

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Four

Read **Exodus 34:1-4** – The Tablets of Stone Renewed

v.1 “AND THE **LORD** SAID TO MOSES, “CUT TWO TABLETS OF STONE LIKE THE FIRST **ones**, AND I WILL WRITE ON **these** TABLETS THE WORDS THAT WERE ON THE FIRST TABLETS WHICH YOU BROKE.”

As we remember; when Moses came down the mountain and observed Israel worshipping the golden calf he destroyed the tablets or tables of stone that God had prepared with the ten commandments written on them. Now, rather than replacing them himself, God is directing Moses to prepare two new tablets upon which God will write His commandments as he had done before.

v.2 “SO BE READY IN THE MORNING, AND COME UP IN THE MORNING TO MOUNT SINAI, AND PRESENT YOURSELF TO ME THERE ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.”

Moses is to have the tablets ready and present himself before God the next morning.

v.3 “AND NO MAN SHALL COME UP WITH YOU, AND LET NO MAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT ALL THE MOUNTAIN; LET NEITHER FLOCKS NOR HERDS FEED BEFORE THAT MOUNTAIN.”

God will meet with Moses on the mountain and Moses only. We know that before; Joshua was with Moses on the mountain, probably not in the presence of God as Moses was but nearby waiting for his leader. Not only was Moses to come up the mountain alone; the people of Israel were not to come near the mountain where God would be, nor let their flocks and herds feed near or “BEFORE” the mountain.

v.4 SO HE CUT TWO TABLETS OF STONE LIKE THE FIRST **ones**. THEN MOSES ROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING AND WENT UP MOUNT SINAI, AS THE **LORD** HAD COMMANDED HIM; AND HE TOOK IN HIS HAND THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE.”

So Moses obeys God’s command, cuts the tablets of stone and early the next morning makes his way up the mountain to meet with God.

Read **Exodus 34:5-9** – The Name of the Lord

v.5 “NOW THE **LORD** DESCENDED IN THE CLOUD AND STOOD WITH HIM THERE, AND PROCLAIMED THE NAME OF THE **LORD**.”

Just as at the beginning of the meetings between God and Moses, God presents himself to Moses in a cloud:

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Exodus 19:9 “AND THE **LORD** SAID TO MOSES, “BEHOLD, I COME TO YOU IN THE THICK CLOUD, THAT THE PEOPLE MAY HEAR WHEN I SPEAK WITH YOU, AND BELIEVE YOU FOREVER.” SO MOSES TOLD THE WORDS OF THE PEOPLE TO THE **LORD**.”

God “PROCLAIMED” or invoked his own name; giving no doubt of the source or authority of what Moses is preparing to bring to Israel as their covenant with Jehovah. We are reminded by the Hebrew writer of a similar guarantee regarding the current covenant between God and man:

Hebrews 6:17-18 “THUS GOD, DETERMINING TO SHOW MORE ABUNDANTLY TO THE HEIRS OF PROMISE THE IMMUTABILITY OF HIS COUNSEL, CONFIRMED *it* BY AN OATH, THAT BY TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS, IN WHICH IT *is* IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, WE MIGHT HAVE STRONG CONSOLATION, WHO HAVE FLED FOR REFUGE TO LAY HOLD OF THE HOPE SET BEFORE *us*.”

“THE HOPE SET BEFORE US” is the hope of rest in heaven as God’s chosen people.

v.6 “AND THE **LORD** PASSED BEFORE HIM AND PROCLAIMED, “THE **LORD**, THE **LORD** GOD, MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, LONGSUFFERING, AND ABOUNDING IN GOODNESS AND TRUTH,”

God had promised to show himself to Moses, that is all but his face:

Exodus 33:22 “SO IT SHALL BE, WHILE MY GLORY PASSES BY, THAT I WILL PUT YOU IN THE CLEFT OF THE ROCK, AND WILL COVER YOU WITH MY HAND WHILE I PASS BY.”

