

**May 21, 2023**

**Exodus 34:1-10**

The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. 3 No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain.” 4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. 5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. 9 And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O LORD, please let the LORD go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.” 10 And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”

Scriptures for further study:

Exodus 24:7

Exodus 32:1

Matthew 26:35

Matthew 26:69-70

Romans 2:4

1 John 1:8-9

Titus 3:5

Ephesians 4:22-25

Colossians 3:1-3

“As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. It is so sadly there, so abundantly there, that if you cannot detect it, you are deceived.”

-Charles H. Spurgeon



## Delivered to Repentance and Renewal Exodus 34:1-10

**BIG IDEA:** Because our relationship with the Father is eternally secure in the covenantal work of Jesus, let us pursue courageous repentance and radiant renewal in light of our failures and sin.

### OUTLINE

1. Failure
2. Covenantal Work
3. Courageous Repentance
4. Radiant Renewal

“O the perils of not knowing our sin! There is a great sadness that comes from not being saddened by knowing our sin. There is a great pain that comes to the soul and to the marriage and to the family and to the church and to the world from not tasting the pain of knowing our sin. There is a great self-destruction that comes from not experiencing the self-devastation of knowing our sin. There is an eternal loss that comes from not losing our pride in the knowledge of our sin. If there is any hope and any faith and any joy and peace and love, it will come from knowing our sin. So get to know your sin!”

- John Piper

“Confession means to agree with God on His assessment of our actions and thoughts, and to name our sin to God.”

-Jim Elliff

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Exodus 34:1–35 The Lord calls Moses back up to Mount Sinai and proclaims further his covenant name and character (vv. 1–10) before reaffirming some of the stipulations related to worship and renewing the covenant with Moses and Israel (vv. 11–28). When Moses comes down to speak the words of the covenant to the people, he does not know that his role as the one through whom the Lord will speak is also reaffirmed through his shining face (vv. 29–35).

-ESV Study Bible

***Praise to Jesus.*** Offer praise to our covenant making and covenant keeping God because Jesus took the blame and punishment for your sin, so that you can receive mercy, grace, steadfast love, and forgiveness for your sin. Praise God for the Holy Spirit who lives in you and is ready to lead you in courageous repentance and radiant renewal that comes from spending time with Him.

***Repentance through Jesus.*** How to do think about and address sin your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you sin and iniquity (the way you distort or twist truth to serve your desires). Take inventory of your thought life. Are your thoughts renewed from time with God by reading His Word and prayer? Confess your sins and iniquities to the Lord, confess your need for renewal because you have not given your mind good things. Confess the ways that you have failed God in heart and mouth. Repent and believe your repentance will be effective because it is rooted in the value and worth of the cross of Christ and His atonement because He intercedes for you.

***Consecration for Jesus.*** Because you have been renewed by the Holy Spirit, shine bright in the many places in God’s kingdom where He will send you. Rely on the knowledge that when you fail; the belief that your relationship with Jesus whose name is compassion & grace is eternally secure in His covenant work which is the catalyst for courageous repentance which will bring you to radiant renewal.

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. Can you think of an example of courage from a novel or movie? Who is person? What did they do that required courage? What motivated them or to adopt a phrase from the Big Idea; what was the catalyst for courage?
2. Have you made a promise that you didn't keep? What did you do when you realized that you broke your promise? How do you deal with sins and failures?
3. After the Israelites sinned against God, Moses was called back by God for a second meeting. Imagine how you might expect God to respond to Moses? What does God say to Moses (verse 6)? How can God be merciful and gracious to his people even in their sin?
4. What did Moses do in response to God's refusal to go with the Israelites? Is Moses' response to God's declaration what you would do? How can this enrich and challenge your understanding of intercession?
- 5 What caused the face of Moses to be radiant? What does a renewed mind look like? What are the things which compete for control of your mind? How can divine renewal be a regular occurrence in your life?

“The clearest evidence that you are being renewed by the Spirit is that we desire holy things.”

