

Wednesday The Self-Revelation of God

- Moses had shattered / first tablets = in righteous anger
 - when he witnessed Israel's idolatry w/ golden calf **Ex32:19**
- Now—God's command—Moses ascends Sinai to meet w/God for seventh time = this time carrying stones he himself had to cut
 - to replace what He had broken
- Before / at tent of meeting = God told Moses **Exodus 33:12** "I know you by name, and you have also found grace I My sight."
- Gave him holy boldness to ask, "Please, show me Your glory" **vs 18**
- Glory of God = not something we can fully comprehend
 - He is infinite = we are finite
- In one of most awe-inspiring scenes = in all of Scripture
 - God responded to Moses – revealing riches of His glory
 - not thru thunder/fire/grandeur—but thru His **character**
- When Lord descended in cloud = stood w/Moses
 - He declared His name—not just in syllables / but in **substance**

Exodus 34:6–7 "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty..."

- God graciously reveals to Moses—and, thru him, to all humanity—glimpse into His very heart
 - Powerful proclamation = Repeated/echoed thru/out Scripture
Numbers 14:18 / Nehemiah 9:17 / Ps 103:8 / Joel 2:13 / Jonah 4:2
- This passage = Old Testament's **John 3:16**
 - Defining statement of divine love / justice = mercy / truth
- This moment on Mount Sinai = not merely about receiving new stone tablets = about beholding/radiant beauty of who God truly is

- Not just / moment in history = it's lens thru which we understand nature of God thru/out Scripture
- Two sweeping truths capture = essence of God's being:
 - **"God is love" (1 John 4:8)** = not a trait among many, but His very **nature**. Everything He does flows from selfless, holy love.
 - **"God is light" (1 John 1:5)** = His righteousness is absolute. No shadow in Him / no deceit / no bending of truth (James 1:17)
- These two realities—love / light = **inseparable**
 - His love is pure = His holiness is loving
 - His justice = flows from His mercy
 - His mercy = never compromises / His righteousness
- Glory Moses glimpsed = **union of love/truth** that governs universe
- God's glory = foundation of His law / His covenant / His kingdom
- **Exodus 34:7** = part of God's proclamation: "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children"
- Some misread = as divine curse passed down arbitrarily
 - But Scripture corrects that misunderstanding

Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father"

Jeremiah 31:30 "Each one shall die for his own iniquity"

- God holds individuals accountable
- Generational **Iniquity—Not** Generational **Curses**
- **Consequences of sin** ripple thru generations
 - especially when children repeat sins modeled for them
- But praise God—He shows **mercy to thousands** who love Him and keep His commandments (Exodus 20:6)
- Though people had broken covenant w/God= they longed to renew relationship w/Him = true repentance had begun
- **God did not abandon them** = His grace meets us
 - in /wilderness of our rebellion = He invites us into restoration
- Proclaimed His character=initiated /renewal of covenant relationship

Exodus 34:10 And He said: “Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor 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.

- God’s covenant terms = included call to faithfulness
- God’s covenant = always built on **grace first**
 - followed by our **response in obedience**
- **Exodus 34: 11-27** They were to **refuse idolatry /**
 - **Reject pagan alliances / honor His commands**
- Not arbitrary rules = but safeguards / for flourishing relationship

Exodus 34:27–28 ²⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” ²⁸So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He [Lord] wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

- **Deuteronomy 10:4** Moses repeats = God wrote on tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments...and the LORD gave them to me

Exodus 34:8 When God proclaimed His character as His glory, Moses “made haste / bowed his head toward the earth / worshiped”

- Only proper response = when we glimpse / character of God
- We often want a God who shows up in power /
 - fixes our problems / or defeats our enemies
- Greatest revelation / we could ever receive = beauty of **who God is**
- Once we see Him rightly = love / grace / mercy / compassion / goodness / faithfulness / holiness / justice = attract us to Him
- We begin to love Him deeply
 - Love that leads to desire to serve/obey Him
- **1 John 4:19** “We love Him because He first loved us”

- God's self-revelation = always precedes = our transformation
- Self-revelation of God is not confined to Sinai
- Found in **life / death / resurrection of Jesus Christ**—the full expression of Father's heart = **JOHN 17:3** know Him = eternal life

CLOSING THOUGHT:

- God still proclaims = His name/glory/character =to us today
 - Merciful / gracious / faithful / just
- Let us climb = our own “mountain” = of prayer / study
 - Let us seek His face
- When we see even / glimpse of His glory = may we
 - **Fall** = in **worship**
 - **Rise** = in **confidence**
 - **Walk** = in **obedience** motivated by love