While the scripture doesn’t tell us this, it is quite possible that this is the occasion when God fulfilled that promise. We see also that not only did God show Moses his being, in a fashion at least, but showed him his attributes as well. There are many passages that list and honor God for his mercy, grace, longsuffering, goodness and truth. One such is:

Psalms 86:15 “BUT YOU, O LORD, *are* A GOD FULL OF COMPASSION, AND GRACIOUS, LONGSUFFERING AND ABUNDANT IN MERCY AND TRUTH.”

While others carry a caveat, a warning, as well as a blessing:

Numbers 14:18 “THE **LORD** IS LONGSUFFERING AND ABUNDANT IN MERCY, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION; BUT HE BY NO MEANS CLEARS *the guilty*, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS ON THE CHILDREN TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH *generation*.”

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v.7 “KEEPING MERCY FOR THOUSANDS, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION AND SIN, BY NO MEANS CLEARING *the guilty*, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN’S CHILDREN TO THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH GENERATION.”

So we see that verse seven is quoted almost verbatim in **Numbers 14:18**; repeated to emphasize and remind Israel and us that while God is merciful and compassionate toward man, he is also a God of justice and will punish those who are guilty of not obeying him.

v.8 “SO MOSES MADE HASTE AND BOWED HIS HEAD TOWARD THE EARTH, AND WORSHIPED.”

Moses understood and responded appropriately, not only in actions but also in words.

v.9 “THEN HE SAID, “IF NOW I HAVE FOUND GRACE IN YOUR SIGHT, O LORD, LET MY LORD, I PRAY, GO AMONG US, EVEN THOUGH WE *are* A STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE; AND PARDON OUR INIQUITY AND OUR SIN, AND TAKE US AS YOUR INHERITANCE.”

Moses humbles himself before God, thankful for His favor and pleads for Israel. He acknowledges that they are a stubborn, stiff-necked people but petitions God for pardon of their sin and the fulfillment of God’s land promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Read **Exodus 34:10-28** – God’s Covenant Renewed

v.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 renews his promise to Israel, to (1) make a covenant; (2) show them “MARVELS”, miracles, manifestations of His power; (3) and do “AWESOME” things with them.

This word “AWESOME” has been communized and overused in today’s American culture, nevertheless, it is scriptural when applied to the attributes of Jehovah God. In the older versions you will find the word most often used in its place is “TERRIBLE”.

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As a popular song says, we do serve an awesome God. His wonders are often beyond what our finite minds can imagine and men have praised him in psalms, songs and hymns for thousands of years. A couple of examples:

Psalm 72:18 “BLESSED *be* THE **LORD** GOD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO ONLY DOES WONDROUS THINGS!”

Psalm 136:4 “TO HIM WHO ALONE DOES GREAT WONDERS, FOR HIS MERCY *endures* FOREVER;”

v.11 “OBSERVE WHAT I COMMAND YOU THIS DAY. BEHOLD, I AM DRIVING OUT FROM BEFORE YOU THE AMORITE AND THE CANAANITE AND THE HITTITE AND THE PERIZZITE AND THE HIVITE AND THE JEBUSITE.”

Most people just do not believe that God’s promises are conditional. They have been led into thinking that God’s love is so great that he will tolerate us just as many tolerate their own spoiled children, rewarding our rebellion and infidelity regardless of what we do. But it was not so with Israel:

Deuteronomy 5:32 “THEREFORE YOU SHALL BE CAREFUL TO DO AS THE **LORD** YOUR GOD HAS COMMANDED YOU; YOU SHALL NOT TURN ASIDE TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT.”

And it is the same for us today. One of the things emphasized in our teaching via the internet is that God hates sin, God demands obedience, God demands exact obedience.

Matthew 7:21 “NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, ‘LORD, LORD,’ SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.”

Revelation 22:14 “BLESSED *are* THOSE WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE, AND MAY ENTER THROUGH THE GATES INTO THE CITY.”

v.12 “TAKE HEED TO YOURSELF, LEST YOU MAKE A COVENANT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND WHERE YOU ARE GOING, LEST IT BE A SNARE IN YOUR MIDST.”

