



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Clabon Bogan Jr. – Interim Pastor



Sunday Church School

November 29, 2020

“Moses Reflects God’s Glory” – Exodus 34:27-35

Golden Text: Exodus 34”30

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“Exodus 34:27-35”

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.

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.

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.
with Him

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“Exodus 34:27-35”

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

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We often speak of people getting a “**second chance,**” by which we mean they are given an opportunity to **change their ways, correct past failures** as much as possible, and **start over again.**

The Bible is full of people who received additional chances, and even third and fourth chances.

- Peter denied Jesus three times (Matt. 26:74-75), but was given another chance
 - Not long after he denied Jesus, he preached a sermon on the day of Pentecost that won 3,000 people to the Lord (Acts 2:40-41).
- Jonah refused to obey God’s orders to go and preach to the people of Nineveh, but his story didn’t end there.
 - God prepared his rescue by a giant fish and he ran a revival in Nineveh
- John Mark left the 1st Missionary campaign with Paul and Barnabas to go back home
 - Even after getting fired by Paul for the next assignment, he was given another chance when Paul called for him to join Him (II Tim. 4:11)

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Additional chances are gracious gifts that naturally elicit words of appreciation and a commitment to do better.

That is what Israel would need and graciously received after flagrantly violating God’s covenant at Mount Sinai

LESSON OUTLINE:

- I. THE COVENANT RECORDED —Exd. 34:27-28**
- II. THE COVENANT MEDIATOR —Exd. 34:29-30**
- III. THE COVENANT RECONFIRMED —Exd. 34:31-32**
- IV. THE COVENANT REMINDER —Exd. 34:33-35**

TODAY’S AIM

Facts: to see that **God’s glory** should **transform us** so we stand out in this world.

Principle: to know that **God is glorious** and that time spent with Him will spiritually transform us.

Application: to **seek the transforming power of the Holy Spirit** so we can be a light to others.

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I. THE COVENANT RECORDED

—Exd. 34:27-28

- In Moses first encounter with God (Exd. 3:14) God introduced Himself as “I Am” – but now His introductions was different:
 - **Exodus 34:5-7** 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.”**
- God makes Himself known in the glory of His grace and goodness; attributes that would be demonstrated many time in Israel’s history
- Being about to republish His law, God forgave the sin of the Israelites and the deed of pardon would be signed and sealed by renewing the terms of the former covenant

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In our lesson, we learn that in the aftermath of Israel’s idolatry, Moses repeatedly interceded for the people.

- The Lord then instructed him to carve out two tables of stone to replace the ones he had destroyed when he returned from the mountain and found the people worshipping before the idol (32:19; 34:1).
 - ❑ Formerly God provided the materials, and He wrote on them, now Moses was to prepare the stone tables, and God was only to retrace the characters
 - ❑ On the new stone tablets, the Lord again would inscribe the Ten Commandments.

The renewal, or reinstatement, of the covenant was a gracious act of God; but the fulfillment of this covenant to its original terms was contingent upon the obedience of Israel.

- V. 12-26 give a summary of the covenant stipulations by citing portions of the requirements recorded earlier (Exd. 23).
- Having summarized the covenant, the Lord told Moses, “Write thou these words” (34:27)

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There is no conflict between 34:1 which says God inscribed the stones and 34: 27 when God tells Moses to write

- Exd. 34:27 is God’s instruction for Moses to reconfirm all the words of the covenant, all the commands previously given reaching back to Exodus 20, and a restatement of the obligations of the people.
- They would be blessed with success in their own land if they faithfully kept the covenant, but they would suffer curses if they failed to obey it (Deut. 28).

Moses’ time on the mountain with the Lord extended to forty days and forty nights. – just as it was in his earlier period with the Lord (Exd. 24:18)

- It would prove to be a test for the people who grew impatient the first time and made a god to their own liking (*They that wait upon the Lord.....*)
- Can you see the miraculous work of God sustaining His servant 40 days and night without food or drink!
- We later are told in Deut. 10:10, Moses failure to eat or drink was due to his fasting and praying for the people that God would not judge them

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II. THE COVENANT MEDIATOR

—Exd. 34:29-30

- Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the “two tables of testimony” (V 29); i.e., the stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments (Deut. 4:13).
- This time there was something different about Moses’ face was glowing.
- The text indicates this glow was the result of his contact with the Lord, talking with Him face to face— although Moses did not realize this physical change
- The glow was an intimation of the exalted presence into which he had been admitted and of the glory he had witnessed (II Co 3:18); and in that view, it was a badge of his high office as the ambassador of God.
- No testimonial needed, as he bore his credentials on his face; whether this effulgence was a permanent or temporary distinction, it reflected God’s glory
- V 30 says they were afraid to come close to Moses—a fear arising from a sense of guilt—the beaming radiance of his countenance made him appear to their awe-struck consciences a flaming minister of heaven.
 - The word “shone” in V 30 is also translated “horns” as some medieval art depicts Moses with horns coming down from the mount.