-John Owen

“The longer one lives in this world as a Christian, the more he or she becomes aware of the significance of their words and thoughts. The mind of the believer plays a far more central role than we often realise...more and more we find that the battle in the Christian life really is a battle for the mind to be renewed and controlled by God's truth...Everything related to what we do and how we live flows out of our heart and mind, which are really the same thing in the Bible. This is why the Bible says, ‘as a man thinketh in his heart...’

-Mack Tomlinson

# FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1. Do you remember from Exodus 32 what happened to the stone tablets that God gave to Moses that contained the Ten Commandments? (*In Exodus 32:19, Moses threw the tablets down and broke them when he saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf idols.*)

- a. Talk about how God gave the Israelites a second chance in this chapter by once again giving Moses and the Israelites the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments.
- b. Ask your children about times that someone has given them a second chance. Share times when you have been given a second chance.

2. In Exodus 34:6-7, the LORD God reveals His holiness and His mercy & forgiveness. Which of these two attributes (holiness and mercy) do you tend to think about God? How does God show these attributes in the covenant He made with Israel? (*God shows His holiness in the Ten Commandments and other laws. He also shows His holiness in the punishments that God gives for breaking His Law. God shows His mercy in providing sacrifices for atonement and forgiveness.*)

- a. How does Jesus' death on the cross balance these two attributes? (*On the cross we see God justly punishing our sin and showing His holiness. But we see His mercy in Jesus taking our punishment on Himself.*)

3. In Exodus 34:12-17 and 34:21, of which of the Ten Commandments does the LORD remind the Israelites? (*He reminded them of the Commandments to not worship false gods or idols. He also reminded them to keep the Sabbath day holy.*)

4. Take time to praise God this week for His holiness and mercy, especially for how he reveals that in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Scriptures for further study:

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Romans 3:21-26

## FOR STUDENTS

1. Read Exodus 34:1-9. How does the Lord show Moses favor? What role is Moses taking on for the benefit of the people?
2. Look closely at verses 6-7. What do you observe about the way the Lord chooses to reveal His name? What questions do you have about these verses? Do you find them comforting, disarming, alarming, or concerning?
3. How is God able to both forgive people for thousands of generations and yet still punish people to the third and fourth generation?
4. What resolution does verse 9 bring to the tension between God, Moses, and Israel? Ultimately, why do you think God relents and goes with Israel?
5. Read John 1:14. How is Jesus described? What do you think it means to see the glory of God in Jesus? How is Jesus the fulfillment of God's compassion and grace to his people?

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. In Exodus 34:6-7, the Lord not only proclaims His name, He also declares His character. What we learn unmistakably about God, is that He is both utterly serious about sin, and utterly serious about showing grace, mercy, love, compassion, and forgiveness to those who will seek him in faith. To put it succinctly, God is “holy love.” If we are to be in right relationship with God, therefore, we must repent of our sin, and trust in Him alone for forgiveness and grace.

**Question:** Would you do so today?

2. God first made and then confirmed His covenant with Israel (see Exodus 24), but now, in the aftermath of the Golden Calf episode (Exodus 32), God reestablishes His covenant with His wayward people, as evidenced by His chiseling out two stone tablets once more. If you are already a believer in Jesus Christ, you can never lose your salvation; or, to put it positively, you will always be secure in your covenant relationship with the Lord. But always be cautious that we are still prone to the temptation to sin and idolatry. And we will often need to confess this sin, and, with humble reliance on the Spirit, to frequently renew and recommit ourselves to love and obey God, and, once more, faithfully resume and live out our covenant responsibilities.

**Question:** How and in what ways do you find yourself needing to be renewed in your love and devotion to God?

3. The shining of Moses’ face serves, in part, as confirming evidence to the people that it truly is the Lord who is speaking with Moses. But in another sense, it is a literal example for us of how we too can shine with the radiance of the Lord as we spend time in His presence. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) We too will more and more reflect the likeness and character of Christ, and be sanctified by the Spirit, as we learn to fellowship with God, and walk closely with Him.