God warns Israel not to make a covenant with any of the inhabitants of the land which he has promised them. Did they obey that commandment? No, even Joshua allowed himself to be deceived by the Gibeonites:

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Joshua 9:14-15 “THEN THE MEN OF ISRAEL TOOK SOME OF THEIR PROVISIONS; BUT THEY DID NOT ASK COUNSEL OF THE LORD. SO JOSHUA MADE PEACE WITH THEM, AND MADE A COVENANT WITH THEM TO LET THEM LIVE; AND THE RULERS OF THE CONGREGATION SWORE TO THEM.”

v.13 “BUT YOU SHALL DESTROY THEIR ALTARS, BREAK THEIR *sacred* PILLARS, AND CUT DOWN THEIR WOODEN IMAGES”

Israel was to destroy their altars that they used to worship their idol gods, destroy the sacred pillars or images in another translation they were to cut down their “WOODEN IMAGES” (NKJV), “GROVES” (KJV), or “ASHERAH” (ASV). The word in the original language that is translated here refers to a goddess worshiped by many of the descendants of Shem. At times Israel complied with this commandment. King Hezekiah is one example:

II Kings 18:4 “HE REMOVED THE HIGH PLACES AND BROKE THE *sacred* PILLARS, CUT DOWN THE WOODEN IMAGE AND BROKE IN PIECES THE BRONZE SERPENT THAT MOSES HAD MADE; FOR UNTIL THOSE DAYS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BURNED INCENSE TO IT, AND CALLED IT NEHUSHTAN.”

v.14 “(FOR YOU SHALL WORSHIP NO OTHER GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME *is* JEALOUS, *is* A JEALOUS GOD),”

Yes, God is a jealous God, He demands exact obedience to his commandments and will not tolerate those who worship anyone or anything else. He made this very clear to Israel:

Exodus 20:3 “YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.”

And Moses warns them with even stronger language when he warns them about idoltry:

Deuteronomy 4:24 “FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD *is* A CONSUMING FIRE, A JEALOUS GOD.”

Yet men today who claim to worship God try to do so as they see fit not as God has commanded.

v.15 “LEST YOU MAKE A COVENANT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND, AND THEY PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS AND MAKE SACRIFICE TO THEIR GODS, AND *one of them* INVITES YOU AND YOU EAT OF HIS SACRIFICE,”

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We see the analogy here for the first time of what is called spiritual adultery in **James 4:4**. If Israel makes a covenant with the Canaanites they will “PLAY THE HARLOT” or as the King James renders it “GO A WHORING AFTER THEIR GODS.” James implies the same relationship with those who make friends of the world:

James 4:4 “ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES! DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD? WHOEVER THEREFORE WANTS TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD MAKES HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD.”

Now let’s turn our thoughts back to the commandment in Exodus. What is the significance of an Israelite eating of the sacrifice made to an idol god? When we go back to the instructions that God gave Moses for the consecration of Aaron in Chapter 29 we can see the relationship. When the ram was sacrificed; part was to be burnt on the altar as God’s portion, part was to be given to Moses as High Priest as his portion and part was to be eaten by Aaron and his sons as their portion. In the discussion about these verses we saw the implication of this being a sign of their relationship with God, through a meal of fellowship with God. It appears to me that the same implication is found here. If an Israelite joins in a feast or meal where an idol worshipper is consuming his share of a sacrifice made to his idol god, then they are eating in fellowship with that idol. I’m also sure that this same issue was what drove the contention found in **I Corinthians 10:25** about eating meat bought in the meat market that might have been offered to an idol and then sold.

I Corinthians 10:25-26 “EAT WHATEVER IS SOLD IN THE MEAT MARKET, ASKING NO QUESTIONS FOR CONSCIENCE’ SAKE; FOR *“THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S, AND ALL ITS FULLNESS.”*

In the case of the meat sold in the market God absolved them of any sin. Why? It was because that there was no direct relationship between the eating this meat and the sacrifice to the idol god.

v.16 “AND YOU TAKE OF HIS DAUGHTERS FOR YOUR SONS, AND HIS DAUGHTERS PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS AND MAKE YOUR SONS PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS.”

