

Exodus Chapter 34

- The things spoken of in the previous chapter are still in the near future, they haven't actually happened yet.

V: 1-3 Moses is told to carve out two tables of stone just like the first ones that were broken.

- The Law had no sooner been received than that it had been broken:

Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us, unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

- We would never be justified by the Law, the intent of the law as Paul puts it was to show us, teach us, that we couldn't keep the law, therefore we couldn't be justified by the law.
- It was intended to drive us to the cross of Jesus.
- This is a 2nd chance – ours is the God of the 2nd chance.
- Be ready in the morning to present yourself to Me.

1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

- Come alone, no person and no animal shall be near the mountain when you come up.

John 10:3 "... and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out."

- He knows us by name, we're called to an individual relationship – "sons" and "daughters" – no grandchildren, nephews, or nieces.

V: 4 Moses carves out the two tablets and hits the sack, he gets up early and heads up the mountain. "*As the Lord commanded him.*"

- Moses is being obedient; which is key to hearing God's voice.
- Moses was told to be ready: so he carves out the tablet before the next morning.
- He's told to present himself the next morning – so he's eager, he gets up early that morning.
- He does everything the Lord asks him to do, and he does it with enthusiasm.

V: 5 “And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him...”

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

V: 5b-6 “... *and proclaimed the name of the Lord... Yahweh* – “The becoming One”

- Genesis to Exodus; defining names – defining people:

Name: (H8034) shem, name; renown, fame, essence.

- Added in is a description or a definition: merciful, gracious, longsuffering / patient, abundant in goodness and truth.

Mercy: not getting what we deserve, judgment. God is compassionate.

Psalm 86:5 “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

Psalm 86:15 “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Psalm 103:8-14 “⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. ⁹He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. ¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. ¹⁴For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.”

Grace: un-merited favor, getting what we don’t deserve.

Longsuffering / patient: peace in the face of provocation; quiet, steady perseverance; even-tempered.

Once again the people have provoked God & Moses intercedes:

Numbers 14:17-21 “¹⁷And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, ¹⁸the Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. ¹⁹Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. ²⁰And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word: ²¹But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.”

- That last part; doesn't mean that He will forgive them, then just turn around and judge them. It means that as He shows Himself more and more merciful and gracious, and forgiving – He is glorified – and His glory fill all the earth...

Abundant – overflowing in goodness / mercy / loving kindness / faithfulness – and truth.

Truth: everything that is in agreement with the person and character of Jesus.

V: 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity; transgressions, and sin.

1. Iniquity: wickedness, includes both transgression and sin.
2. Transgression: purposefully stepping over a line, willful sin. Trespases.
3. Sin: missing the mark, un-intended – yet still missing the mark.

- Forgiveness is something that is unique to Christianity and to our God.

Clear: (H5352) naqah, naw-kaw'; un-punished, guiltless, innocent, acquit, blameless, free from guilt, exempt from obligation.

- God forgives us; but somebody still has to pay the price for the sin.

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

- Remission, or remittance is the payment of a debt owed.
- God forgives us, but that in itself doesn't make us righteous.
- The blood of Jesus is what makes us righteous!

John 19:30 “tetelistai” - “... it is finished” – paid in full – remitted.

- That is why all the OT saint that died in faith – who had been forgiven – waited in Abraham's bosom for the price to be paid, to be made righteous.

Isaiah 61:1 “The spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”

Ephesians 4:8-9 “⁸Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?”

V: 7b “...; *visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*”

- Until I had studied this verse and understood it; I thought that it was easily the scariest verses in all of scripture.

1st lets look at what it doesn’t say:

- This doesn’t mean that we’ll be accountable for the sins of our fathers, generational sin.
- We will not be held accountable for the sins of our parents, grandparents, and so on:

Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

That being settled; what does it mean?

- There is a cycle to sin. If after we’ve sinned we seek God’s forgiveness – then that cycle is broken, it ends there.

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

Psalms 103:2-4,12 “²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: ³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴who redeemeth thy life from destruction (here expressed as distinct from forgiveness); who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;” – “¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”

- Cycle ended.
- If the cycle is not broken, if we are un-repentant, then we continue in our iniquity. As we continue in our iniquity our children simply learn to do what we have done and continue to do, and they in-turn impact and influence their children – which is exactly what the Canaanites, the Amorites, and all the Gentile nations did, and still do.
- So the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the 3rd and to the 4th generation.

V: 8-9 With this fresh revelation of God comes the understanding of who and what we are – sinful men.

- Moses moves immediately to a position of humility and reverence.

- Because Moses knows the name of God, His character, and His forgiveness – He worships God for who He is – in spirit and in truth!
- Because of these things, and because of the mercy and grace of God, because of His forgiveness, and patience Moses asks God to be in their midst, to abide in their midst.

