

Reconciliation and Renewal of the Covenant
Exodus Chapters 33-34

Read Exodus 33:1-6 *God Withholds His Presence*

v.3 - God told Moses the people could have the Promised Land, but He would not remain with them in the same close, personal way. Like a true Father, God essentially says: “*I love you, but I don’t like your behavior right now*” (v.5).

v.4 - In mourning the potential loss of God's close presence, the people showed that they cared about their relationship with God, not just what He could give them. Following their sinful behavior, repentance and restoration of true fellowship with God was needed.

Read Exodus 33:7-11 *The Tent of Meeting*

v.7 – This was a temporary structure set up in order to seek God’s instruction prior to the completion of the Tabernacle.

v.11 – We must take *scripture with scripture*. As was the case in Exodus 24:11, most likely during these intimate (or *face to face*) conversations, Moses saw a heavenly vision of God like that of Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1. The Bible states very clearly just nine verses later (21-23) that no one can see the face of God and live; not even Moses.

Joshua was likely stationed outside the tent to guard it from those who might have been curious enough to attempt a peek inside. Also, consider the special example Moses set for young Joshua. Whether you know it or not, there are young people and new believers who are learning to seek the Lord’s direction from the example you set.

Read Exodus 33:12-17 *Moses Intercedes and God Relents*

v.12-13 – Seeking the forgiveness and guidance of the great “I AM” is always the right move. There is nothing wrong in asking God to bless our endeavors, be with us through trial, and to make known to us His will. We do however need to correct ourselves when we confront God with comments like: (1) “But God, you said...” (2) “But God, if I knew what your plan was then I would...” (3) “God, need I remind you that you I’m your child and I need your protection from...”

v.15-16 – After the golden calf incident, this was a vital step towards restoration of Israel's relationship with God.

How is this prayer of Moses similar to his intercessory prayer in Exodus 32:11-13?

Read Exodus 33:18-23 *God’s Glory Revealed*

Can you remember ever praying a prayer like that of Moses? Can you identify with Moses here?

Read Exodus 34:1-9 *Tablets Replaced*

v.6-7 – Moses had asked to see God’s glory (33:18), and in response God “*proclaimed*” His very character. God did not give Moses a vision of His power, but an insight to His love, mercy, grace, compassion, faithfulness, forgiveness, and justice. We truly glorify God and show Him honor when our character resembles His. Look up 1 John 4:16-17

Read Exodus 34:10-12 *Covenant Renewed*

v.10-11 - When the covenant was broke (19:5), Israel broke it; now God renews it. God truly did many wonders demonstrating His power and presence. Look up: Joshua 3:17, Joshua 6:20, Joshua 10:12-13

In verses 10-28, God repeats the instructions He gave in Chapters 13 & 23

Read Exodus 34:29-35 *Moses’ Return From the Mountain*

How do others view you? Is there anything radiant about you after having spent deep quality time in the presence of Lord?

Why do you think Moses placed a veil over his face after the people saw its radiance? Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Chapters 35-39 Moses gives the Israelites the instructions God had given to him in Chapters 25-31, and the actual construction of the Tabernacle and its articles is completed.

Read Exodus 40:33-38 *God’s Presence in the Tabernacle*

God’s plan all along was to be present with his people as they walked through the desert to the Promised Land.