



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

EXODUS 34:1-14

LESSON: GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT—

June 14, 2026

INTRODUCTION: SYNOPSIS

33:17-19 Moses had asked the Lord to go with them, and the Lord still tells Moses that He will do this, for he has found grace in God's sight, and He knows him by name. Now, Moses gets down to what he really wants to ask God. Moses wants to see God's glory; His essence; His core, His Spirit—the full disclosure of God!

33:20-23 God values Moses' request, but there are limits to what God will reveal to Moses—only His back parts, not His face because if He did, he would not live, for no one has seen God's face and lived. God gave specific instructions as to what was to happen: "*Stand on the rock*," for behold there was a place by God that Moses would be able to see God: in the cleft of the rock to hide him so God's glory could pass by while God's hand shields and covers him, (providing protection) because neither Moses nor anyone could see God's face and live. Then God would remove His hand, and Moses would only see God's back parts: but His face shall not be seen.

LESSON:

I. EXODUS 34:1-4

34:1 **And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.** This is a do-over for God and Moses concerning the Tablets of Testimony or the Ten Commandments, because the first tables of stone were broken by Moses. God had instructed Moses of the Covenant He was making with the children of Israel from Chapters 20 to 32. And when Moses was about to give these commandments to the people, they had committed an horrific sin against God. After Moses came down from the mountain, he saw Israel's disobedience and disrespect. They had made a golden calf and called it their god (Exo.31:18). And now we have a do-over of hewing out these two tables of stone for God to rewrite His words of commandments upon.

34:2 **And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.** Now, God has given Moses a second chance, and God is ready to make covenant with the people again after He gave judgment, and sent a plague upon them because of the calf Aaron had made. And Moses was allowed to make atonement for this great sin of the people (Exo.32:26-35). God's instructions to Moses: "*Be ready in the morning to come up unto Mount Sinai and present yourself to me in the top of the mount.*" Very specific words. There is always preparation for God's presence. It was scary enough before, where the people couldn't come up the mountain, couldn't even touch it or else they would die.

34:3 **And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.** The people couldn't deal with God directly because of sin and rebellion, so Moses bridged the gap between the people and God. He was to





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come alone, and the people are told to keep their distance from the holy mountain; neither their flocks nor their herds are to feed close to the mountain. You know how disruptions come, well, God's plan will still flourish no matter how many disruptions come, and He will not alter His plans.

34:4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. Therefore, the tablets were to be written again as were before for the people. And Moses did as the Lord commanded, and that is to hew two tables of stone like the first. And he holds them in his hand.

II. EXODUS 34:5-9

34:5 And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. Moses had gotten to the top of the mount, and the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of the Lord. This was an intimate moment between God and Moses as God prepares to reveal His character and covenant which is in His Name, with Moses. ¹The Name "the LORD" (YHWH) is the Covenant Name of God. It was first revealed to Moses at the "*Burning Bush*" (Exodus 3:14). It conveys God's eternal, self-existent nature, and His faithfulness to His promises.

34:6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,— Moses has come before God, and God passes before him, and made a proclamation (announcement). This proclamation is a profound moment where God declares His attributes, such as mercy, grace, longsuffering, goodness and truth which are further detailed in the following verses (Exodus 34:6-7). In learning about God's attributes especially His mercy (compassion) and forgiveness, as well as His holiness, righteousness, and judgment, God points out that He is a loving God, but He will not tolerate sin.

- a. He is so compassionate that when we sin and ask for forgiveness, He forgives us.
- b. He is so compassionate that He heals our illnesses.
- c. He is so compassionate that He blesses us with food, shelter, and jobs. As God passes by Moses, He describes Himself with seven attributes:

1. **Mercy:** He is a compassionate God. Although the entire human race has broken His law, He does not punish us as we deserve. He knows we are frail (Psalms 103:14).
2. **Gracious:** He is the God of grace. We deserve nothing, have no redeeming qualities, but He generously gives us what we do not deserve.
3. **Longsuffering:** He is a God who is slow to anger. He holds back His wrath by the reigns of His love. Humans can love and hate alternately from one situation to another. However, God is not like us. He may grow angry, but He does not hate people. He hates evil. The reason God is slow to anger is not that He doesn't notice our sin, but He has extraordinary patience and timing.
4. **Abounding in Goodness; Steadfast Love:** When God uses the word "*abounding*" He wants us to understand that the resources of His Goodness and flowing love is not limited in any way.

¹ <https://biblehub.com/exodus/34-5.htm>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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The focus is on the durability of His love. It lasts, it perseveres, and it keeps on flowing!

5. **Abounding in Truth:** God's truth is unchanging, constant and overflowing. His truth is not only inexhaustible, but reliable and indestructible.

34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. God is keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving...

6. **Keeping mercy (Maintaining) Steadfast Mercy for Thousands:** Thousands of generations, as long as the people do not violate the covenant, and thus invoke the covenant penalties. There are two kinds of people:

1. One who is blind to the magnificence of God's mercy;

7. **Forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin:** It is God's nature to forgive sin, and these three terms mean He forgives all kinds of sin that one can commit, except blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Matt 12:31). This was God's own declaration of who He is, a forgiving God, which is why these words are quoted many times in Scripture (see Joel 2:12-14).

2. The other who is blind to the magnitude of his own misery. God used all three Hebrew words for sin here to show that all sorts and degrees of sin are forgivable. God forgives iniquity, and transgression, and sin.

