Many years ago there was a man who worked for a company who was fired. He was fired because he did not do his job right and do what he was supposed to do. The company had given him several chances to start changing, but he didn’t change and ultimately, he was dismissed. After some time he came back to the company to reapply for a job. In his interview he said he realized his mistakes and he would not be making those same mistakes anymore. Well the company decided to hire him back and the first thing they did was to give him a manual and said read this and abide by this and we won’t have any further problem.

That is exactly what God does with Israel right here. Israel had fallen into terrible idolatry and she had ruined her relationship with God. But Moses had intervened on her behalf and God spared her and now He was going to give her another chance. But the relationship begins with a focus on His manual and His manual is His written Word.

People who are serious about being right with God are dead serious about the written Word of God. This is the way God wants it. This is the way God has designed it and never is that point more evident than it is here:

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TERRIBLE SIN OF GOD’S PEOPLE, GOD RENEWED HIS COMMITMENT TO ULTIMATELY BLESS HIS PEOPLE AND IT BEGAN WITH A FOCUS ON HIS SACRED WRITTEN WORD.

In these verses we will see an amazing glimpse of God. His willingness to forgive is far above and beyond anything we can grasp. However, it is clear that when He does forgive He wants a serious focus on His written Word. This is exactly where this new relationship begins.

As we look at this text, there are some key revelatory facts presented here:

REVELATORY FACT #1 – God tells Moses to cut replacement stones. 34:1a

Now Moses had thrown down the two tablets God had originally written (32:19) and those two tablets had been shattered to pieces when they hit the ground. Originally those first two tablets were the work of God (32:16). What that means is that originally God provided the tablets Himself, but since he had shattered them, he would have to replace them. This is an interesting principle to see.

Since he had done this, it was now his responsibility to cut out two stone tablets that were identical to the first two tablets. He would have to chisel it out or have someone else chisel it out. Actually only Moses would know whether or not the stone tablets were identical.

One thing that is clear from this is that once we have blown it, it is our responsibility to make things right as much as we can. God expects us to take the initiative to resolve things.
Specifically here God expected Moses to realize the seriousness of the Word of God. **When we do something wrong, we are responsible to make it right.**

**REVELATORY FACT #2** – God tells Moses He will *write* His Word again. **34:1b**

God informs Moses that He would once again write His Word to His people. This shows us how important the written Word of God actually is to having a real relationship with God. God wants His people to have His written Word.

I do not think most people even begin to grasp how important it is to have God’s written Word. In order for this relationship between God and His people to move forward, they needed the written Word of God.

I read a story of a man who threw away an old family Bible. He was telling this to a friend who loved old books and said he had thrown it away because it was old and he couldn’t read it. He said it had been printed by someone named Guten-something. The man said, “Not Gutenberg.” That Bible was one of the first printed and a copy just sold for two million dollars. Well the man was not impressed and said that old Bible would not have sold for even a dollar, some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it in German.

The sad reality is most would love to get their hands on that Bible for the dollar value, not for the eternal value. But it is the written Word that is eternally valuable to the people of God. If people are going to move forward, they need the Word of God.

**REVELATORY FACT #3** – God tells Moses where, when and how He will give His *Word*. **34:2-3**

God did not dilly-dally in giving Moses a lot of time. He basically says in verse 2 be ready by morning. What that means is that you have the rest of the day to get these stones cut and you need to be ready to go by morning. This was no time for procrastination. The job needed to get done and Moses needed to do it.

God says to Moses tomorrow you go up onto Mt. Sinai. God gave four specifications for this meeting:

**Specification #1** - The meeting was to take place between Moses and God on *top* of the mountain. **34:2b**

**Specification #2** - No other person was to be with Moses on *top* of this mountain. **34:3a**

**Specification #3** - No other person was to even be *on* this mountain. **34:3b**

**Specification #4** - No animal was to graze in *front* of the mountain. **34:3c**
Now this would cover the entire area of this mountain. There was to be no grazing anywhere in
front of this mountain while this meeting was taking place.

Now we may recall that the people were involved in their idolatrous worship at the foot of the
mountain (32:19). God says no one is to go near this area.

**REVELATORY FACT #4** – Moses followed the Word of God _literally_. 34:4

This is a very important point to realize. If we are to be in a right relationship with God, we
must take the Word of God literally. That is how we are to apply it. By morning, Moses had
those two stones literally in his hand and he carried them up to Mount Sinai just as God had
commanded him. Moses did not try to symbolize the Word of God or spiritualize the Word of
God; he took it at face value. That is how he interpreted God’s Word.

