

Exodus 34

Verses 1-4

Now the Lord said to Moses, “Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered. ² So be ready by morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. ³ No man is to come up with you, nor let any man be seen anywhere on the mountain; even the flocks and the herds may not graze in front of that mountain.” ⁴ So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand.

Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered

God had made the first set of tablets.

See Exodus 24:12

But he required Moses to cut out the new tablets which may indicate some disapproval that Moses broke the first set.

But God would do the writing on this second set as he did on the first set.

No man is to come up with you, nor let any man be seen on the mountain

This time only Moses was allowed on the mountain.

Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (his two oldest sons) and the elders were allowed on the first trip up the mountain.

See Exodus 24:1

And were allowed to witness the glory of God and eat a fellowship meal with Him.

See Exodus 24:9-11

It is quite likely that they all lost the privilege of going up the mountain the 2nd time because of the golden calf incident.

Verses 5-9

⁵ The Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord. ⁶ Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” ⁸ Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. He said, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession.”

⁶ Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

The background for this this verse is the horrific sin that Israel had just committed.

The worship of the golden calf and the “playing” that followed it.

It took some doing, but God was persuaded to forgive Israel for this sin.

The amazing thing is that this was just the first of countless times that God would have to forgive them from 1446 BC till 70 AD.

If God wasn't compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness, we would all be lost.

Yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished,

Visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children

And on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations

Have you noticed that this 2nd part is seldom quoted with the first part?

Sonner or later, mankind always reaps what they sow.

However we should not judge people that are suffering because they may be suffering for doing what is right (for the sake of righteousness) like Job did.

Let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession.

Moses identified himself with the people who had sinned.

Assuming no merit of his own, he relied on the mercy and goodness of God

Verse 10

¹⁰ Then God said, “Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the Lord, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.

Behold, I am going to make a covenant

God makes another covenant with Israel, but this generation will not benefit from it.

Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth or among any of the nations

Israel had seen many great miracles up to this point

1. The 10 plagues
2. The crossing of the Red Sea
3. Food from heaven
4. Water for 3 million people and their animals in a desert

But God promises that even greater miracles will take place

Here are just a few:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Sun and moon stand still | Jos 10:12-14 |
| 2. Widow's son raised | 1Ki 17:17-24 |
| 3. Elisha's bones revive the dead | 2Kings 13:21 |

Verses 11-17

¹¹ “Be sure to observe what I am commanding you this day: behold, I am going to drive out the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. ¹² Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst. ¹³ But *rather*, you are to tear down their altars and smash their *sacred* pillars and cut down their Asherim for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God— ¹⁵ otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice, ¹⁶ and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons *also* to play the harlot with their gods. ¹⁷ You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land or it will become a snare in your midst. But *rather*, you are to tear down their altars and smash their *sacred* pillars and cut down their Asherim

The history of Israel has revealed how vital this prohibition actually was.

The violation of this command sent Israel into captivity in Assyria and Babylonia.

Asherim is the plural of Asherah, the name of a Syrian-Canaanite goddess of fertility

She was the wife of the war-god Asir

For you shall not worship any other god

God reminds Israel of the 1st commandment

Hopefully, they can go longer than 40 days before they break this commandment again

For the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

God is jealous for our safety and wellbeing because we are weak and only he can protect us from spiritual death.

Otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land

And they would play the harlot with their gods

And his daughters might play the harlot with their gods

And cause your sons *also* to play the harlot with their gods.

Having a close relationship with pagan nations was dangerous for Israel because they were so prone to worshipping false gods.

God called their worship of false gods, playing the harlot, because Israel was being unfaithful to her husband (God).

As we can see from verses 15 and 16, this affected the whole family.

Verses 18-24

¹⁸ “You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt. ¹⁹ “The first offspring from every womb belongs to Me, and all your male livestock, the first offspring from cattle and sheep. ²⁰ You shall redeem with a lamb the first offspring from a donkey; and if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck. You shall redeem all the firstborn of your sons. None shall appear before Me empty-handed. ²¹ “You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; *even* during plowing time and harvest you shall rest. ²² You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, *that is*, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. ²³ Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel. ²⁴ For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the Lord your God.

You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread

We covered this quite thoroughly in chapter 12.

The first offspring from every womb belongs to Me

This was covered in chapter 13.

You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest

This is the 4th commandment. See Exodus 20 for all 10 commandments

Just one comment to add here

Where there any exemptions to keeping the Sabbath?

No ... Even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest

Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord God

This was covered in Exodus 23 but it bears repeating

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)
2. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)
3. The Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles)

Did Israel need to worry about their land while they were at the feasts?

To quote Amy Winehouse, "I say No, No, No"

Verse 25-26

²⁵ "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread, nor is the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover to be left over until morning. ²⁶ "You shall bring the very first of the first fruits of your soil into the house of the Lord your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

All four of these commands are mentioned in Exodus 23

Verse 27-28

²⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." ²⁸ So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant

Who is the “he” in this verse?

It would be natural to assume it was Moses since God told Moses to “write down these words”.

But in verse 1 of this chapter, we are told that God said, I will write on these tablets.

This is confirmed again in Deuteronomy 10:1-5

Knowing this, it seems that the he in verse 28 should be capitalized.

What do you think?

So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water

This was a miracle from the Lord

It also confirms that, “MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD”.

See Matthew 4:1-4

Verses 29-35

²⁹ It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses’ hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him. ³⁰ So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers in the congregation returned to him; and Moses spoke to them. ³² Afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he commanded them *to do* everything that the Lord had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him.

The two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain

Before Moses went up the mountain he did two things.

He made an ark out of acacia wood and he chiseled out two stones tablets

See Deuteronomy 10:1-5

It was a temporary ark until the Tabernacle and all of its equipment was built.

Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with God

The Vulgate renders this as Moses had horns

That is why Michelangelo's statute of Moses depicts Moses as having horns.

See Pics 3405



The Vulgate is The Latin edition of the Bible translated by St. Jerome at the end of the 4th century.

It was adopted as the official text for the Roman Catholic Church in 1592.

The verb for shone closely resembles another Hebrew word which means to be horned

Michelangelo's statute of Moses is in Saint Peter's Basilica, a church in Vatican City.

See video 3410 Saint Peter's Basilica

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.14.html>

When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face

See 2 Corinthians 3:14-15

The following are a few pictures of Saint Peter's Basilica

See pics 3415 The front



See pic 3420

View from Above



See pic 3425

The Bronze Canopy



See pic 3426

Close up of the Bronze Canopy



See pic 3430

The Clock



See pic 3435

The ceiling



See pic 3440

The Dome



See pic 3445

The Columns