- **Iniquity** (wickedness) is the desire to sin; the tendency to do wrong while sin is wrong in itself. It's always there because of human imperfection. internal
- **Transgression** (rebellion) is the moment your **will** sins; deliberate revolt; defiant disobedience.
- **Sin** (missing the mark; falling short); walking out in the iniquity; doing the deed itself.

When we repent, ²The Lord says He "*forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.*" However, He also says that He will "*not clear the guilty.*" There are consequences, yet all sinners are guilty. So, which guilty ones will He forgive? And which guilty ones will He not forgive? The answer is clear, He will forgive the guilty who turns from their sin, and turns to God with their whole heart. And the guilty who rejects His offer of mercy, He will by no means clear. He visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.

There's a difference between punishment and suffering. When God visits the sins of the fathers on the children, the effects of the fathers' sins take their natural course, infecting and corrupting the hearts of the children. This means that the children and grandchildren will repeat many of the same sins because the sin had not been dealt with. Sin is like a contagious disease. Children don't suffer because one parent does it, but they suffer because they followed and believed in the same things. Any child that keeps on sinning like his father will share the father's punishment. However, Ezekiel 18:19 says, "*When the son has done what is lawful and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live.*" In other words, he won't die for his father's sins because he is not following in his father's footsteps.

³But even though God is patient, and slow to anger, there are limits, and those who do not repent will be punished, and will perish. This brings us back to choices. If God calls you to repent

² <http://www.soundofgrace.com/piper84/100784m.htm>

³ <http://www.richardajordan.com/Sermons/951119.htm>

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



today, then today is a good day to repent, for tomorrow may be too late. For it is one thing to bear our own sin. It is quite another to know that our sin may affect the lives of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren because of our sin leading them to miserable lives. It may not seem fair, but that's not the point. **The point is:** Sin will keep us from telling our children about the way of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. And if we don't tell our children, then how can they, in turn, tell their children? And if we are silent, who will reach out to the rest of the world in our bloodline? And what of the generations yet to come? **God's attributes can only be seen in a yielded life; can only be encountered in a repentant vessel; can only shine in a humble and teachable spirit, for even later generations.**

34:8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. Moses' natural response to God's revelation of His glory and attributes moved him to swiftly bow down and worship God. And this humbling of himself and exalting of God in worship came before Moses' appeal for God to continue to take Israel as His own people. When we don't have a compelling drive to worship God, it's a clear evidence that one doesn't really appreciate who God is.

34:9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. Moses is still bargaining with God. If we know God, and have found favor in God's sight, we can ask Him to forgive others. That's what Moses did. He went a step further before the Lord, asking on behalf of the nation, for the Lord to go among them, and pardon their iniquity and sin, knowing that they were a stiff-necked people. By God going among the people, it would mean forgiveness of their iniquity and sin; and an inheritance. Moses wants the Lord to accept them as His own—giving them an inheritance. Moses has worshipped and prayed, and it's only by the grace of God that God honors this. Moses successfully intercedes for the people of Israel, and God responds in 34:10,

III. EXODUS 34:10-14

34:10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee. *"Behold, I make a covenant."* A "Covenant" is God's solemn promise that He will give the covenant people certain benefits if they will obey the terms of the Covenant. So, a covenant involves three things:

1. **Promises** which God will perform if the people keep the covenant. *"I will do marvels... for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee."*

God makes a Covenant (solemn promise) before the people, and will perform miracles that had never been seen before, for it's going to be a terrible (an awesome) power God will display before Israel.

34:11 Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

2. **Commandments** or terms which the people must keep in order to receive the promises. God tells Israel that all they would have to do is to "**Observe**" (actively obey; putting faith into action). That meant their part of the agreement is to keep; follow God's commandments. Then He



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will go before them and drive out the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. These were all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan.

34:12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:—

3. **Warnings** of what will happen if the covenant is broken (vv.12-14). So, pay close attention lest you fall into a trap; a hidden danger to take you away from what God commanded. God didn't want them compromising with the people in the land that they were going into, for if they did, they would soon be taught to follow the evil ways (idolatry) of the inhabitants.

34:13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:—So after God drives out the inhabitants, He tells them that they had to destroy the altars and images, and cut down the shameful idols (wooden symbols) that the inhabitants left.

34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:— The reason God gives these instructions because they were to worship One God, and not any other god, for the Lord their God Jehovah is a jealous God who claims absolute loyalty and exclusive devotion! This verse is so powerful because it brings them to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3). This is the renewal of the Covenant!

SUMMARY:

Moses was to cut out two tables of stone like unto the first that he had broken, and God would rewrite upon these tables the words that were in the first tables. God told him to be ready in the morning, and come up to the top of Mount Sinai. And no man shall come up with him, neither any man be seen near, nor flocks nor herds feed before the mount. And Moses rose up early in the morning, and cut out the two tables of stone like the first, and went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, holding in his hand the two tables of stone (**34:1-4**).

(5) The Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed His Name (6) as the Lord passed by before him proclaiming His attributes. *"The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, (7) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin, and will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation"* (**34:5-7**).

Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped God, saying, *"If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord... go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people, pardon our iniquity and sin, and take us for thine inheritance."* God is making a covenant: before all the people, for He will do and perform miracles that had never been seen before, for it's going to be a terrible (an awesome) power God display before Israel. They were to observe what He's commanded, as He drives out the inhabitants there, and take heed lest they make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where they're going, and become a snare in the midst of them. They were to destroy their altars, break their images, and groves, for they are to worship no other god: for God's Name is Jealous! He is a jealous God (**34:8-14**).

