

## Introduction:

- A theme found in Exodus is we are saved from bondage to worship.
- Exodus 24 he speaks to them about worship on the edge of the mt.
- He gives Moses a 40 day module on the subject.
- In Exodus 32 we learn what the children of Israel is up to while Moses is learning about worship.
- God says He will destroy the people.
- Moses prays that glorious prayer of Exodus 32, and he begs the Lord, for the sake of His promises, for the sake of His great name, for the sake of His great mercy, for the sake of His witness to the Egyptians and all the nations, not to destroy His people. And God in His mercy, withholds, restrains His judging hand.

***This is where we left off in chapter 32.***

## Lets look at this in 3 sections.

Withdrawal of the blessing of the presence of God. **1-6**

God continues to meet with Moses. **7-11**

Moses expresses his heart to God in prayer and God responds. **12-21**

**33** And the Lord said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: **2** And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: **3** Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for **I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.** **4** And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. **5** For the Lord had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. **6** And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

## I. Withdrawal of the blessing of the presence of God. (1-6)

### A. Progress without His presence.

1. God will Provide, Protect, and Plant
  - a) I'm going to bring you into the Promised Land, just as I told you
  - b) I'm going to take you up into the Promised Land.
  - c) I'm going to send My angel before you.
  - d) I'm going to drive out your enemies before you.
  - e) I'm going to prepare the way.
  - f) I'm going to protect you
  - g) I'm going to plant you in the land.
2. God will not be Present.
  - a) But "I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way." v.3
  - b) God will not tolerate the disloyal hearts.
3. He is distant from the people.
  - a) The people, not my people. v. 1
  - b) An angel not my angel (extension of His presence). v. 2

### B. We worship God His way or not at all.

1. They told Aaron "Make us gods, which shall go before us".  
**Exodus 32:23**
2. Every step along the way they had been warned of idolatry.

### C. Israel response. (4-6)

1. They were devastated.
  - a) They will not put on the ornaments.
  - b) Ornaments had been used to create idol.
  - c) Drinking and playing (32:6) turned to sorrow.
  - d) Signs of mourning. As in a funeral.
  - e) India illustration. Walking down aisle. Lime everywhere.

2. How many American Christians would be happy with this arrangement?
  - a) "There are plenty of people, and some may even be in your church, who are just looking for the Christian version of the American Dream. They would like two weeks of paid vacation time, a nice home, a white picket fence, and accomplished children who do not embarrass them in public. If God is part of that dream, that is cool with them, but it's not really necessary. Divorced from God themselves, they don't see any reason to grant Him anything more than weekend visitation rights with His children." - Pioneer Sender Booklet
  - b) Revelation 3 speaks of the Laodacia church functioning without Him in the mist.

**7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the Lord went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.**

**8** And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. **9** And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. **10** And all the **people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.** **11** And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

## II. God continues to meet with Moses (7-11)

- A. Moses made a “tabernacle of congregation” outside the camp.
  - 1. People would stand and watch as he walked out of the camp.
  - 2. Cloud would cover his tent.
  - 3. They knew God meant for it to be in the presence of them but it had been moved outside the camp.
- B. Moses was their only chance to regain God’s presence.
  - 1. Not because Moses was powerful but because he was the mediator.
  - 2. Moses was chosen of God for this role. He was also up on the mountain communing with God when the sins were being committed in the valley.
  - 3. Quick change from the time of disrespect in **32:1 the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.**
  - 4. God meets on His on terms.
    - a) It took faith for Moses to move out of the camp.

- b) It took submission to God's Word.
  - c) It took grace extended by God.
  - d) All the necessary factors for worship. Not gold jewelry.
- C. People chose their place of worship.
- 1. Some stood in their tents and watched as Moses went outside the camp.
  - 2. Others "sought the Lord" and followed their mediator. **v.7**
  - 3. Where do you stand?
    - a) It was called the "tabernacle of the congregation" and "tent of meeting". There is room for you.
    - b) Is "worship" something you can watch from a distance.
    - c) Are there too important at home to follow the mediator and worship?