John 15:5

- When we truly know God, we want others to be with Him and we want others to know Him as well.
- Again the request for God's pardon for "our" iniquity and for "our" sin.
- Moses is like his God in that he too identifies with his people.
- The request is based on who God is, as opposed to who the people are.

V: 10 You are going to be so blown away!

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

V: 11a Observe – watch – be careful to do all the things that I've commanded you.

- Just do it!
- Because there is blessing in obedience; it means constant communion, fellowship, and communication with God – whereas disobedience separates us from God.

V: 11b-17 God will drive out the inhabitants of the land – in essence He's declared war against them – so don't go out and try to make friends with them.

Romans 8:1 "... if God is for us, who can be against us?"

- The opposite is true as well: If God is against us, who can be for us?

James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

- *Now we go into review mode:*

V: 12 Don't enter into any agreements with them because it will be a snare to you.

- A snare is a trap that catches its victims un-aware and leads to their death.

V: 13 They are to do the opposite – they are to wage war against the pagan gods, tearing down their altars, breaking down their images, cutting down their groves.

- Intolerance is the order of the day.

V: 14-16 The reason – lest they go whoring after the other gods, and begin to worship other god.

- Notice there is no provision for evangelism: it is understood, at least on God's part that those who get involved with the pagan gods will be influenced, snared by them as opposed to going into the enemy camp and influencing the pagans.
- The children of God will cave in and go the way of the world, every time.

That is exactly why Paul warns us:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

“¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

V: 17 No molten gods. The 2nd commandment was no “graven” / carved images.

- The golden calf was “fashioned with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf.”
- The Mercy Seat, the golden lamp stand were all of “beaten” gold, hammered. Just like Jesus who was beaten then hammered to the cross.

-
- Now this is how you shall worship Me, this is what you shall do:
 - We've got the “put off” – no we're to fill that void with the “put on.”

Matthew 12:43-45 “⁴³When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. ⁴⁴Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. ⁴⁵Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”

V: 18 Remember and celebrate what I did for you when I delivered you from Egypt.

Luke 22:19 "... this is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me."

V: 19 The first born of all things belong to the Lord. In an agrarian culture wealth is measured by cattle. Here God make the point that the offering of their livelihood is an indication of their dedication to Him.

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart also be."

V: 20 God doesn't want the unclean animals like a donkey, so you can redeem them with a lamb, otherwise they were to break it's neck.

- This is a repeat of what God declared in Exodus 13:13 about redemption; in both cases there is a link between donkeys and men...

V: 21 A reminder of the 4th commandment – to keep the Sabbath holy.

- No excuses: plowing time, planting, or harvest – remember the Sabbath.
- We're never to be too busy to honor God.

Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the say approaching."

V: 22-23 3 times a year a mandatory observance:

1. Passover in the spring.
2. Pentecost, 50 days later in the summer.
3. Ingathering / Tabernacles / booths in the fall.

V: 24 God will go before them, grant them victory.

- You don't need to worry about your place while you're gone. When you're honoring Me and being obedient I'll remove the desire of men who would come and take over.

V: 25 Leaven being a picture of sin – there was to be none.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

- The sacrifice had to be consumed entirely – not left until the morning.
- Again the model & type of Jesus, who was not left to hang on the cross overnight, but was taken down and buried before sundown – not left until the morning.

V: 26 Again the concept of the first fruits – which belong to the Lord – specifically to be brought to the house of the Lord.

- The tithe is to be brought to the house of the Lord – into the place where we're being spiritually fed – to be distributed as the Lord sees fit. That way we have no control over it and receive no credit for it.

Matthew 6:3 “But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.”

The prophet Malachi would later caution the people:

Malachi 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”

V: 26b *“Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother’s milk.”*

- As tempting as that is... that’s right up there with don’t eat bats...
- The Canaanites had a fertility ritual wherein they would take a kid, young goat – and boil it in it’s mothers milk, then consume it.
- They aren’t to do anything that resembles pagan worship.
- Orthodox Jews have taken this to mean that you cannot have any dairy products with meat. No cheeseburgers, no steak with potatoes and sour crème, no chicken with milk products either – chickens hate being milked...

V: 27 Write these words after the tenor, utterance, mouth, speech, command – because I’ve made a covenant with you.

V: 28 Once again Moses is up on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights – not having need of food or water.

Psalm 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

“And He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.”

- Like before, God personally writes out the 10 commandments. The only difference is that this time Moses had to carve out the tablets to write them on, the first set was completely produced by God then given to Moses.

V: 29-35 Moses had been in the presence of God and it showed, he'd seen part of the glory of God and he reflected it.

- So much so that it scared the people, drove them away at first.
- Moses beckoned them back, and initially put a veil over himself to speak to the people.
- This later became something to hide behind, being less than transparent.

2 Corinthians 3:13 “And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “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.”