Intermarriage with the Canaanite people was forbidden because they would then be enticed or perhaps even required to worship with the family that they married into. I grew up in an area that was predominantly Catholic. It was common knowledge that in order to have their marriage sanctioned by the Catholic Church that someone who married into a Catholic family was required to make a commitment that their children would be raised up in the Catholic Church.

The church today is called the bride of Christ:

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II Corinthians 11:2 “FOR I AM JEALOUS FOR YOU WITH GODLY JEALOUSY. FOR I HAVE BETROTHED YOU TO ONE HUSBAND, THAT I MAY PRESENT *you as A* CHASTE VIRGIN TO CHRIST.”

Therefore, when someone leaves the body of Christ, or puts themselves in fellowship with the world, with man-made religions or with those who have left the body of Christ, God’s looks upon them as a man would an unfaithful wife; they have committed spiritual adultery, as James very plainly records.

v.17 “YOU SHALL MAKE NO MOLDED GODS FOR YOURSELVES.”

A simple, straight-forward prohibition; they were not to worship any image, whether it be their concept of the physical appearance of God or something else.

v.18 “THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD YOU SHALL KEEP. SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD, AS I COMMANDED YOU, IN THE APPOINTED TIME OF THE MONTH OF ABIB; FOR IN THE MONTH OF ABIB YOU CAME OUT FROM EGYPT.”

The Feast of the Unleavened Bread followed directly after the Passover and continued through the following week. We saw in our study of **Exodus 12** concerning the Passover:

Exodus 12:14 “SO THIS DAY SHALL BE TO YOU A MEMORIAL; AND YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE **LORD** THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST BY AN EVERLASTING ORDINANCE.”

And then immediately following:

Exodus 12: 15 “SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD. ON THE FIRST DAY YOU SHALL REMOVE LEAVEN FROM YOUR HOUSES. FOR WHOEVER EATS LEAVENED BREAD FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL THE SEVENTH DAY, THAT PERSON SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM ISRAEL.”

v.19 “ALL THAT OPEN THE WOMB *are* MINE, AND EVERY MALE FIRSTBORN AMONG YOUR LIVESTOCK, *whether* OX OR SHEEP.”

Again we see the importance that God places on his commandments. Here they are repeated for the benefit of Moses and the Israelite nation, even though they had already been given once:

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Exodus 13:2 “CONSECRATE TO ME ALL THE FIRSTBORN, WHATEVER OPENS THE WOMB AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, *both* OF MAN AND BEAST; IT IS MINE.”

v.20 “BUT THE FIRSTBORN OF A DONKEY YOU SHALL REDEEM WITH A LAMB. AND IF YOU WILL NOT REDEEM *him*, THEN YOU SHALL BREAK HIS NECK. ALL THE FIRSTBORN OF YOUR SONS YOU SHALL REDEEM. “AND NONE SHALL APPEAR BEFORE ME EMPTY-HANDED.”

This commandment is also found in **Exodus 13:13** but when Moses numbered Israel God changed this law:

Numbers 3:45 “TAKE THE LEVITES INSTEAD OF ALL THE FIRSTBORN AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND THE LIVESTOCK OF THE LEVITES INSTEAD OF THEIR LIVESTOCK. THE LEVITES SHALL BE MINE: I *am* THE **LORD**.”

When the tribe of Levi was numbered the number is recorded as 22,000 males one month old and above. When the firstborn of all of the tribes were numbered the number was 22,273. So God gave a commandment to consecrate the tribe of Levi in lieu of the firstborn of every tribe. Then God allowed Israel to redeem the firstborn male who was not a Levite just as they would redeem the unclean animal that was not suitable for a sacrifice to God:

Numbers 18:15-16 “EVERYTHING THAT FIRST OPENS THE WOMB OF ALL FLESH, WHICH THEY BRING TO THE **LORD**, WHETHER MAN OR BEAST, SHALL BE YOURS; NEVERTHELESS THE FIRSTBORN OF MAN YOU SHALL SURELY REDEEM, AND THE FIRSTBORN OF UNCLEAN ANIMALS YOU SHALL REDEEM. AND THOSE REDEEMED OF THE DEVOTED THINGS YOU SHALL REDEEM WHEN ONE MONTH OLD, ACCORDING TO YOUR VALUATION, FOR FIVE SHEKELS OF SILVER, ACCORDING TO THE SHEKEL OF THE SANCTUARY, WHICH *is* TWENTY GERAHS.”

