

THE COVENANT RENEWED

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 34:1-35

LESSON 69 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon *these* tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

² And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.

³ And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

⁴ And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

⁵ And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

⁸ And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

⁹ And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it *is* a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

¹⁰ And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou *art* shall see the work of the LORD: for it *is* a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

¹¹ Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

¹² Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:

¹³ But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

¹⁵ Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and *one* call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

¹⁶ And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

The first time Moses answered the divine call to Mount Sinai to receive the Law, God wrote the Ten Commandments upon two tables of stone which He had prepared, and told Moses to take them back to the people.

The Way to Happiness

The Law was given to teach men how to live in order to be happy in this world, and to show them what God required to make them ready for Heaven. The first commandment was, "Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deuteronomy 6). How does a person behave himself who loves the Lord with all his heart, and soul, and might? Would not this be a happy world if everyone in it lived according to the commandments of God? There would be no selfishness, no greed, no hatred; everyone would love everyone else.

God knew that sin in people's hearts caused all their troubles, and He wanted His own particular people to be spared that trouble. He loved them; He called them His "firstborn" which meant the same as the eldest son who would carry on the family name. He wanted to be a Father to them and that they should be called by His name.

Just think of the joys the Children of Israel could have had if they had been willing to love God and obey His commandments. God promised them so much if they would only yield their hearts to Him: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" But they were a stiff-necked people and refused His love, and therefore they got into much trouble.

Would Not

The Jews in the time that Jesus was on earth were just as indifferent to His love. One lonely night our Savior sat on a hill overlooking the city of Jerusalem, and He was deeply grieved. The people whom He had come to save lived in warm, comfortable houses down there, but they had no room for Him. He had come to bring peace to their hearts, and a greater joy than they had ever known, but they would not listen to Him. His cry that night was: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (**Matthew 23:37** ³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered

¹⁷ Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

¹⁸ The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.

¹⁹ All that openeth the matrix *is* mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, *whether* ox or sheep, *that is male*.

²⁰ But the firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem *him* not, then shalt thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

²¹ Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

²² And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

²³ Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

²⁴ For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.

²⁵ Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.

²⁶ The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

²⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

²⁸ And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

²⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

³⁰ And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

³¹ And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

³² And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

³³ And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

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.

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.

thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!)

That is how much Jesus loves people these days, and even the angels in Heaven rejoice when one soul repents. All the blessings one can think of go with Christian living, yet most people refuse to come to Jesus, refuse to repent of their sins and live to please God.

The Commandments Broken

While Moses was in the mountain receiving those precious commandments of God, the willful Israelites made a golden calf to worship, in spite of the fact that God had just told them not to make any image to bow down to or worship. When Moses saw what the people had done he was so displeased with their sin that he cast the tables of God to the ground and broke them.

What a tragedy that God's precious tables were broken! But how much more terrible it was that all the people had disobeyed God! Moses had to pray long and hard to get God's forgiveness for the people. "Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you. I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand" (**Deuteronomy 9:25-26** ²⁵ Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.²⁶ I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand).

God answered that prayer and told Moses to make two more tables, like the first ones, and He would write the Law again. Moses went up early into the mount, and God spoke to him from the pillar of cloud.

Saved through Grace

The Lord reminded Moses that it was only His mercy that caused Him to renew His covenant with the people. The Israelites could do nothing that would win His favor, It was only His goodness, His long-suffering, that caused Him to heed the plea of Moses and not destroy this wicked nation.

There is nothing that a sinner can do today to earn his way to Heaven. or to gain God's approval. In His mercy He sent His Son, Jesus, to shed His Blood for our salvation. No amount of good works on our part can earn us an entrance into eternal life. Nor can anyone say that he has never been very bad and so he is sure God will take him into Heaven. The Scripture states: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). A man remains a sinner until He comes to Jesus in repentance and asks for forgiveness, reminding God that Jesus shed His Blood in order that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). When our sins are forgiven, the Lord gives us power to sin no more: "Whosoever is born of God doth, not commit sin" (I

QUESTIONS

- 1 How were the Ten Commandments given to Moses?
- 2 What happened to the first tables?
- 3 Why did God not destroy the Israelites? Two reasons.
- 4 What is the first commandment?
- 5 Why should we be careful about associating too much with worldly friends?
- 6 How can we "see" God?

John 3:9)

His Promises

There was another reason why God had been merciful: He had made a promise to Abraham, to Isaac, and again to Jacob that their posterity should inhabit and rule the land of Canaan. At the time of which we are studying, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites lived there; and they were more powerful nations than the Israelites. But God said He would keep the covenant He had made with the early patriarchs, and would go with Israel and help them conquer the land. He said He would perform greater miracles than had ever taken place before — even greater miracles than the plagues of Egypt. When God is on the side of the weaker, no matter how strong the opposing army, those on the Lord's side will win. "The battle is not your's, but God's" (11 Chronicles 20:15).

No Fellowship with Sinners

God promised He would give His people victory over their enemies, but they must treat them as enemies. They were to make no bargains with them because the natives of Canaan worshiped idols, and they might win the Israelites to idol worship. We remember the golden calf, and see why God had to keep warning them away from idolatry.

We, too, must be careful not to become entangled with worldly associations. If we prefer the company of sinners to that of the children of God, there is something wrong. "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?" (James 4:4). Jesus wants His people to be a separate people. He has called them His "peculiar treasure," and He wants them to keep themselves unspotted from the world.

God's Glory Revealed

When Moses came down from the mount, his face glowed with the rapture of his meeting with God. The Israelites were afraid to look at him until he covered his face with a vail. Think of the glory that attended the giving of the Ten Commandments; and then remember that God has given us a much greater covenant in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. Then God wrote the Law on tables of stone; now He writes it on the hearts of those who believe. Consider how much greater glory we can attain to when we come to the Lord with the Blood of Jesus over our hearts in salvation and sanctification, and we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The vail has been taken away and we can each one enjoy that close contact with God.

At a revival in one place in India, the Holy Spirit came suddenly upon a church prayer meeting. The prayer sounded like the roar of a cataract. The natives came running, and when they saw the ecstasy on the faces of those who were receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they went away saying, "The Christians have seen their God." To have this baptism is the privilege of every Christian who lives to please the Lord and keeps all His commandments.