

“Abounding in Hesed – The Revelation of God’s Gracious Heart”

Exodus 34:1-10

Beginning today and continuing through the four Sundays of July, we will be examining Old Testament passages that highlight the compelling Hebrew word, Hesed. This remarkable word is most often translated as lovingkindness, steadfast love, covenant love, or mercy. It is found 246 times in the Old Testament, three fourths of them describing God’s loyal hesed for His covenant people.

The extraordinary passage before us today is foundational and highly significant in Scripture in terms of revealing the attributes and character of God, especially hesed. This momentous self-disclosure of Yahweh to Moses would become a marker to which God’s people would often return throughout their history, a disclosure that continues to give enormous hope to God’s people in all generations. The passage easily divides itself into four related movements.

- 1. Yahweh’s Gracious Summons (vs. 1-5)**
 - **Carve out two stone tablets.**
 - **Come alone in the morning up to Mt. Sinai.**
- 2. Yahweh’s Definitive Revelation (vs. 6-7)**
 - **Yahweh, Yahweh God**
 - **Compassionate and gracious**
 - **Slow to anger**
 - **Abounding in hesed and truth**
 - **Keeps hesed for thousands**
 - **Forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin**
 - **Will by no means leave the guilty unpunished**
- 3. Moses’ Humble Responsive (vs. 8-9)**
 - **Instantaneous, contrite worship**
 - **A humble, reverent request for Yahweh’s presence, pardon, and the assurance that Israel was still His inheritance.**
- 4. Yahweh’s Reassuring Reaffirmation (vs. 10)**
 - **His gracious renewal of His covenant**
 - **His resounding reaffirmation to show His omnipotent power on behalf of His people**