

Series: Exodus

Title: The Shining and the Veil

Text: Ex 34: 28-35

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Exodus 34: 28: And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. 29: And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30: And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. 31: And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32: And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. 33: And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34: But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded. 35: And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Moses is a type of Christ our Mediator. Like Moses, Christ fasted forty days and forty nights when was tempted of the devil. Like Moses, Christ *was there with the LORD those forty days and forty nights* in prayer and communion with the Father. Like Moses, Christ *did neither eat bread, nor drink water* but was sustained by every word that proceeded from the Father. The Word of God is our Life, not any temporal things. Temporal things are temporary things.

Moses came down with the old covenant—the ten commandments—written on stones. Be sure to note that God says those ten commandments were the covenant—*he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments*.

The stone tablets had been broken previously. We broke the ten commandments in the garden, even the whole law of God. Only God in Christ restores and honors and magnifies his law. Christ came down with the law in his heart. Like as Moses put those tablets in the ark, the law was in Christ's heart.

Proposition: God foreshadowed Christ as the end of the law and the everlasting covenant of grace when God gave the law through Moses.

Subject: The Shining and the Veil

THE GLORY IN THE FACE

Exodus 34: 29: And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

What was the point of Moses' face shining?

One, it is picture of God's glory in the face of Christ Jesus. It is Christ who teaches us what the ten commandments say to us. It is Christ who teaches us he obeyed it for God's elect. It is Christ who writes his new covenant of grace on our hearts.

Two, the shining on Moses face also declared that the old covenant—the ten commandments—was glorious.

2 Corinthians 3: 7: ...the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance;

The ten commandments were a covenant glorious as a killing letter, as a ministration of death, as a ministration of condemnation. That was its purpose. Paul said I thought it was ordained to life but when the commandment came I found God ordained it to minister death to me and my self-righteous self, died. That was the purpose of the ten commandments. God gave it as a ministration of death not as a rule of life.

Also, the glory on Moses' face foreshadowed that if the old covenant of ten commandments was glorious then the new covenant of grace excels in glory. The new covenant of grace excels the covenant of law, in that, through it Christ gives spiritual, eternal life, by ministering to his people his righteousness. Then the ten commandments cease being precepts and become promises of what we have done in Christ. He says thou shalt worship God only, thou shalt love your neighbor as yourself. It is a promise because we have done so in Christ. If a man is righteous by Christ then he has fulfilled the law. The new covenant of grace gives life by giving a perfect standing before the law in Christ our Righteousness. That is why the law is not made for a righteous man. It is because robed in Christ's righteousness God says we cannot break his law. God will not remember our sin. God will not impute sin to the believer.

The old covenant, including the ten commandments written on stone, was glorious but it was a glory to be done away—the everlasting covenant excels because it is everlasting—

2 Corinthians 3: 7: But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 8: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? 9: For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. 10: For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. 11: For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

The law of Sinai was a carnal commandment. The everlasting covenant of grace is spiritual. The old covenant law had carnal, temporary priests and promises. The everlasting covenant of grace is worked by our everlasting, eternal High Priest, Christ Jesus. All its promises are spiritual and eternal. The old is disannulled for the believer while the new covenant last eternally.

Hebrews 7: 15...after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16: Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17: For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 18: For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19: For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Moses came down with the two tables of testimony—the old covenant—the ten commandments—in *his hand*. Preachers say the believer is under the ten commandments in Christ's hand. Well, at first Christ did come down with the law in his hands and in his heart. But he never put it in our hands. Christ came to fulfill the ten commandments for God and for his people, as well as all the law and the prophets. Christ said not one jot or tittle shall pass away till all be fulfilled. He fulfilled it all. He is the holy, just and good one who alone has fulfilled the holy, just and good law.