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In response to Moses' request (33:18), the Lord this time had given him a deeper—though still not full—revelation of His essential being (33:19-23; 34:5-8).

It is interesting that those who walk closest to the Lord often do not realize the impact their relationship with God has on others.

- Perhaps because of their awareness of their own sin and need for grace

Undoubtedly, his appearance confirmed to the people that Moses was God's chosen mediator and leader for them.

- Remember when they left Egypt, they challenged Moses in his leadership (14:11-12; 16:2-3; 17:3), but now they handle him with awe— so **the glow had divine assurances**
 - 1) Now no one could deny that God had chosen him for a special role in the divine plan
 - 2) The glowing face of Moses also affirmed that God was still present with His people for His glory.
 - 3) Finally, Moses' glowing appearance demonstrated a spiritual truth that one who is truly in close fellowship with God will reflect His character

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III. THE COVENANT RECONFIRMED —Exd. 34:31-32

- Moses only reflected God’s glory and had to wear a veil (V33) so the people could not see the glory disappear
- But God’s people today radiate God’s glory from within as they see Jesus Christ in the Word (the mirror) and become more like Him (II Cor. 3:18).
- Ours is to be a constant “transfiguration” experience as we walk with the Lord. [We are “Transformed” in Rom. 12:2, and “changed” in II Cor. 3:18]
- At Moses’ urging, the fearful leaders of Israel and Aaron approached him as Moses then “talked with them.”
- We are not told what he said to them, but presumably “he explained where he had been, what God had said about being willing to be close to them once again
- Moses repeated what he had told the people a month and a half before (24:3), thus graciously reconfirming the Lord’s covenant with them.
- There is no mention of an enthusiastic response from the people as before, when they had promised to do all the Lord said. Perhaps they were now humbled.

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IV. THE COVENANT REMINDER —Exd. 34:33-35

- There are several things happening in V 33 relative to Moses veil
 - The veil became part of his ordinary costume, and was worn excepting upon occasions of two kinds:
 - 1) When Moses was alone with God, either in the temporary “tent of meeting” or in the permanent Tabernacle, he ceased to wear the veil, and spoke with God face to face
 - For everyone appears unveiled to the eye of omniscience
 - 2) When he had a message to the people from God, and spoke to them as God’s representative, he authenticated his message by uncovering himself, and allowing the glory of his face to be seen.
- Paul uses the veiling of Moses’ face to illustrate several spiritual truths in II Cor. 3:13-18.
 - a) First, it typified the fading glory of the old covenant in contrast to the unveiled and lasting glory of the new.

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IV. THE COVENANT REMINDER —Exd. 34:33-35

- b) Second, it represented the veil that covers the heart of unbelievers, symbolizing their spiritual blindness.
- c) Third, it contrasts with the unveiled vision of the Lord’s glory given to believers by the Holy Spirit
- Israel was given a “second chance” by a gracious God, just as we often are.
- If we are to make the most of those opportunities and not let God down, we must remind ourselves that God is holy, and He is present with us



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“ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”



1. What words was Moses instructed to write down?
2. How did Moses' second lengthy stay on the mountain resemble his first one?
3. Of what did the tablets of stone assure the people?
4. How did Moses' return from the mountain differ from his earlier return?
5. What caused his face to shine?

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LESSON DEVELOPMENT

Consider the length of Moses’ stay with God (Ex. 34:27-28).

What was remarkable about Moses returns to the people (Ex. 34:29-31)

How would you characterize Moses mind as he delivered God’s Word to the whole congregation (Ex. 34:32-33).

How do we explain Moses speaking with a veiled face on some occasions and unveiled at other times (Ex. 34:34-35).

THE FALL FEASTS OF ISRAEL



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Mitch and Zhava Glaser

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