

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

EXODUS 32-34

The last verse of Exodus 24 tells us Moses spent forty days and forty nights on the summit of a fiery and glory-topped Mount Sinai. The chapters since inform us of what happened on the mountain top. Moses was given *the law of God* and *blueprints for the Tabernacle*.

But in today's chapters we're told what happened at the base of the mountain, in Israel's camp, during those forty days - and how Moses reacts on his return.

Exodus 32 begins, "Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

The infant nation had three problems that led them into idolatry... **first, a patience problem - second, a faith problem - and third, a knowledge problem.**

Israel waited 400 years in Egyptian slavery for God to send them a deliverer... Moses waited forty years on the backside of the desert for God to initiate that deliverance... Now that they've been set free, the Israelites *can't wait a mere forty days for Moses to consult with God and receive His marching orders.*

Like many of us, the Israelites had **a wait problem**, not a w-e-i-g-h-t problem, but a W-A-I-T problem. They *strayed* when Moses *delayed*. Understand, God's plan will almost always include a strategic delay. And to follow God you have got to be able to handle the wait.

I've heard it said, "The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it." If you're in a hurry, and so anxious to get started you're leaving God behind... then just *sit on it!*

Israel had a wait problem, but she also had **a faith problem**. The Hebrews wanted a leader they could see - *someone tangible, visible, out-front*. But that's the problem. For God is spiritual not tangible, invisible not visible, and often behind-the-scenes not out-in-front.

The impala is an interesting animal. It's a leaper! It can jump 10' high and cover a distance of 30' in a single stride. Yet, impalas are displayed in zoos behind 3' high walls. And the reason the short wall keeps him enclosed is that impalas won't jump if they can't see where their feet will land. The impala has no faith.

It's been said, "You can't cross a chasm in two steps, sometimes it takes a leap of faith." We have to be willing to *trust God*, even where you can't *trace Him*.

Then Israel had **a knowledge problem**. Notice how they excuse their idolatrous desires... they say of Moses, "*we do not know what has become of him.*" Aaron should've answered, "*We don't need to know!*"

One of the biggest reasons folks become dissatisfied with God is they believe He's obligated to keep them in the loop. They think God should run all His plans past them... And if they don't sign off, He can't precede...

This is sheer arrogance! Israel didn't know what had become of Moses, **but God did**. *There's a lot God knows, that we don't*. And God expects us to trust Him, even if He chooses not to brief us on every subject.

But instead of patience, and faith, and humility, Israel resorted to idolatry... And in verse 2 Aaron cooperates. He says, "*Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.*" *Remember, this gold had been plundered from Egypt.* "*So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"*

"*So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."* Or literally, "*a feast to Yahweh!*"

Remember God's first commandment was, "*You shall have no other gods before Me.*" This obviously violated that command. *But that may not have been Aaron's intention*. For in verse 5 after he molds the calf, he proclaims "*a feast to the LORD.*" And the word translated "**LORD,**" is God's covenant name, "*Yahweh.*" This calf may've been an attempt to represent Yahweh.

In Revelation 4 we get a glimpse of God's throne in heaven. Around the throne are four angels, or living creatures with four faces... one is *the face of a calf*.

It could be Aaron was drawing on this connection. In his mind, he was fashioning a graven image of one of God's angels. Rather than a violation of the first command, the golden calf may've started out as a breach of the second. Of course, God considered it all idolatry... *In God's eyes it was all just a bunch of bull!*

Verse 6, "*Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings;*" Notice, no sin offering. They were blind to their sin. They'd swapped a miracle-working God for an impotent idol, and didn't realize their trust had shifted.

And this is the deceptiveness of idolatry. You say *"I trust God,"* but depend on alcohol to get through the day - or exalt a person, or live for a pastime. *What is your functional god, not just the god you profess?*

It's also interesting that just two months earlier these same people heard God thunder from Mount Sinai in an audible voice, *"You shall have no other gods before Me."* And, *"You shall not make for yourself a graven image..."* Never think, *"If God would just speak to me audibly, I'd obey."* That wasn't true of the Hebrews.

"And the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." In other words, they partied hearty. The verb translated, *"play"* suggests sexual immorality. The camp of Israel was transformed into a drunken orgy.

"And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves." Notice, when God speaks to Moses, He calls Israel "your people" not "my people." God is ashamed to claim them as His own!

*"They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." Wow, God offers to wipe out Israel, and start over with Moses. Usually, it's Moses who gets frustrated with the people, but God also had His moments... In fact, there're times when all parents get frustrated with their kids! On a few occasions I've threatened to ship mine off to China. *It doesn't mean I'd do it, but in the moment I could've...**

Here, God is being honest with feelings He'd never act on. I really don't think God's promises to Israel were ever in jeopardy. The issue was never God's faithfulness - *it was the testing of Moses' faithfulness...*

If Moses had any inkling of selfish ambition he would've taken God up on His offer, but God is testing Moses' love for the people he'd been chosen to lead.