In Christ we see the magnification of holiness it took to fulfill the holy law—a sinless GodMan who served God from a perfect, holy nature. In Christ crucified we see the strictness of justice magnified because God spared not his own Son but delivered him up for all his elect people, declaring himself just and justifying us from our sins. In Christ we see a magnification of the goodness of the law in how Christ went about doing only good to all about him and how he makes us hear it and kills our self-righteous self by it by his goodness.

Now, by his obedience, all who believe on Christ, have fulfilled the law. We are complete in Christ. Every believer in Christ is unchangeably righteous. The old covenant, including the ten commandments, is now done away as a covenant. It is abolished for those in Christ. In no way does the law speak to a believer because in Christ we are not under the law. By his blood, Christ,

Colossians 2:14: Blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

We are to obey Christ commandments. But Christ's commandments are not the ten commandments. Do not misunderstand or run to extremes to accuse the preacher. We love the ten commandments. They are holy, just and good. As far as what men call keeping the commandments, God's saints keep them. But God is perfectly righteous and requires perfect obedience. None of us has perfectly obeyed the ten commandments by our works. But the Christ's commandments are faith and love. He e writes the law of faith on our hearts. Therefore, we believe on him, trusting that Christ has fulfilled the ten commandments (as well as all the law) on our behalf and we are righteous and just before the law. The Spirit sheds abroad Christ love in our hearts when we behold Christ's love in suffering the wrath of God in our place to justify God's elect from all our sins--from all our law-breaking. Therefore, we love God our Savior and we love our brethren. Christ commandments include many other things but all falls under faith and love.

The reason this is so vital is because it is Christ's glory! He alone is the righteous fulfillment of the law. Moses face shined without Moses knowing it. It speaks to the truth that God's glory shines in Christ's face because Christ Jesus is the glory of God. Everything Christ accomplished is glorious. But Christ himself is the express image of God, the brightness of his glory. When we speak of righteousness we are not simply speaking of a legal matter or a doctrine but of Christ. He is the Righteousness of God. Christ is the glory of God. By God given faith, every believer in Christ has been brought to the end of the ten commandments. The end for which they were given. All the law, for every true believer, is fulfilled by Christ and Christ is the Righteousness of everyone that believeth. Sinners do not "do" to become righteous. Man "believeth unto righteousness."

FEAR OF THE LIGHT

Exodus 34: 30: And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

While dead in our vain works we are like Aaron and the children of Israel, we are afraid of this message. Self-righteous law mongers are afraid to come to Christ the Light, the Glory of God, because all their vain attempts at law-keeping will be exposed as sin.

John 3:20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

It is evil, the same as all lewd sin, to attempt to "steal" the glory that belongs to Christ alone by vainly claiming that we have kept the law. In fact, it is worse sin than lewd sin. Christ said that the publicans and harlots would enter in before the scribes and Pharisees. Therefore, "everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." To speak of Christ being the end of the law to the believer makes the will-worker afraid because it rips down his false refuge.

But Christ calls his redeemed to himself as we see typified in Moses calling them.

Exodus 34: 31: And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32: And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

Christ is the great Mediator, our Prophet, Priest and King. Aaron and the rulers returned first and afterward all the children of Israel came nigh. Christ first called his apostles and preachers. Afterward Christ calls all his children nigh.

Moses' face shined because God had shown his glory in the face of Christ Jesus. Therefore, Moses spoke to them of Christ. How do we know that? That is what Christ said. He said, "Moses wrote of me." This is what Christ does when he teaches his preacher and his child. We declare the truth of the ten commandments. We declare how the commandment comes and all our righteousness's die. We behold we are guilty before God. We cannot keep the ten commandments by our doing, ever! The law God writes on the heart is the law of righteousness by which we hear the law declare us guilty. It is the law of faith by which we believe Christ established the law and is our Righteousness. It is the law of love by which we bow to Christ who loved us and gave himself for us.

Also, Christ declares the truth revealed in the ceremonial law. He teaches us that Christ is the Lamb, the High Priest, the Mercy Seat, the Tabernacle, the Shewbread, the Altar. Everything in the ceremonial law typifies Christ the way to God.

