

## Out of Bondage onto Promise

### Exodus 33:1-23

- God has delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt and the bondage of slavery with miracles and supernatural provisions that man can only dream of, also in setting them free He's fulfilling the promise of giving them their own homeland, all He asked for in return is that they obey Him. It took Israel about three months to arrive at Mt. Sinai from Egypt and in that time since they've come we see at least three times they have promised to obey whatever God said > **19:8, 24:3, 7.**
- Yet we find them in an unenviable place of seeing loved ones die because of sin and disobedience and instead of repentance their offering God appeasement. In **Deut 5:22-29** the Lord knew that Israel would not follow His Commandments and still he gave them to them Why? Because man needs to know and learn about God's heart toward to sin in order to truly appreciate His Love, Mercy, and forgiveness, that He offers to each and every one of us.

### V1-23

- **V1-3** amazingly after the sin of the golden calf God did not deny Israel the Promise Land, He said they could continue on to possess what He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Also God didn't deny them His protection either, as He promised to send them His Angel (The Pre-incarnate, Jesus Christ) to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites, until they reached the land flowing with milk and honey.
- But He did say He will deny them one thing, and that is "**His Presence**", telling them that He won't stay too close to them lest He destroy them. It's a terrible thing when God tells us He must keep His distance from you for our sakes, we are supposed to be drawing as close to God as humanly possible and in return God draws near to us > **Jam 4:8**. But as we read in **Exodus 33** and here in **Jam 4** that is predicated upon us repenting and cleansing our hearts and hands of sin.
- An interesting point here is, if Israel was satisfied with this arrangement, of receiving the Promise Land, but not having a close intimate relationship with God, it would prove that they only wanted and loved God's blessings and not God Himself. But if they challenged this arrangement and pleaded with God to remain close with them, then it would prove they wanted not just His blessings, but also show a genuine heart for God Himself, which would be the first step toward spiritual restoration, and a renewed heart to serve and please the Lord, let's see their response.
- **V4-6** they mourned and took off all their jewelry realizing that this was not the time to be decorating the external, thus displaying a knowledge that this was indeed bad news in possibly losing God's close Presence, showing they did care about having a relationship with the Lord and not just what He could give them. This didn't take away from the fact that they were a "**stiff-necked people**" as God repeats this phrase to them one again of their stubbornness to obey.

- **V7** Moses saw this as an excellent opportunity to have a meeting with God, notice Moses doesn't want the people anywhere near where he is going to talk with God lest they cause more damage. He realizes that he must go from guiding the people to interceding on behalf of the people, and folks all Christians if they are walking close with God and dealing with people will need to know when to do this very thing, get alone with God and pray on behalf of others.
- This became a staple for the Israelites as everyone who wanted to seek the Lord would now come to this tent outside the camp and pray, wait, and cry out to God. This made this place a place of worship, and to do so it meant you had to separate yourself from any and everything else in order to meet with God. When God truly deals with us there will be a separation, it won't be paraded for all to see, but it will be inward, as a consecration in your heart will take place.
- **V8-10** The Presence of God shows up and when Moses went out to meet with God the people would stand up and watch as he went into the tent, then the pillar of cloud would descend upon the door not letting anyone in or out as the Lord talked with Moses. Notice no distractions, we live in a world with distractions all around, people praying with the T.V. Video games, music, talking, going on all around us in our very homes, but here no noise only the Lord's voice. The response was all the people began to worship at their tents door, that's what this produced.
- **V11-13** the personal life of Moses was an example to all the nation of Israel but especially to Joshua, notice it says he wouldn't leave the Tabernacle after Moses would hear from the Lord why? Because he also wanted to hear God's voice for himself like Moses, he knew it was a choice as to why the people had to wait for God to speak through Moses before they had their marching orders, Joshua wanted to hear from God for himself so he would stay at the Tabernacle
- Moses in praying for the people also wanted some assurances for himself, asking God Who will He send to help him lead these people to the Promise Land? He wanted to make sure God was going to be there as close as He's always been, you see once you've tasted of the presence of God you don't want to live another second without it, he wanted God close to him, as he had done things his way and he didn't want to rely on himself ever again.
- **V14-17** God gives Moses the Promise of His Presence, and Moses boldly declares "if Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us". That meant I don't want to be anywhere or anyplace that you are not there with me, and this should be all of our attitudes. Moses even went as far as to say in doing this it will show the other nations that God had set them apart as His people, I like that, this is where Moses boldness came from, it was from knowing God's Word
- **V18-20** Moses has another personal request that doesn't have anything to do with Israel, he asks God "to show him His Glory". Moses has already saw some of God's glory in **Ex 16:10, Ex 24:10, 16-17**, yet he wanted more, he sensed he hadn't seen everything and he was right. God tells him He couldn't show Moses what he wanted because it would kill him in the sinful state that he is still in seeing the Sinless, Perfect, Glory of God, but in His mercy, He will show him something that he has already experienced by God's Grace and now will hear "**God's Goodness**".

- **V21-23** He hides Moses by placing him in a cleft of a rock, this is beautiful because this I exactly what God has done for you and I, He's hidden us in the Cleft of the Rock "**Jesus**" and allowed His Glory to pass over us taking away our sin and the death sentence that was upon us. In this we see The Lord at work in our lives as **1<sup>st</sup>** The Hand of God takes us and hides us away, **2<sup>nd</sup>** Into the Rock of refuge that He provides Jesus Christ. Finally Moses could only see "**God's back**" not His face or in front of Him, only Behind God and never in front of God, always what He's done before