The best *leaders* are *lovers*! Folks will follow a pastor if they know he loves them. And here, Moses will prove his love for the children of Israel, once and for all.

Verse 11, *"Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume*

them from the face of the earth'?" *God, why cause Your enemies to question your love?* Moses is concerned with God's reputation.

"Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" Moses knew of God's covenant with Abraham. It was based on God's grace, not His family's goodness. Remember, God walked through the animal parts *all by Himself*. God "*swore by His own self*." These rebels at the base of Sinai were still the descendants to Abraham and heirs of God's promise.

And verse 14 gives us God response, "*So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.*" *God changed His mind! Can God do that?* If God relents, how does that impact the doctrine of His sovereignty? *Well, I'll let you and the theologians figure that out...* All I know is verse 14 says God changed His course of action in response to a prayer.

Apparently, "*God is immutable, not immobile.*" His nature never changes, *but God can and will alter His course* - which is a powerful encouragement to pray!

Sincere prayer influences God. It's said, "*Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.*" A sovereign God somehow makes His plans contingent on our petitions, inviting us to join Him in His work. God baits us to get involved with Him by tying *His mighty movements to our puny prayers!*

Verse 15, "*And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.*"

Imagine, penned by God's very finger! *What if the Hebrews had done a handwriting analysis?* I'm sure it would've revealed a person full of grace and truth.

"*And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, 'There is a noise of war in the camp.'*" Recall Joshua, Moses' aide, had been posted half-way up the mountain. "*But (Moses) said: 'It is not the noise of the shout of victory, nor the noise of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing I hear. So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.'*" Literally, *Moses became the first man in history to break all Ten*

Commandments at once! In a rage, he hurls the stone tablets onto the rocks, and smashes them to pieces.

Apparently, anger was Moses' besetting sin! It was the issue he dealt with his whole life. Earlier, he got angry and killed an Egyptian... Here, he gets angry and breaks the two tablets... Later, he'll get angry and strike the rock rather than speak to it as God told him. And His disobedience costs him entry into Canaan.

"Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it." He mixes a solution of gold dust and water and serves it to the Hebrews. *This is reverse Alka-Seltzer.* Moses wants the people's betrayal of God to make them sick to their stomach. It'll help them realize how God feels.

"And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" Remember Aaron was Moses brother. *How could he have strayed so far?* On the mountaintop God told Moses Aaron would be the High Priest. He'd lead Israel in worship. Now he's the one making an idol!

"So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil." Aaron blames the Hebrews and tries to pass the buck. Listen to what he says next - it's such a flimsy excuse, it's humorous, "For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'" And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out." *I just threw the gold in the fire, and holy cow... "this calf came out."* Aaron doesn't mention his "engraving tool" and his work at "fashioning" the calf. The future High Priest tries to duck all responsibility. Rather than ordering regular he should've said "*decaf.*"

Verse 25, "Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD's side, come to me." Moses draws a line in the sand. "And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'" Moses orders the tribe of Levi, Aaron's extended family, to kill everyone who opposes Yahweh.

"So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about 3000 men of the people fell that day." The idolatry involved the whole camp, but 3000 people hardened

their heart and refuse to repent. It's ironic, in Acts 2 God's grace saves 3000 souls on the Day of Pentecost. Yet when the law is given 3000 die.

"Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother." The Levites' learn when you stand for God it can put you in opposition to people you love. Feel the Levites agony - they drew swords on their own sons and brothers. *It's still tough today, when faith divides a family.* Yet God bestowed a blessing on such devotion!

Verse 30, "Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin - but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

This is mind-boggling! Moses says to God, "*I'll go to hell, if the Hebrews can go to heaven!*" Hey, I love you guys a lot, but I'll be honest I'm not going to risk eternity in the smoking section for you. I'd suffer in a lot of ways to show God's love for you, *but hell? Sorry Charley!* Moses is demonstrating an extraordinary love!

And though I can't say I've *mimicked* Moses' love, I can say I am *moved* by it. His love motivates me to a greater love... Realize, every 10 seconds, 18 people exit this world? That's every hour, across the globe, 6.480 people enter eternity to meet their Maker... Add to that an alarming statistic, 95% of Christians go their whole life and never lead another person to Jesus.

Now you can grasp the seriousness of this situation. God isn't asking us to go to hell for anybody. He's just asking us to go to our knees and pray for a friend - or go across the street to share the Gospel - or go out of our way to support a missionary... *Do we love folks without Jesus? Or have we forgotten we were lost too?*

"And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book." In essence God is saying, you can't die in the place of sinners if you're a sinner yourself. Only a sin-less person can do that, *and there has only been one such person.* His name is Jesus and Jesus did what Moses couldn't do.

"Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin. So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made." Moses couldn't save

Israel from God's discipline. But Moses could led them through the tough times, *which He did*.

Exodus 33, "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way for you are a stiff-necked people." God renews His marching orders, but their foray into idolatry caused God to impose a temporary distancing... God had intended to dwell in the camp on their journey to Canaan. The glory on the mountain would abide in the camp, **but not now!** Until the tabernacle is built, God will dwell outside the camp.

"And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments." This was disappointing. It was not a time to wear your party hat.

"For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.'" So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb." Folks genuinely repentant and seeking God for renewal don't care about the feelings, and thrills, and spiritual goodies - *the ornaments, if you will*. Serious believers strip off the ornaments and deal with their sin.

Verse 7, "Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp."

Realize, "*the tabernacle of meeting*" was not the Tabernacle that had been shown to Moses on the mountain. This was an interim dwelling for God's glory. A tent outside the camp, until Moses could mobilize the materials and artisans to build the actual Tabernacle.

And whenever Moses spent time with God is became a spectator event. "So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door." Folks who had bowed to a worthless calf, now marveled at Moses' intimacy with Almighty God. They gawked at Moses.

And we're told, "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." Wow! Of course the expression "face to face" doesn't mean Moses gazed at God eyeball to eyeball. It's figurative. God and Moses spoke freely and candidly like friends. The kind relationship we have with God through Jesus.

"And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle." This creates problems for Roman Catholicism... Joshua was "son of a Nun." (Just joking)

This is interesting though. Joshua will later become Moses' successor. And here we find him hanging out in God's presence! He longs to see for himself the glory God revealed to Moses. So much so, he stayed near the tent praying that the anointing would rub off on him.

Verse 12, "Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight."

Notice, Moses didn't view God's grace as an end in itself. Yes, God had accepted and forgiven Moses. But grace brings with it the knowledge of God - and glory of God. Don't be content with just God's grace - for that grace is the key to knowing the God of that grace!

"And consider that this nation is Your people." Moses reminds God, though His glory is outside the camp, the Hebrews are still "His people." And God assures him, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then Moses makes a beautiful statement revealing his heart, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here." Moses would rather be in the desert with God, than in a land of blessing without God. What Moses longs most for is God's presence.

Recall, when God told Moses to go to Egypt, he balked, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" And God answered him, "I will certainly be with you."

But at the time that wasn't enough for Moses, he had his excuses. Now though he's learned, when God is with you, you have all you need. Nothing is impossible with God. This is why it meant so much to His disciples when Jesus told them, "Lo, I am with you always..."

And this is God's promise to us. In Hebrews 13:5 the Lord says to all believers, "I will never leave you or forsake you." We all have the promise of His presence.

Verse 16, "For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." Some nations were known for their geographic advantages, or natural resources, or military might, or political systems, or intellectual prowess... but what set Israel apart from the nations was the presence of God.

And this is the distinctive of a Christian. We're the temple of the Holy Spirit. God's presence dwells in us.

Verse 17, "So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." And (Moses) said, "**Please, show me Your glory.**" God promises His presence, but Moses isn't content with just His presence. He wants all that grace entitles... *He wants to see the full blaze of God's magnificent glory!*

Exodus 33:18 expresses the desire of the heart that hungers for God. Moses talked to God as a man talks to his friend, but Moses no longer wants to be just friends, he wants to see God unveiled in full regalia...

How content are you in your relationship with God? When was the last time you asked to see His glory?

Here's a quote that challenges me whenever I hear it, "I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk, or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of God to make me love a man of a different color, or pick beets with a migrant worker. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I'd like to buy \$3 worth of God, please." Don't be content with \$3 worth of God. Ask for all God's grace entitles, *Show us Your glory!*

And God answers Moses in verse 19, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." In response to Moses' request to see His glory, God gives Moses His name.

In Bible times names revealed a person's truest nature, thus God's name revealed His glory. And here God labels Himself "*gracious and compassionate.*" Of the light that shines from God's throne the brightest and hottest rays are those that radiate His grace and mercy. See God's love and you have seen His glory!

Moses wants to see God's glory, but in verse 20 God tells him, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." The full burst of God's unshielded, undiluted grace is too much for any mortal man. If we saw the visible, physical glory of God with our naked eye we'd burn to a crisp and disintegrate into dust.

So God designs protection for Moses. "The LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock..." Literally, a fissure, or crack. "And will cover you with My hand while I pass by." Note, the double protection, a rock and a hand.

