

Exodus 34:1-9 **Glory of God Revealed to Moses**

1 And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. 2 So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. 3 And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."

4 So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

5 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." 8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. 9 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." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses is still talking to God face to face from his tent that was removed far off from the camp and called "the Tabernacle of Meeting" so God would not need to go into the camp to talk to Moses. [Exodus 33:1-7, 8-14]
- ✧ Yehowah commanded Moses to cut out two tablets of stone like the tablets Moses had broken when he saw the golden calf.
- ✧ God promised to write on the new stone tablets the same as He had written on the first stone tablets that God Himself had cut out and Moses had broken. [Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:15-16, 19]
- ✧ God commanded Moses to bring the two newly cutout tablets of stone to the top of Mount Sinai in the morning and Present himself there to God.
- ✧ The command was also to prevent any other man or animal from approaching the mountain.
- ✧ Moses did as Yehowah had commanded.

- ✧ Yehowah descended in the cloud and stood with Moses there on the top of Mount Sinai.
- ✧ As Yehowah passed before Moses and proclaimed the name Yehowah, He declared the character of Yehowah which the Name represents.
 - ◇ The Name; Yehowah, Yehowah El (The Lord, The Lord God).
 - ◇ God's merciful character revealed; Merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. [Exodus 34:6-7]
 - ◇ God's severe character revealed; 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. [Exodus 34:7]

This is expanded upon by adding "of those who hate me" in [Deuteronomy 5:9], thus allowing the acceptance and forgiveness as mentioned before and in keeping with the revelation of

God expressed in [Ezekiel 18:21-23, 32, 33:11] where God offers forgiveness on the basis of repentance.

God's character is referenced by Paul as he writes to the Romans to encourage the Gentiles to be faithful to the Gospel of faith in Christ by living godly lives. It is important that we remember that God is both merciful and righteous, forgiving and severe in judgment. Today as then, God demands repentance from our sins and commitment to pure godly lives.

Paul wrote: "Therefore consider the **goodness** and **severity** of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off." [Romans 11:22] This is to let us know that there is a responsibility for the believer to do all in his power to live righteous lives before God, and not to take the mercy of God for granted.

This is confirmed by the writer of Hebrews as he writes:

"For **if we sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a **certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation** which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" [Hebrews 10:26-29]

- ☆ With God's declaration of His character to Moses, it emboldened Moses to respond by bowing his head toward the earth, worshipping, and making an additional request:
- ◇ "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Yehowah, let Adoney, 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."

The heart of Moses is for God, His reputation among the nations watching, and for the people God has delivered from Egyptian enslavement. Yet he must acknowledge that God is right as the people have demonstrated and that they are indeed a stiff-necked people.

Moses appeals to the primary character of God and asks for God to extend His mercy to the people. However the people must change their ways in repentance for it to be realized.