

Exodus 33:12-23 **Show me Your Way and Your Glory**

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.' 13 "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. And consider that this nation is Your people."

14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 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."

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." 18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 Then He said, "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." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ God is meeting with Moses at Moses' tent which he pitched far outside of the camp and called it the Tent of Meeting. This is the temporary meeting place until the official Tabernacle is built. [\[Exodus 33:7\]](#)
- ✧ God descends in the Pillar of Cloud and stands at the door of the Tabernacle while He talks with Moses after Moses has entered the Tabernacle. [\[Exodus 33:9\]](#)
- ✧ Moses tests his position with God by asking God;
 - ◇ "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people,' [\[Exodus 32:34, 33:1-3\]](#) but You have not let me know whom You will send with me."

Moses is not sure that Aaron is still in favor with God since Aaron made the golden calf for the people and God was ready to consume the whole lot of them because of it. [\[Exodus 32:10\]](#)

- ◇ "Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' If I have found favor in Your sight, show me Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight."

Moses is seeking confirmation that he has surely found grace in the sight of God, even after his previous intercessory prayers to save the people. [\[Exodus 32:11-14 and 31-32\]](#) Feeling alone in the task with God Who said He will not go in the midst of the camp, Moses now desires assurance that God will indeed be close to him in a special way to demonstrate His friendship with Moses.

To know God's Way enables a person to do the things that are acceptable to God, for without knowledge the people perish. [\[Isaiah 5:13, Jeremiah 4:22, Hosea 4:6\]](#)

Moses is seeking a more intimate knowledge of God than was revealed by the Law alone. Moses has seen the power of God revealed as God brought Israel out of Egypt, but he feels he doesn't fully understand God and God's ways, hence the request.

Through Isaiah, God expressed the same concept of the difference between the ways and thoughts of man and the ways and thoughts of God. [\[Isaiah 55:8-9\]](#)

- ◇ “Consider this nation is Your people.”
Moses is still pleading for the people of Israel, because God has expressed enough anger with them that might still cause Him to consume them. [\[Exodus 33:3\]](#)
 - ◇ God assured Moses by saying, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”
 - ◇ Moses still requests the Presence of God go with them as evidence that they have found grace in the sight of God, and that they have been separated from all other people on the earth, as the people of God with a special relationship with Him.
 - ◇ God promised to do as Moses had asked to demonstrate that Moses has certainly found grace in God's sight, and God does in fact know Moses by name as a close special friend.
- ☆ Satisfied with God's assurance, Moses is now emboldened to ask farther and made his request to see God's glory.
- ◇ This is a most intimate request for personal revelation.
- ☆ God's answer reveals much:
- ◇ God will cause all His goodness to pass before Moses and as He does, God will proclaim the name Yehowah.
 - ◇ In the process of proclaiming the Name Yehowah, God will proclaim the character of God and the significance the Name represents.
 - ◇ God expressed His sovereignty in His revelation by saying, “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” The choice is entirely God's and not done on the demand of man.
 - ◇ Even with the special closeness Moses had with God there were still limits to the possible revelation because no man may see God's face in all His glory and live.

God has already been seen by men in the past and they lived [\[Genesis 18:1-33, Exodus 24:9-11\]](#), but this is a special request to see the full glory of God which is too glorious for mortal eyes to see.

God provided a way, and that was to put Moses in the cleft of the rock and cover him with His hand while God's glory passes by, then remove the hand and allow Moses to see His back, but not His face.