The law that applied to clean animals was not changed and repeated by Moses as part of his final instructions to Israel:

Deuteronomy 15:19 “ALL THE FIRSTBORN MALES THAT COME FROM YOUR HERD AND YOUR FLOCK YOU SHALL SANCTIFY TO THE **LORD** YOUR GOD; YOU SHALL DO NO WORK WITH THE FIRSTBORN OF YOUR HERD, NOR SHEAR THE FIRSTBORN OF YOUR FLOCK.”

v.21 “SIX DAYS YOU SHALL WORK, BUT ON THE SEVENTH DAY YOU SHALL REST; IN PLOWING TIME AND IN HARVEST YOU SHALL REST.”

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God made no exceptions to His prohibition to do no common labor or work on the Sabbath even if it was plowing time or harvest. As we noted before, common sense applied and those things absolutely necessary could be done. When Jesus healed on the Sabbath:

Luke 13:14-15 “BUT THE RULER OF THE SYNAGOGUE ANSWERED WITH INDIGNATION, BECAUSE JESUS HAD HEALED ON THE SABBATH; AND HE SAID TO THE CROWD, “THERE ARE SIX DAYS ON WHICH MEN OUGHT TO WORK; THEREFORE COME AND BE HEALED ON THEM, AND NOT ON THE SABBATH DAY.” THE LORD THEN ANSWERED HIM AND SAID, “HYPOCRITE! DOES NOT EACH ONE OF YOU ON THE SABBATH LOOSE HIS OX OR DONKEY FROM THE STALL, AND LEAD *it* AWAY TO WATER IT?”

Just as the manna required for the Sabbath was gathered on the day before, we see an implication that the preparation of food for the family was also do be done the day before and not on the Sabbath:

Exodus 35:3 “YOU SHALL KINDLE NO FIRE THROUGHOUT YOUR DWELLINGS ON THE SABBATH DAY.”

More about this in chapter 35.

v.22 “AND YOU SHALL OBSERVE THE FEAST OF WEEKS, OF THE FIRSTFRUITS OF WHEAT HARVEST, AND THE FEAST OF INGATHERING AT THE YEAR’S END.”

The other major feasts besides the Passover that God commanded the Israelites to observe were the feast of weeks or Pentecost:

Leviticus 23:15 “AND YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES FROM THE DAY AFTER THE SABBATH, FROM THE DAY THAT YOU BROUGHT THE SHEAF OF THE WAVE OFFERING: SEVEN SABBATHS SHALL BE COMPLETED.”

The wave offering referred to here is the wave offering to be made with the first fruits of the harvest during the feast of unleavened bread 50 days after the feast of Unleavened Bread. It was during the celebration of the feast of weeks or Pentecost. This usually fell in late May or early June on our calendar.

The last major feast was the feast of the ingathering at years end to celebrate the blessings of God.

v.23 “THREE TIMES IN THE YEAR ALL YOUR MEN SHALL APPEAR BEFORE THE LORD, THE **LORD** GOD OF ISRAEL.”

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All male Israelites were to appear before God for each of these three feasts. When Israel first entered Canaan they were to be held at the site of the tabernacle. When the temple was built then that location became the only acceptable site for Israel to obey this command. This is why that when the apostles stood up to speak on Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ we find that:

Acts 2:7-8 “THEN THEY WERE ALL AMAZED AND MARVELED, SAYING TO ONE ANOTHER, “LOOK, ARE NOT ALL THESE WHO SPEAK GALILEANS? AND HOW *is it that* WE HEAR, EACH IN OUR OWN LANGUAGE IN WHICH WE WERE BORN?”

