
 - Job rose up early in the morning (Job 1:5)
 - Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who rose up early in the morning (Matt 20:1)
 - Jesus rose up early in the morning (Mk 1:35; Jn 8:2)
 - Those who come to hear Him rose early in the morning (Lk 21:38)
- God wanted Moses to come to the TOP of the mountain. Not just upon the mountain. God desires for us the entire Christian experience. To go all the way. Give yourself completely to Jesus.
- **1 Peter 1:13** "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober {in spirit,} fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- God would speak to Moses. He wanted no other person on the mountain. Here again Moses' life is pointing to the Christ. Moses alone is the mediator on the mountain. Christ alone is the only savior that mankind has. He alone is who God allows this position.
- Deut. 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren like unto thee (Moses)"

Exd 34:4 So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand.

- Moses prepares to meet with God.
- If you were Moses and God was going write you something but you needed to bring the paper, How much paper would you bring? God wants to write on the tablet of your heart. How much of it do you give Him?
- Jeremiah 31:31-33 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Exd 34:5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD.

- Moses and the Lord stood there together. WOW! Is this the same cloud/glory that:
 - Covered Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16)
 - Went with Israel by day (Exodus 13:21-22)
 - Went to the tent of Moses (Exodus 33:9-10)
 - Filled the temple with glory (2 Chronicles 7:2)
 - Overshadowed Mary at the conception of Jesus (Luke 1:35)
 - Was present at the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:34-35)
 - Will be present at the return of Jesus (Revelation 1:7)
- How long could I stand there?
- Moses called upon the Name of the Lord.
- Then the Lord did what He told Moses he would do in Chapter 33:21-23 Put him in the cleft of the rock and pass by.

Exd 34:6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Exd 34:7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave {the guilty} unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (Exodus 20:5 "for those who hate me")

- J. Carl Laney said " *This passage is one of the most important theological texts in Scripture, because it is the only place where God actually described Himself, listing His own glorious attributes.*"
- Moses had asked to know God Exodus 33:13 and to see His glory/goodness Exodus 33:18

The Lord reveals not what He looks like but who He is:

- The Lord, the Lord God - *Yahweh, Yahweh El*
 - This is God's divine name. It is first introduced to us in Exodus 3:13-15 when God told Moses "I Am who I AM." From this we meet the self-existent One.
 - Ronald Allen said " *He exists dependent upon nothing or no one excepting his own will.*"
 - The double expression causes one to pause and reflect upon God's emphasis on Moses knowing that the one true God was present with him..
- Compassionate - "rachuw" (KJV=merciful)
 - A deep, tender love usually displayed by a superior being towards an inferior or weaker being.
 - Psalm 103:13 " *Just as a father has compassion on {his} children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.*"
 - God's compassion is faithful. Deuteronomy 4:31 " *For the LORD [Yahweh] your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them*"
 - God's compassion is forgiving. Psalm 78:38 " *But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them*"
- Gracious - "channuw"
 - A display of favor by a superior being towards an inferior or weaker being who has no claim for such favor.
 - This grace is also depicted in God who is favorable towards the afflicted and needy. (Exod. 22:27; 34:6; 2 Chron. 30:9; Neh. 9:17, 31; Pss. 86:15; 103:8, 111:4; 116:5; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jon. 4:2)
- Slow to Anger - "arek" long + "aph" nose (long nosed or longsuffering)
 - This implies a righteous anger exists. But only after a long time of consideration and grace.
 - This anger is not a reaction but a graciously postponed consequence of continued disobedience and disregard for God.
 - Longsuffering is the time of prolonged patience towards wickedness. This should not be confused by lessening the seriousness of sin but that God desires repentance and allows time for it.

- 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
- James 1:19 concerning believers "{This} you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak {and} slow to anger;"
- **Abounding in Lovingkindness (goodness)**- "rab" abundant + "cheched"
 - Abundant - excess on quantity and quality. Will never diminish nor be exhausted.
 - Nelson Glueck said this term "lovingkindness" referred to a covenant relationship between a King and his subjects. That the King was to show "lovingkindness" to the subjects and that the subjects was to show "lovingkindness" to the king. This "lovingkindness" was demonstrated by loyalty, service and obedience.
 - In the NASV Psalm 136 describes His lovingkindness.
- **Abounding in Truth** - "emeth"
 - The basic idea of both the noun and verb form of the word "emeth" is firmness, certainty and dependability.
 - Psalm 119:142 tells us "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth"
 - Psalm 119:160 "The sum of Your word is truth,"
 - John 17:17 Jesus prayed to Father God "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."
- **Keeps Lovingkindness**- "natsar" keep
 - God already declared that His attribute is lovingkindness
 - But here He extends His lovingkindness beyond the immediate to those far off.
 - "To thousands" is meaning thousands of generations.
 - "Keeping" it doesn't mean that He retains it but rather that He guarantees it for the multitude. He guards this attribute that He may be known by it.
- **Forgives Iniquity, Transgression and Sin** - "nasa" to lift up, to bear, or to carry
 - Psalm 32:5 "I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin."
 - Iniquity - crooked behavior, turning from the straight and narrow
 - Transgression - breach of relationship, rebellion against God's authority
 - Sin - missing the mark or missing the moral standard.
 - Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love."
- **Will Not "Leave Guilty Unpunished"** - "naqah" is the whole phrase meaning "to go unpunished"
 - J. Carl Laney "Because God is holy and just, as well as loving and forgiving, the unrepentant will face the most serious consequences of their sin and rebellion. God does not leave sinners unpunished (Exod. 20:7; Job 9:28; Jer. 30:11)."

