

EXODUS 33:18-23 SHOW ME YOUR GLORY

God is such a gracious God. He put that on display to the Israelites as they deserved to be wiped out entirely for their great sin of idolatry. God is a just and righteous God who has to judge sin and He always does, but He also restrains His wrath and shows His grace. He did that after Moses interceded for the people and pled for them based on the promises and election of God. Moses' intercession saved the people from a devastating judgment and also His intercession got God to agree that His presence would go with them on the rest of the journey after He threatened to not go with them. Moses found grace in God's sight. The whole idea behind this Exodus is the presence of God in the midst of the people. Worship of Him is the most important thing we can do at any time. This is what God wants to do with these people and this is what Moses wants for them and himself also. As he had one request after another, he finally gets to the ultimate request. It is "Show me Your glory."

1. MOSES' GLORIOUS REQUEST 33:18

A. WHY DID MOSES MAKE THIS REQUEST?

Moses had a longing for God expressed in a desire for a more tangible experience of God, to see His glory.

Moses asked to see His glory. It seems that he not only wants to see His nature but wants a visible manifestation. He has had some intimate time with God and face to face experiences with God already. Whatever that means, he wanted more, a real glimpse of the glory of God. But why did he ask this at that time? John Piper gives a suggestion that might be helpful.

Moses knew that his request for God's presence with a stiff-necked people would never succeed if it were based on any qualification in himself or in the people. (In 34:9 he included himself in the sin and iniquity of the people.) So for Moses to have assurance that God would actually be this gracious to Israel, he needed to see some basis in God and not in himself or the people. He needed a glimpse into the nature of God. He knew God was an all-glorious God. But was this glory of such a nature that it would encourage Moses to believe that God would really be gracious to a stiff-necked people? So Moses says, Show me your glory. Let me have a glimpse into your divine nature. Let me see the meaning of your great name. Show me the foundation of this amazing promise. Give me some assurance that you will indeed grant your saving presence to this stiff-necked people!

B. GLORY

Glory in this context in the Hebrew means weight. God is weighty. It is His essence, meaning that all His attributes are summed up, this being His glory. This is what He is all about, what He is made up of.

2. GOD'S GLORIOUS RESPONSE

33:19-20

A. GOODNESS OF GOD

19

This is His glory

There is one thing the people have to learn, and that is, God is a good God. After all they did against God, God is still a good God. "Do you want to know what I'm really like, Moses? I am really good." This is totally contradictory with the gods of the age. The gods of mythology would bring sudden judgment on this people for such disobedience. God is good beyond any imagination.

There could be times when we might question the goodness of God when we are going through turbulent times in our own lives. We could be going through a terrible trial and be tempted to think God just doesn't care and has abandoned us and He has left us heart broken. But we must always remind ourselves of the obvious, God is good.

B. PROCLAMATION OF HIS NAME

19

This is His glory.

The glory of God's goodness is His name.

Moses asked to see His glory and God proclaims to him His name.

"I will preach to you my name." "I am going to preach my nature to you."

"This is my name." The names of God are manifestations of His glory.

The name is Yahweh which God has used with Moses before such as in 3:14. That was emphasizing the existence of God in that He is what He is without anything outside of Himself determining His power. He is self-existent.

This verse, verse 19, is Yahweh in action. Action is the emphasis here. He does things without any outside determination.

The doctrine of unconditional election is rooted in the nature of God. His very name, his innermost glory, is this: I WILL BE GRACIOUS TO WHOM I WILL BE GRACIOUS. If God were not free in the grace he gives, he would not be God. This is his name! John Piper

Homage for the Name of God

The name of God is I WILL BE GRACIOUS TO WHOM I WILL BE GRACIOUS. His sovereign freedom is his glory. If we knew God for who he really is, we would be a different people. O how full of reverence and lowliness and meekness we would be. We would stand in awe of the absoluteness of his sovereign freedom. We would bow low in his presence. We shrink in fear from any attitude which belittles him. And we would rejoice with unutterable and glorified joy that he has set his favor on us.

C. SOVEREIGN FREEDOM

19

This is His glory. The glory of God's goodness is His sovereignty.

I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion

Yahweh is explained with these words.

God revealed His name, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious."

It is the glory of God to have compassion and mercy on people who don't deserve it. He is gracious without any outside force. He is gracious to whomever He pleases. God is free from any restraints.

God's freedom is essential to His name.

The doctrine of unconditional election

To show mercy to some and not to others is the very right and freedom that God possesses. This is the mystery of His sovereign will.

The basis of God's mercy is not my own will, but His.

My will is not sovereign and self-determining.

This sovereign freedom is His name and His glory.

If He gave up His sovereign freedom He would no longer have glory.

Romans 9 uses this quote and that chapter is the greatest for the sovereignty of God. His mercy to us is never based on anything of us. God was merciful to a stiff-necked people. He chose to do that, not based on their goodness. God preached to Moses the glory of His divine freedom. The reason He did this was to give Moses encouragement and assurance to keep on leading the people, even as stiff-necked as they were.

How the church of our day needs to know 33:19 about the name and glory of God.

It is the glory of God to be gracious to whomever he pleases apart from any constraint originating outside his own will.

When God elects individuals to be saved it is His choice not based on any condition or qualifications that individuals might have.

God is I AM WHO I AM. He is Yahweh. There is nothing outside of God that makes Him the way He is.

Romans 9:14-18 shows how God is sovereign in His choosing His people for salvation.

The doctrine of unconditional election is rooted in the nature of God. His very name, his innermost glory, is this: I WILL BE GRACIOUS TO WHOM I WILL BE GRACIOUS. If God were not free in the grace he gives, he would not be God. This is his name!

2. Acts 13:48

Second, Acts 13:48. Luke records for us Paul's preaching in the synagogue of Antioch of Pisidia. Then he interprets for us how we should understand the response to this message in verse 48: "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

In other words it is not the belief of the people that determined whether God would ordain them to eternal life. Just the opposite: the prior ordination of God determined who would believe. Faith is a gift of God's grace and saving grace is given to whomever God wills—unconditionally.

Ephesians 1:4–5

Fourth, Ephesians 1:4–5. "God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He predestined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will to the praise of his glorious grace." God preserves his freedom in the dispensing of his grace so that when we boast, we will boast in the Lord and not in ourselves. All his choices are for the sake of the praise of the glory of his grace.

D. INCOMPREHENSIBLE

20

This is His glory

He would not show His face. No man has seen God.

God dwells in unapproachable light.

But, Matt 5:8, 1 Cor 13:12, John 1:14, 17:20-22

Through Jesus Christ we see God. He is the ultimate revelation of God.

3. HOW GOD SHOWED HIS GLORY 33: 21-23

A. THE SAFETY OF THE ROCK 21-22

Moses was to be sheltered from the dazzling light and devouring fire of God's glory. It is in the clefts of the Rock that we are secured from the wrath of God., which otherwise would consume us. God will protect those who are in the Rock.. It is only through Christ that we have the knowledge of the glory of God.

B. THE BACK SIDE OF HIS GLORY

We see through a glass darkly. The best know but in part. He was only able to see the back parts but when he was a witness at the Transfiguration, he saw His face shine as the sun.