And depending on how we count that were at least seventeen different regions and languages represented.

This is also one answer to those who would borrow the precepts of the Mosaic Covenant and bind them on people today like the Judizers did in the first century. If they keep the Law of Moses they would have to appear at the temple of God in Jerusalem three times a year. Of course, that temple hasn't existed for almost 2000 years.

v.24 “FOR I WILL CAST OUT THE NATIONS BEFORE YOU AND ENLARGE YOUR BORDERS; NEITHER WILL ANY MAN COVET YOUR LAND WHEN YOU GO UP TO APPEAR BEFORE THE **LORD** YOUR GOD THREE TIMES IN THE YEAR.”

If Israel would be keep these commandments, God would remove those who would oppose their taking of Canaan, extend their borders to the full extent that He promised Abraham and allow no man or country to covet or take the land from them. Of course, we know how that turned out. They didn't keep God's covenant and God used the very things that he promised them to punish them and eventually remove them from the promised land.

v.25 “YOU SHALL NOT OFFER THE BLOOD OF MY SACRIFICE WITH LEAVEN, NOR SHALL THE SACRIFICE OF THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER BE LEFT UNTIL MORNING.”

Again we see the prohibition from God not to make any offering to Him containing leaven, or as we know it today, yeast. The prohibition is also repeated that none of the feast of the Passover was to be left until the next day. In addition we also saw that any leftovers other sacrifices were also to be burned.

v.26 “THE FIRST OF THE FIRSTFRUITS OF YOUR LAND YOU SHALL BRING TO THE HOUSE OF THE **LORD** YOUR GOD. YOU SHALL NOT BOIL A YOUNG GOAT IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK.”

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This is another direct quote from **Exodus 23**, this one from verse **19**. The first fruits of the land belonged to God just as the first born. We also see once again that God prohibited the seething or boiling of a young kid in its mother's milk. No real explanation is given regarding this practice with some commentators speculating but providing nothing concrete.

v.27 "THEN 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."

Moses is again commanded to write or record the Words of God, which he did and which are preserved for our learning. In addition if we study the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy we will see most, if not all, of God's laws repeated throughout those writings. This could have been done to teach the succeeding generations about God's covenant, something that many of the congregations of the Lord's church neglect in spite of it being a part of what we call the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:20 "TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, *even* TO THE END OF THE AGE." AMEN."

This is a commandment that we are to keep even "TO THE END OF THE AGE", the current Christian Age within which we live.

v.28 "SO HE WAS THERE WITH THE **LORD** FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS; HE NEITHER ATE BREAD NOR DRANK WATER. AND HE WROTE ON THE TABLETS THE WORDS OF THE COVENANT, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS."

Just as before, Moses was on the mountain with God for a total of forty days and forty nights, fasting without food or water, being sustained in some fashion by the presence of God. We see a parallel in the forty days and forty nights that Jesus spent on the mountain at the beginning of His ministry:

Matthew 4:1-2 "THEN JESUS WAS LED UP BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL. AND WHEN HE HAD FASTED FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS, AFTERWARD HE WAS HUNGRY."

Since Jesus was the Son of God he did not need to be led up the mountain to record the word of God but for another purpose:

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Hebrews 2:17-18 “THEREFORE, IN ALL THINGS HE HAD TO BE MADE LIKE *His* BRETHREN, THAT HE MIGHT BE A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST IN THINGS **pertaining** TO GOD, TO MAKE PROPITIATION FOR THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE. FOR IN THAT HE HIMSELF HAS SUFFERED, BEING TEMPTED, HE IS ABLE TO AID THOSE WHO ARE TEMPTED.”

Read **Exodus 34:29-35** – Moses’ Face Shines

v.29 “NOW IT WAS SO, WHEN MOSES CAME DOWN FROM MOUNT SINAI (AND THE TWO TABLETS OF THE TESTIMONY *were* IN MOSES’ HAND WHEN HE CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN), THAT MOSES DID NOT KNOW THAT THE SKIN OF HIS FACE SHONE WHILE HE TALKED WITH HIM.”