God expects His people to take His Word literally. He expects His people to obey His Word.
We live in the Church Age and He expects us to obey His Church Age instruction. We are to
carefully hear the Word and then literally obey the Word.

**REVELATORY FACT #5** – God _descends_ and _meets_ with Moses. 34:5-8

Now keep in mind that the children of Israel had really blown it big time. So this is a very
important moment. Whenever God decides to have a relationship with anyone, for Him it is a
descent. Moses was the best man on earth at this time and for God it was still a descent. There
are four observations we may make:

**Observation #1** - God actually _physically_ descended and was in the _cloud_ with Moses. 34:5a

God’s presence was literally at this meeting. He was there in Person.

**Observation #2** - Moses specifically _called_ upon the name of the LORD on this mountain.
  34:5b

Now this would indicate that Moses had a tremendous reverence for God and that this was a real
literal communication taking place.

**Observation #3** - God specifically passes in _front_ of Moses. 34:6a

What this proved to Moses is that God was still going to have a very personal and close relation-
ship with Moses even though he had made a major mistake when he threw down the precious
Word of God.
Observation #4 - God specifically reveals His character attributes to Moses. 34:6b-7

Now these attributes that God reveals about Himself are wonderful things we need to know. Any person in any dispensation needs to know these things about God because we have all failed God and sinned against God.

One commentator said these attributes would be welcomed news to God’s people. They were coming off a terrible evil episode of idolatry and this would be great news for them.

(Attribute #1) - God is compassionate. 34:6c

God is very caring and concerned about His people. He is very tender toward His people.

(Attribute #2) - God is gracious. 34:6d

God’s very nature does things for people that they do not deserve, cannot earn or merit.

(Attribute #3) - God is slow to anger. 34:6e

God is very patient with His people even when they have misbehaved and failed.

(Attribute #4) - God abounds in mercy and lovingkindness. 34:6f

The Hebrew word means that God is merciful and kind to His helpless people. He is loyal to His own.

(Attribute #5) - God abounds in truth. 34:6g

God is always a God of truth. Everything connected to Him is true.

(Attribute #6) - God is merciful and lovingly kind to thousands. 34:7a

The truth is in the immediate context of Israel it was literally thousands, but in the context of the whole program of God it is in the millions.

(Attribute #7) - God forgives iniquity. 34:7b

God is willing to forgive depraved things, perverted things.

(Attribute #8) - God forgives transgressions. 34:7c

God is willing to forgive those times when people have wandered off the path in their relationship with Him.
(Attribute #9) - God forgives sin. 34:7d

God is willing to forgive any missing of the mark.

What an amazing God. He is willing to forgive us all our iniquity, transgression and sin. This is addressed to His own people, not the lost.

(Attribute #10) - God will punish the guilty. 34:7e

If one does not truthfully face sin and deal with sin, God will not let them off the hook. If one does not respond to God’s grace and mercy and if one does not face the iniquity and the sin, they will not escape punishment.

In fact, any God rejecter will soon learn that God will not let him or his future generations off the hook. He will punish those who refuse to respond to His grace.

Now this statement does not mean that God will punish children and grandchildren for something their parents or grandparents did. The emphasis here is that if one rejects the grace and forgiveness of God and continues in the guilt, God will hold them accountable. Every generation that refuses to respond to the grace of God will be held guilty and punished.

REVELATORY FACT #6 – Moses responds to God. 34:8-9

There are two main responses that we see from Moses:

Response #1 - The physical response. 34:8

The first thing Moses did was bow down in the presence of God and worship God. Do you see this; there is a real reverence here. Moses is bowed down. He does not start running around saying God told me or spoke to me; he bows down before the Lord. He realizes the grace of God in this moment. He realizes they do not deserve this moment.

Response #2 - The verbal response. 34:9

When you have a leader who gets down on his knees before God and asks God to bless the people and lead the people, you have a very rare man of God. Moses was that kind of man and he was that kind of leader. Moses asks God to pardon the nation and lead them to the Promised Land.

Moses admits the people were stubborn and obstinate. He admits that they were involved in iniquity and sin and he asks God for a pardon, for His presence and for His guidance.

Now in view of such horrific sin, how is this possible? It is possible because of the forgiving nature of God.
God longs to forgive His people. God longs to have a close relationship with His people. But His people need to go to Him for His grace. If they will, they will find it.