Exd 34:8 **Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.**

- Moses had asked to see God's glory (goodness)
- The Lord showed him not what He looks like but Who He Is.
- Moses in response wasted no time after understanding this revelation is bowing down to Who He Is.
- Romans 4:11 "For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Exd 34:9 **2) The Lord Renews the Covenant** v. 9 - 28

He said, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession."

- Moses has seed God, Two things happen
 - Moses seeks to be with Him
 - Moses recognizes his own and Israel's sin before a holy God.
- Ezra 9 Intercedes for the nation
- Isaiah 6:5 Saw the Lord and noticed his own short coming
- Daniel 9 Intercedes for the nation
- John in Revelation 1:17 saw the Lord and fell down as a dead man

Exd 34:10 Then God said, "Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.

- God makes a covenant. Actually, this is the same covenant he had made previously.
- This shows God has forgiven. God had heard Moses' prayer and has renewed the covenant towards Israel.
- God declares he is going to do great miracles among them which are greater than ever before.
- Greater than the plagues of Egypt. Greater than the flood.
- God is saying that He will do great things among them and that all nations will glorify God because of these great miracles.

Exd 34:11 "Be sure to observe what I am commanding you this day: behold, I am going to drive out the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.

God's
Part

- God will drive out the inhabitants in the land
- This is God's part

Exd 34:12 "Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst.

Israel's
Part

- 1) No Covenant with foreigners.
- Because it will be a snare (trap) a trap is something that is appealing but will snare you to destruction

Exd 34:13 "But {rather,} you are to tear down their altars and smash their {sacred} pillars and cut down their Asherim

Exd 34:14 --for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God--

- 2) Will not worship other gods.
- Will get rid of their altars, pillars and Asherim so there is no worship of their gods.
- Because God's name is Jealous. He is jealous of our time, our hearts, our affections our thoughts.

Exd 34:15 otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice,

Exd 34:16 and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons {also} to play the harlot with their gods.

- God is warning against worshipping other gods because it will cause a number of errors:
 - Making a covenant with the foreigners,
 - You would be invited to eat of their sacrifice
 - Your children will fall away to their gods

Exd 34:17 "You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

- 3) Will not make idols

- Exd 34:18 "You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt.
- Exd 34:19 "The first offspring from every womb belongs to Me, and all your male livestock, the first offspring from cattle and sheep.
- Exd 34:20 "You shall redeem with a lamb the first offspring from a donkey; and if you do not redeem {it,} then you shall break its neck. You shall redeem all the firstborn of your sons. None shall appear before Me empty-handed.
- Exd 34:21 "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; {even} during plowing time and harvest you shall rest.
- God doesn't want them to use the excuse of I have too much work to worship God.
- Exd 34:22 "You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, {that is,} the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.
- Exd 34:23 "Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.
- 4) God insists that all males appear before the Lord and 3 Feasts
 - Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) purging sin / deliverance from sin
 - Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) giving of the 10 Commandments
 - Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles/Booths) autumn harvest and a time of remembering
- Exd 34:24 "For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD your God.
- God promises to protect your land if you go three times a year. He removes the argument that it isn't safe or prudent.
- Exd 34:25 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread, nor is the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover to be left over until morning.
- Exd 34:26 "You shall bring the very first of the first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."
- Leaven (a picture of sin) was forbidden to be used in the sacrifice.
 - "*Young goat in mother's milk*" was not a dietary law. It was a pagan fertility ritual that was forbidden. (Exodus 23:19)
- Exd 34:27 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."
- Exd 34:28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.
- This is a unique fast. Possibly one could fast food for 40 days. But water is not possible without a miracle. This is not a fast encouraged by scripture anywhere.
 - The Rule of 3's. You can live:
 - 3 minutes w/o air
 - 3 hours w/o shelter (in snow storm)
 - 3 days w/o water
 - 3 weeks w/o food
 - Moses wrote the next set of stone tablets to replace the first ones that God wrote.
- Exd 34:29 **3) The Lord's Shines His Glory upon Man** v. 29 - 35
It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony {were} in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.
- Exd 34:30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.
- Moses spent time with God.

- It affected how Moses looked. (Moses didn't know)
- Others were afraid to come near him.

Exd 34:31 Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers in the congregation returned to him; and Moses spoke to them.

Exd 34:32 Afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he commanded them {to do} everything that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai.

Exd 34:33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

- Moses would put a veil over his face.
- Paul, in 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 tells us why "*having such a hope, we use great boldness in {our} speech, and {are} not like Moses, {who} used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.*"
- Moses was concealing the fading glory.

Exd 34:34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded,

Exd 34:35 the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him.

- Does God's Glory shine on believers today?
- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 "*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.*"
- Michelangelo's sculpture of Moses has Moses with horns. This is from a mistranslation of a Hebrew word shone Hebrew "*qaran*" which means to send out rays. But in the correct context it can mean to grow horns. Jerome incorrectly used the latter, and Michelangelo used his translation that described Moses with horns.



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