

Please Show Me Your Glory

Exodus 33:17-20

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."

Never has any other man had the relationship with God that Moses did. He is said to have spoken to God face to face.

And as we saw last time Moses' intercession on behalf of the children of Israel on account of the golden calf was nothing less than marvelous.

In the intervening passage God has told Moses that He will not go on further with the children of Israel lest He destroy them all for their transgressions. Once again Moses prays and God promises to go with them and to send His Messenger with them.

It is on that basis, the basis of God's answering his prayers the Moses now takes a giant step and asks that God would show him His glory.

"Our pen falters as we take up such a verse as this, for what sinful creature is competent to write upon such an exalted theme as the glory of God?" *Pink, A.W., Gleanings in Exodus*

I. Show me Your glory

A. The meaning of the word.

1. To see the glory of God is to see a visible manifestation of His presence. Glory (Hebrew kabod) means the weight and honor of something; in the case of God, it refers to His character and fullness. Because of his fidelity to God, Moses was allowed to see a moving presence, though not face to face (33:20). The reality of God can never be fully captured by human senses. Even Moses could not handle the fullness of God's presence. Even to witness the passing impact of the Creator, however, is to be affected in a dramatic way (34:29-30). Moses encountered God in a manner no one else had encountered Him. God was closer to Moses than anyone. Moses came as close to seeing the full majesty of God as possible for humans. Disciple's Study Bible.
2. 33:18 The word translated "glory" (kavod, Heb.) is from a root meaning "heavy." Its N.T. counterpart is doxa (Gk.). God's "glory" is essentially the profound, glowing, visible, confluent expression of the attributes of deity which bears witness to a still more profound and incomprehensible reality of essence. The Believer's Study Bible.

3. The Hebrew term conveys the idea of "heaviness, significance, importance." Thus it speaks of God's glorious reality, his essential being. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary - Cornerstone Biblical Commentary – Volume 1: Genesis and Exodus.
- B. It has the idea of the essence or character of God.
1. God is spirit and cannot be seen with the eye of any man
 2. We seen in what God said that He would show him that God's character is what God showed him.
 3. Yesterday I finished reading again a book that I bought 40 years ago on the attributes of God by A.W. Pink.
 4. Many things that excite the normal person have little affect on me, but give me a good book about God, a book that extols God and glorifies His character and spells out His nature, His works, His grace and mercy and I can get excited about that.
- C. Probably no one was closer to God than was Moses but he longed for more.
1. More of God, to know Him more fully than He did already.
 2. He was a God junkie.
 3. He was never satisfied for he knew that there was more to God and he wanted to experience all that he could.
 4. Moses wanted to know God's glory more, so God proclaimed His name to him. This shows us that to know God's glory, we must know something of God's attributes, God's perfections, God's nature—as He has revealed them to us in His Word. Christ-Centered Exposition - Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in Exodus.

II. How God answers Moses prayer.

- A. No one can see God in His fulness and live, not this side of death.
- B. So God tells Moses the He will cause His goodness to pass before Moses.
1. When we think of God's power, His goodness is not the first thing we think of.
 - a. We think of His power, His majesty, omniscience, omnipresence or something great.
 2. But God considers His goodness the essence of His glory.
 3. God's desire is to show us His goodness.
 4. We see it all around us.

5. In the creation and the beauty of all we see.
6. In the organization of things, how everything God created was good and very good.
7. We see it in the fact that although mankind has rebelled against Him, yet He provides the rain and the sunshine at the right times.
8. He causes the earth to bless us with her bounty.
9. The forests, the oceans, the skies, the mountains, even all of creation gives up her bounty for rebels against God.

III. But He is still sovereign.

- A. He will have mercy on whom He will.
- B. He will be gracious to whom He will.
- C. Notice the fulfilment of this prayer in the next chapter.
 1. Exodus 34:5-9 (NKJV) 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."
 2. Exodus 34:6 - It is repeated numerous times in Scripture (Pss 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2). Christ-Centered Exposition - Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in Exodus.
 - a. Psalm 86:15 (NKJV) 15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
 - b. Psalm 103:8 (NKJV) 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
 - c. Psalm 145:8 (NKJV) 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.
 - d. Joel 2:13 (NKJV) 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

- e. Jonah 4:2 (NKJV) 2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

3. Notice the effect upon Moses.

- a. Exodus 34: 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.** 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.

IV. Someday we will see Him as He is.

- A. Jesus said, "The pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God" (Matt 5:8). Christ-Centered Exposition - Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in Exodus.
- B. 1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Then notice what we see about His name (34:5-9). Moses wanted to know God's glory more, so God proclaimed His name to him. This shows us that to know God's glory, we must know something of God's attributes, God's perfections, God's nature—as He has revealed them to us in His Word. Christ-Centered Exposition - Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in Exodus.

Moses had wonderfully prevailed with God for one favour after another, and the success of his prayers emboldened him to go on still to seek God; the more he had the more he asked: when we are in a good frame at the throne of grace, we should endeavour to preserve and improve it, and strike while the iron is hot: "Show me thy glory; make me to see it" (so the word is); "make it some way or other visible, and enable me to bear the sight of it." Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible.

In our last few articles we have been occupied with the love of Moses for his people, and his prevailing intercession on their behalf before God. . . . Now as we have seen, the first great blessing which the prayer of Moses obtained for his people was the averting of God's consuming wrath (32:10, 14). The second grand privilege his supplications won for them — on the ground of having himself found favor in the eyes of God — was the securing of Jehovah's continued presence with them (32:12-17). Keeping these things in mind, let us now turn to the seventh and last recorded thing in Exodus 32 and 33 — compare the second paragraph in the preceding article. "And he said, I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory" (v. 18). Pink, A.W., Gleanings in Exodus