And the rock that overshadowed Moses pointed to a future rock, Jesus. For it's in Christ that we're perfectly positioned to behold God's glory. Augustus Toplady knew this imagery, and drew on it when he wrote the hymn, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in Thee." In Christ we're in a place to see God's glory.

And God says to Moses, "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." What an experience this must've been. A full, frontal view of God would've been lethal, but God revealed as much of Himself as Moses could handle.

Moses saw God in a way no one else did - until 1500 years later when a few fishermen met a rabbi along the shores of the Sea of Galilee... No matter how long you've been a Christian, or the encounters you've had with God - there is more of Him to experience. Go home today, and ask, "Please, show me Your glory!"

In Chapter 34 God replaces the two tablets Moses broke. Moses is to cut the stones and God will rewrite His words. Moses is to come to the mountain alone.

Verse 5, "Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD." Here's God's name, "And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD (Yahweh), the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..." God is love, *but His love doesn't ignore sin...*

For God also, is "by no means clearing the guilty..." He is "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Some sins have consequences that get passed to future generations. If you want to pass on a corrupt legacy to your children God will let you.

I once entered the roller hockey rink up in Snellville, and walked right past a High School hockey player smoking a cigarette with his dad... I wondered what in the world was this man thinking... He probably thought being permissive was cool? *I'm sorry, but leaving your kids a legacy of bad habits is anything but cool!*

Verse 8, "So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. 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." Several times Israel is called "*stiff-necked*." *Ever get a crick in your neck?* You can't turn your head. A stiff-necked people won't change.

Yet despite their obstinance Moses invites God to rejoin the Hebrews and move from the tabernacle of meeting back back into the camp. "And (God) 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." What a word from God... He'll do awesome things that'll baffle other nations. And this is true for us. Walk in His grace and seek His glory, and God will do awesome things for us.

This was God's promise to Israel, *but this promise was part of a covenant*. Which meant Israel had a role to play... The rest of Chapter 34 summarizes their part.

Verses 11-17, Israel will need to tear down the pagan altars. If they associate with idolaters, they'll end up worshipping idols. One compromise leads to another...

Verses 18-25 requires them to keep the three major feasts: Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Weeks in the spring - and Feast of Ingathering in the fall. God makes a big deal about them "*appearing before the Lord*." This is why coming to church if you can is so important. Rather than just watching from home, "*making an appearance*" publicizes your devotion.

Verses 19-20 their firstborn should be dedicated to the Lord... And then verse 26, "*The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God*." They were to tithe. The first and best of the harvest belonged to God... And "*You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk*." This is the second time this is mentioned. The first time was in 23:19.

Verse 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*." Notice, God made His covenant with Israel "*according to the tenor*" or "*spirit*" or "*intent*" of the words...

Fast forward to Jesus' Day and a Jewish sect known as Pharisees were experts at keeping the Law literally, yet violating its intent. They took the Law mechanically, without sensing its spiritual meaning and intention.

And the tithe is a great example. Various offerings said to God you loved Him. But you could give begrudging, and say you were obeying God, *but would you be?* Of course not! You could keep the letter of the Law, but if it wasn't out of love you'd violate its intent.

Verse 28, "So (Moses) was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water." This was another forty days and nights.

And this time Moses fasted bread and water. A human body can live seventy days without bread, but only a few days without water. This was a supernatural, one-of-a-kind encounter with God. Verse 28 needs the following disclaimer... *Please don't try this at home!*

"And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." God rewrote the tablets Moses had broken. Verse 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." Moses' face radiated God's glory. Call it *the divine shine!* - the *Mo glow*. He had a real *Son burn*.

Realize, your spirit is like a Bounty paper towel - a *quicker-picker-upper*. These paper towels are highly absorbent. Soak it and it'll end up saturated... And the same is true with you. Spend soaking in God's presence - beholding His glory - and you'll become saturated with God. It's been said, "There is still, in the countenances of God's most advanced servants a brightness, a gladness, a beaming radiance, which comes only from long communion with the Lord."

God wants us to be like a lampshade. He wants to turn on His light in us, so it'll shine through us to others. In Acts 6:15 it was said of Stephen he had a "face as the face of an angel." He also had **the divine shine**. *How about you? Do you spend so much time in God's presence that you radiate His grace and glory?*

Verse 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. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. 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. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face." The glory radiated by Moses stressed to Israel, he had something no one else did. It symbolized that under the Law the nation was separated from God.

Verse 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. 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.” 2 Corinthians 3 is a great commentary on this passage. Paul says the veil Moses used to cover God's glory spoke of Israel's condition under the OC. They felt unworthy of God; thus Moses kept the glory hidden. But Paul says at the moment “one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”

When sin is forgiven our separation from God ends. Feelings of unworthiness vanish. Receive the Lord's righteousness and you're as worthy as you can get.