**Question:** Are you finding yourself being increasingly transformed into His likeness? In what ways are you seeing evidence of this?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY:** God’s description of himself (Exodus 34:6) as compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness, is found repeatedly in the Old Testament. (See Nehemiah 9:17, 31; Psalm 86:15; 103:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2) This description is so important and so central to our understanding of God, you might say it is the “John 3:16” of the Old Testament.



*The Seventh Plague of Egypt, John Martin, 1823*

**About the artist and painting:** The English Romantic painter John Martin was no stranger to death and despair. Out of the 13 children born to his mother and father, John was one of only 6 that survived childhood. He grew up in poverty, the son of a farm laborer. In 1813, John lost his grandmother, mother, father, and youngest son all in the same year. Despite his popular appeal to English society, he was never really celebrated much less even accepted by the art community. Yet he was somewhat of a revolutionary by choosing to paint very fantastic, biblical scenes and landscapes. One can't help but think John looked to the extraordinary aspects of the bible to deal with the harsh realities of life in a broken world.

His 1823 work, *The Seventh Plague of Egypt*, helps to capture the deliverance theme so prevalent in the Book of Exodus. In the painting you have these mighty structures of Pharaoh's palace, city, and pyramids all displayed in their grandeur. In Moses' day this represented to God's people Pharaoh's power and oppression towards them as he ruthlessly made their lives harsh. Yet God is breaking into these circumstances, "showing up" to bring about His deliverance. In this painting, over and above the Egyptian structures is something more magnificent, the storm of God: thunder, hail, and fire being poured down upon the oppressor and persecutor of His people. And your eye is drawn to the man standing on the left side of the painting, Moses, with outstretched arms looking to the LORD and His deliverance.



## **The purpose of Exodus:**

“The original purpose of Exodus was theological, to teach God’s people about himself and their relationship to him.” - Peter Enns, NIVAC, 25.

“Exodus is about a man, Moses. He is central to the narrative in a way in which no single character, not even Abraham, dominates Genesis...Exodus is about a nation, Israel, moving from slavery in Egypt into freedom...but ultimately Exodus is about God, about the God of the covenant who has instituted a new relationship between himself and those whom he has called to be his people.”  
- John Mackay, Exodus, 9.

“The whole story of Exodus is a covenant narrative. The God who pledged himself to Abraham and his descendants remained the faithful God. He had made promises and intended to honor them, and when his moment came, honor them he did...in a word, Exodus cannot be described simply as the book of the holiness of the Lord, nor simply as the book of the presence of the Lord, but as the book of the holy God present in all his holiness at the heart of his people’s life, their provident savior and friend, who makes provision whereby they, in all their unworthiness, may live safely with him.” - Alec Motyer, The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Exodus, 20, 23.

The setting for Exodus 1:1-2:25 is Israel in Egypt. The opening section sets the stage for the rest of the book by describing: the connection to the narrative of Genesis (Ex. 1:1–7), the oppression that has arisen under a new pharaoh (1:8–22), the preservation of Moses at birth (2:1–10) and later in Midian (2:11–22), and the declaration of God’s intimate knowledge of Israel’s suffering and God’s faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham and his descendants (2:23–25).

## **Exodus is a journey in two parts.**

Part One: Egypt Exodus 1-15 Aug. 7th – Oct. 30th

Part Two: Sinai Exodus 16-18 Nov. 6th – Nov. 20th

*Pause for Advent: Nov. 27th – Dec. 18th*

Part Two Cont. Sinai Exodus 19 - 39 Jan. 8th – June 25th

*Pause for Capital Campaign Series: Jan. 22nd-Feb. 12th*

*Pause for DNOW: February 19th*

*Pause for Missions Sunday: March 26th*

## **Resources for further study:**

*Exodus: A Mentors Commentary* by John Mackay

*Exodus: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*  
(Volume 2) (The New American Commentary) by Douglas Stuart