But Moses, like us, had that treasure in an earthen vessel that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. Only God can make the light shine in the heart and reveal Christ's glorious face. We learn that next.

THE VAIL ON AND OFF

Exodus 34: 33: And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

First, the vail on Moses face was to typify the blindness of the natural mind. It is the vail on the heart of the carnal sinner.

2 Corinthians 3: 12: Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15: But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

The apostle Paul, writing by divine inspiration, declared that Christ has fulfilled the law so that the old covenant, with its ten commandments, is abolished. Read 2 Corinthians 3: 12-15 and see that that is what Paul declared. He is talking about the law written and engraven in stones. That was the ten commandments.

2 Corinthians 3: 7: ...the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance;

Why do we believe this? Why do we believe on Christ. It is due to the Spirit of God writing the law of the gospel on our hearts and making us know Christ took away the first covenant of works and established for God's elect the everlasting covenant of grace. That is why the apostle Paul declared that that covenant written on stones is now abolished.

2 Corinthians 3: 12: Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15: But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

When we declare this plainly why will folks not bow and rejoice with us that this is true in Christ?

2 Corinthians 4: 3: But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

That vail on the heart, blinding sinners, is what was typified by Moses having the vail on. Yet, when Moses went before the Lord he took the vail off.

Exodus 34: 34: But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded. 35: And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

When Moses stood before the Lord Jesus, the Mediator, in whom God was speaking with Moses, he took the vail off and the light of Christ made his face shine. Only when our heart is turned by the Spirit to behold the glory of God in Christ's face is the vail on our heart removed.

2 Corinthians 3: 14...which veil is done away in Christ...16: Nevertheless when it [the heart] shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory [of the old covenant law] to glory [of Christ our Righteousness himself], even as by the Spirit of the Lord

Paul is declaring how we are turned from the glory of the law to the glory of God's covenant of grace. Christ himself is the Covenant. The Spirit turns us to Christ. Only Christ can conform us to him in the inward man. He turns us from the glory of the old covenant to the glory of Christ our Covenant in whom we are righteous and holy. Then we see the veil rent in the temple which declared Christ is the Way. It is finished!

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus is that Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. If the Son shall make you free from the law then you shall be free indeed. He brings you under the law of liberty, the gospel of God's grace. Then you are free indeed. Then we are under the light and easy rule of faith and love. Then we are not under the law but under grace. We are not under the law *as a covenant, a curse or a command*. Do not misunderstand, the commandment is holy, just and good. We delight in the law of God in the inward man, as the apostle Paul said. But we are under Christ's direct command. God's saints are led of the Spirit. We follow Christ, walking by faith, constrained by his love. The letter of the law cannot do what Christ does by his Spirit through faith and love!

Be sure to get this. You cannot be under the law's precept as a rule of life without being under its penalty. Paul called the law "the ministration of death." He said "the just live by faith and the law is not of faith" (Gal 3: 12-13). To even imagine we have kept the law is to say we are righteous by our doing. It is impossible! Christ alone is the righteousness of the believer. When David said that he had kept God's precepts, it was the precept of faith in Christ. And by faith in Christ David had kept all God's law because Christ was his Surety who established the law for his people in perfect righteousness.

Christ's commandments are not the ten commandments. His commandment is *believe on me*. Thus we establish the ten commandments and all the law. We do so, not by our works, but by the Faithful One who did it for us. His abiding in our new heart makes us believe on him and walk by the faith of the Son of God. By Christ alone have we have kept the law. His commandment is *love one another*. We do so perfectly only in Christ. And by the love of God shed abroad in the new heart we are constrained in the inward man to love one another.

But the veil on Moses face also reminds us that right now, even as believers, we see through a glass darkly. This change will come in perfection when we see Christ face to face and are changed into his image perfectly.

1 Corinthians 13:12: For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3:2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Amen!