12 And Moses said unto the Lord, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and **thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me.** Yet **thou hast said**, I know thee by name, and **thou hast also found grace in my sight.** 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, **if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee**, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, **My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.** 15 And he said unto him, **If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.** 16 For **wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us?** so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. 18 And he said, **I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.** 19 And he said, **I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.** 20 And he said, **Thou canst not see my face:** for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the Lord said, **Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:** 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

### III. Moses expresses his heart to God in prayer and God responds. (v.12)

- A. Moses reminded God of His promise to make him the deliverer but does not tell who will go with him. (v.13)
  - 1. Show me Your ways because I want to know You! (v13)  
Moses wanted to know God (His attributes, His character, His heart) far above anything else.
  - 2. Moses tells God that His presence is supreme and they do not want to do anything without it! (v.15)
  - 3. How can there be in proof I have found favor with you if You do not go with us? (v.16)
  
- B. God's response. v.14
  - 1. God responds but Moses continues to make his case.
  - 2. God promises rest. As he does with the disciples.  
Giving a clear reminder of who He is and what He alone can provide.
  
- C. Moses last and most audacious request; Show me
  - 1. God says I want to show you "all my goodness."
    - a) Reminded of this time and time again.
    - b) Despite how you read the circumstances God is good all the time!
  - 2. God says "I will proclaim my name."
    - 1. Does in the ned chapter.
    - 2. We have a God who communicates not only to truth to us but shows us who He is!
  - 3. God says "I will show mercy how and when I want to show mercy." (this is by no means a good proof text for a calvinist)
    - a) This is not an arbitrary method.

- b) Could any Scripture be any more clear about how God uses a mediator in the place for His people.
  - c) How he calls all men to repentance and will show mercy to them. That is His chosen method.
  - d) As seen with the Ninavites in Jonah's day.
4. God says "I am incomprehensible." **v.20**
- a) Angels shield their eyes around the throne.
  - b) Pure in heart will see God. - Beattitudes.
  - c) We see in a mirror dimly. **1 Cor 12**
  - d) We see God's glory in Jesus Christ. **John 1:14**

#### IV. Moses foreshadows our Mediator- Christ.

- A. Moses heart and necessity for his people.
  - 1. Moses loved his people.
    - a) Hebrews 11:24, 25, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter: Choosing rather to suffer affliction *with* the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." His love for them is brought out again in
    - b) Acts 7:23, "And when he was full forty years old, it came into his *heart* to visit his brethren the children of Israel."
  - 2. Had there been no Moses to plead their cause, Israel had perished.
- B. Jesus heart and necessity for His people. **John 17:19-24**
  - 1. The necessity.
    - a) **For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, *now to appear in the presence of God for us:* Heb. 9:24**



b) Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25**

2. His heart

- a) Not just for the disciples standing near Him. **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
- b) Jesus prays we will behold God's glory. **24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.
- c) Jesus prays for reconciliation for us. **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:
- d) Our reconciliation vindicates the role and necessity of the mediator. **21b** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

## Conclusion

- We are as guilty of idolatry as the children of Israel.
- We have been provided a mediator who has secured the presence of the Lord in our lives.
- In Acts 1 we learn the Holy Spirit, the Comforter has come. This is not something we have to wait upon. We have His presence dwelling in us.
- We choose today to yield to His working in and through our lives.
- Can you say as Moses **“If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.”**?
- Do you desire to know and see God. Do you see that as your great ambition in life; to know Him. That is the high mark in Philipians.
- What a poor life we live when we are satisfied to live lives as if we had no mediator.
- **If you knew you had lost the presence of God but you would still reach all the goals you had for your family would you be devastated?**

### **How much do you desire His presence in your life?**

1. Do you have a high respect for our mediator? Do you give your life to talking about what Jesus has done in providing reconciliation with you and God. You do not have to live a life void of His presence.

2. Evaluate your prayer life? What is it that fires you up. Do you desire to see/know God has Moses. Is it the driving force in your prayer life?

3. How much do you work at being at places where you know you can learn more about the nature of God? Rather at your kitchen table with an open Bible, at a coffee shop in foundations, at all 3 of the services, in conversations with your friends.. are you casually watching from a distance?