

EXODUS: GOD'S POWER, PRESENCE, AND PURPOSE REVEALED, PART 2

Week 9: The Glory of the Lord

Exodus 33-40

Main idea: Through the provision of a mediator, God forgives His people, reveals His character, restores His covenant, and manifests His presence.

- I. **God forgives His people.** (33:1-34:1)
 - a. Repentance (vv. 1-6)
 - b. Seeking and speaking (vv. 7-11)
 - c. Intercession (vv. 12-16)
 - d. Provision (33:17-34:1)

- II. **God reveals His character.** (33:18; 34:1-8)
 - a. To the needy, He is compassionate.
 - b. To the failure, He is gracious.
 - c. To the rebellious, He is slow to anger.
 - d. To the unfaithful, He abounds in faithful love and loyalty.
 - e. To the doubting, He abounds in truth.
 - f. To the guilty, He is forgiving.
 - g. To the unrepentant, He is just.

III. **God restores His covenant.** (34:9-35)

- a. Note how this passage repeats much of the original ratification ceremony in chapters 20-24, which is remarkable considering the profound sin of chapter 32!
- b. “What is the central theme of the whole narrative is brought out again: The Lord is changelessly faithful to His purposes, irresistibly set upon what He has, of Himself, determined to do. It was not for any goodness in them that He chose Israel in Egypt, and here their lack of goodness did not make Him change His mind. From beginning to end He loves us simply because He loves us (Duet. 7:7-9), and the love which brought us out will surely bring us in (Duet. 4:37-38).” (Alec Motyer)
- c. Moses’ face...
 - i. Confirmed his leadership role
 - ii. Confirmed Yahweh’s presence
 - iii. Confirmed Yahweh’s greatness
 - iv. Confirmed the superiority of Christ and the transformation wrought under the New Covenant through the indwelling Spirit (see 2 Cor. 3:7-18)

IV. **God manifests His presence.** (35:1-40:38)

- a. The repetition in chapters 35-40 highlights the **importance** of what was commanded and the **precision** with which it was obeyed.
- b. The cloud was...
 - i. An advent cloud (40:34)
 - ii. A guiding cloud (40:36, 37)
 - iii. A faithful cloud (40:38)
 - iv. A barrier cloud (40:35)
(borrowed from Alec Motyer’s commentary *The Message of Exodus: The Days of Our Pilgrimage*)

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What truth(s) stood out to you the most and why?
- 2) In what ways is the privilege of Christians today greater than that of Moses who spoke with God “face to face”?
- 3) What aspect(s) of God’s character revealed in 34:6, 7 is most encouraging to you right now?
- 4) What evidence is there to prove that you sincerely desire to know God’s ways and experience His presence? In other words, how are you practically seeking these things?