The description of Moses’ face here reminds me of a depiction of the rays of the sun as they stretch forward toward earth. They are extremely bright and if viewed without protection, especially at the time of an eclipse, can damage the eyes. Moses has been with God (THE LIGHT, **I John 1:7**) for 40 days and nights and reflects His glory.

We’re told also that he is carrying the two tablets of stone and that he did not know that his face was shining.

v.30 “SO WHEN AARON AND ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAW MOSES, BEHOLD, THE SKIN OF HIS FACE SHONE, AND THEY WERE AFRAID TO COME NEAR HIM.”

Israel was afraid of Moses, even Aaron, who designated to be the High Priest of God for Israel. The Apostle Paul uses this event to emphasize the superiority of the ministry of Christ over the ministry of Moses:

II Corinthians 3:7-8 “BUT IF THE MINISTRY OF DEATH, WRITTEN *and* ENGRAVED ON STONES, WAS GLORIOUS, SO THAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL COULD NOT LOOK STEADILY AT THE FACE OF MOSES BECAUSE OF THE GLORY OF HIS COUNTENANCE, WHICH *glory* WAS PASSING AWAY, HOW WILL THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT NOT BE MORE GLORIOUS?”

The old law being the ministry of death because it could convict man of sin but not redeem him, thus he was “DEAD IN TREPASSES AND SIN” (**Ephesians 2:1**).

v.31 “THEN MOSES CALLED TO THEM, AND AARON AND ALL THE RULERS OF THE CONGREGATION RETURNED TO HIM; AND MOSES TALKED WITH THEM.”

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Apparently Israel was not only afraid to come near Moses this verse would imply that they fled from him. But when he called them they came to hear his words and he talked with them.

v.32 "AFTERWARD ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CAME NEAR, AND HE GAVE THEM AS COMMANDMENTS ALL THAT THE **LORD** HAD SPOKEN WITH HIM ON MOUNT SINAI."

As is common in scripture this verse actually describes something that will shortly take place and is recorded in the next chapter. As he talks with them Moses reiterates everything that God has given him concerning their covenant.

v.33 "AND WHEN MOSES HAD FINISHED SPEAKING WITH THEM, HE PUT A VEIL ON HIS FACE."

This one quarrel that I have this the New King James Version. In this verse the word "till" that the translators added in the King James Version is omitted and makes the verse somewhat confusing. The older version reads:

v.33 "AND *till* MOSES HAD DONE SPEAKING WITH THEM, HE PUT A VAIL ON HIS FACE."

An interesting analogy is made by the Apostle Paul about the veil that Moses wore. Since the glory of the Old Covenant was veiled from the children of Israel they never fully understood or accepted that covenant. They viewed it, as is were, through a veil that did not allow them to see clearly.

II Corinthians 3:14-15 "BUT THEIR MINDS WERE BLINDED: FOR UNTIL THIS DAY REMAINETH THE SAME VAIL UNTAKEN AWAY IN THE READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT; WHICH VAIL IS DONE AWAY IN CHRIST. BUT EVEN UNTO THIS DAY, WHEN MOSES IS READ, THE VAIL IS UPON THEIR HEART."

We might also liken this veil to the minds and hearts of men today who look upon the Word of God and do not see it clearly because they minds are veiled by the preconceived notions and the teachings of men.

v.34 "BUT WHEN MOSES WENT IN BEFORE THE **LORD** TO SPEAK WITH HIM, HE TOOK THE VAIL OFF, UNTIL HE CAME OUT. AND HE CAME OUT, AND SPAKE UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT WHICH HE WAS COMMANDED."

So to accommodate the Israelites Moses wore the veil when he spoke to them but took it off when he spoke with God.

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v.35 “AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAW THE FACE OF MOSES, THAT THE SKIN OF MOSES' FACE SHONE: AND MOSES PUT THE VAIL UPON HIS FACE AGAIN, UNTIL HE WENT IN TO SPEAK WITH HIM (God).”