

Into the Promised Land
Joshua's Story
Lesson #5 – Ascent #8 – The Final Ascent
• H A N D O U T •

► We pick up the narrative with God calling Moses to the top of Mt. Sinai one final time. The declared purpose of Moses' final Ascent is for the Lord to replace the Stone Tables of the Decalogue and the Covenant between God and Israel to be renewed.

Exodus 34:1-4 • The Lord said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain."

So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands.

Q: What instruction does God give Moses for this final Ascent?

The Lord Descends and Moses Ascends and Present Himself to the Lord.

Exodus 34:5-7 • Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His Name, the Lord. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

Q: What was the cloud in which the Lord descended? Was it a weather cloud which God used?

Q: What is significant about the Lord proclaiming His Name as "The Lord, The Lord" followed by a list of His many attributes?"

Q: What are the five immutable attributes revealed through His Name?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Q: The Bible states that God alone is Good and He is Love. These are reflected by God's immutable character which is reflected by His compassion, forgiveness, patience and faithfulness. How, then, are we to understand His justice that cannot allow the guilty to go unpunished?

• If God's gift are rejected:

• If God's gift are accepted:

Q: Since this was a common Semitic idiom, what is really meant by "God punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

We see how Moses reacts to this revelation from God ...

Exodus 34:8-9 • Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

Q: There is a key phrase in the first statement that tell us a great deal about Moses. What is it?

Q: How does Moses speak about the wicked actions of the people?

God Renews the Covenant ...

Exodus 34:10-11 • Then the Lord said: "Behold, I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you.

Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

Q: What is God's purpose for Israel in this Renewal Covenant?

Q: What is the one caveat – His one warning – which God states to Israel in this renewed Covenant?

God gives Israel Some “Rules for the Road” ...

▶ God begins by telling Israel to take heed, be careful with whom they associate because they are going into a land that has inhabitants that will snare them into unrighteous behavior. Therefore here are some rules that will help prevent them from falling into sin's trap. This is all covered in Exodus 34:12-26.

Israel must renounce all idolatry and they must not make or cast any idols

Israel must separate themselves from the Canaanites:

in worship • in politics • in fellowship • in marriage.

▶ God also outlines various laws, mostly regarding Israel's separation from other nations and become separated as holy unto the Lord. God specifically instructs that the Feast of Unleavened Bread be kept. This was first mentioned in Exodus 12:14-20; the purpose of this feast is to underscore the purity God desires Israel to maintain before Him. This feast takes place every Abib on the Hebrew calendar [which is mid-March to mid-April on our calendar]. This was the month Israel was led out of Egypt.

▶ For seven days Israel was to remove all leaven – a symbol of sin -- from their homes and food and walk in symbolic purity.

▶ Moses is commanded to write down everything God has told him. This becomes the record of the Renewed Covenant. The Decalogue which has been replaced, will eventually be placed into the Ark of the Covenant [ref: Deuteronomy 10:5]

Moses remained on the Mountain with God for 40 days and 40 nights. As we will see, scripture makes a point of telling us that Moses neither ate food or drank water for this time period.

**All has been accomplished and Moses has everything he needs to fulfill God's commands.
Moses understands how the Tabernacle is to be constructed.
He also knows that, once completed, God will come and dwell with the people.
The time has come for Moses to return to Camp.**

Exodus 34:28 • Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments.

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

Q: What is ironic about Moses' appearance when he returned to camp with the Decalogue?

**Moses told Aaron, the rulers, and all the people, everything commanded by the Lord.
Then, when he was around the people Moses put a veil on his face
but when he spoke with the Lord in the Tent of Meeting, Moses would remove the veil.**

Q: How long did Moses have to wear a veil?

► Moses begins to carry out God's detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle. He calls Bezaleel and Aholiab, as God instructed, to be in charge of all the work. Moses also sets up a work schedule of six days and rest for keeping the Sabbath on the seventh.

► Then Moses began to collect, from the people, the things they will need. [These items are to be given by those with a willing spirit as an offering to the Lord.] The items needed will be: Gold, silver, bronze, threads of blue, purple and scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, ram skins dyed red, dugong skins and acacia wood. They will also need oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. They will need onyx stones as well as the stones that will be used for the Ephod and Breastplate.

As we will discover, each and everyone of these items will point to the promised Messiah. Although there is no plan to do a detailed study of the Tabernacle's construction, we will take the time to understand how each item is either a symbol or metaphor.

Q: Where did all of the items needed for the construction of the Tabernacle come from? Israel has escaped from Egyptian slavery and has been traveling for three months. It isn't like they could stop off at a local store and purchase what was needed.

**The people answered the call to give and they ended up giving more than enough.
In fact they gave to overflowing and were asked to stop bringing more.
Finally, the hearts of the people seem to be in the right place.
This is where we will pick up the story next time...**



Next Time • Lesson #6
“ Construction of the Tabernacle ”

