

THE COVENANT RENEWED

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 34:1-35

LESSON 69 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6).

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Renewal of the Covenant on Mt. Sinai

1 Moses was commanded to ascend Mt. Sinai alone to have the law of God written on tables of stone once more, Exodus 34:1-4;

Deuteronomy 10:1-4

¹ At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood.

² And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark.

³ And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand.

⁴ And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

2 The Lord showed His approval of *Moses* once again by giving him a still greater revelation of the divine attributes, as had been previously promised, Exodus 34:5-7;

Exodus 33:19 ¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

James 4:8 ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

Psalms 73:28 ²⁸ But *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Hebrews 10:22 ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

3 Moses reverently worshiped God and demonstrated his meek and unselfish spirit by using his newly gained additional favor with God to plead the cause of the Israelites, Exodus 34:8, 9;

Deuteronomy 10:10-11 ¹⁰ And I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also, *and* the LORD would not destroy thee.

¹¹ And the LORD said unto me, Arise, take *thy* journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give unto them.

4 God answered Moses' request, making a covenant with the Israelites, the fulfillment of which was conditioned upon their obedience of the Law, Exodus 34:10, 11;

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 ¹² And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

¹³ To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

¹⁴ Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *is* the LORD'S thy God, the earth *also*, with all that therein

their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

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

is.

¹⁵ Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, *even* you above all people, as *it is* this day.

¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

¹⁷ For the Lord your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

¹⁸ He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

¹⁹ Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

²¹ He *is* thy praise, and he *is* thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

²² Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

Deuteronomy 11:1-32 ¹ Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.

² And know ye this day: for *I speak* not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the Lord your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,

³ And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land;

⁴ And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and *how* the Lord hath destroyed them unto this day;

⁵ And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place;

⁶ And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and their tents, and all the substance that *was* in their possession, in the midst of all Israel:

⁷ But your eyes have seen all the great acts of the Lord which he did.

⁸ Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

⁹ And that ye may prolong *your* days in the land, which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

¹⁰ For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, *is* not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst *it* with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

¹¹ But the land, whither ye go to possess it, *is* a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

¹² A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God *are* always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

¹³ And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹⁴ That I will give *you* the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

¹⁵ And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

¹⁶ Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

¹⁷ And *then* the Lord's wrath be kindled against you,

vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Exodus 34:1-35

NOTES

What We Can Learn from the Israelites

In the past several lessons we have studied a dark and distressing chapter in the history of the Israelites. While they were on the very slopes of Mt. Sinai they had heard God speak, but had drawn back and refused to let Him write His Law upon their hearts (**Proverbs 3:3** ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: **Proverbs 7:3** ³ Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** ³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³ But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more).

When Moses was long in returning from Mt. Sinai the Israelites turned to idolatry, making and worshiping a golden calf, for which they were severely punished by God. No doubt this punishment was more extensive than was thought by the Israelites at first, for their original repentance was not enough to grant them again all the blessings they had formerly enjoyed. It was necessary for Moses to intercede for them over and over that all these peculiar God-given distinctions might again be theirs. As we trace the dealings of God with the Israelites, from their rejection by Him at the time God first told *Moses* of their sin of idolatry through to the resumption of their journey to Canaan (**Numbers 10:11-13** ¹¹ And it came to pass on the twentieth *day* of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. ¹² And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.¹³ And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses), we see exemplified some great and solemn truths.

First, we see the seriousness of any rejection of God and of any disobedience to God's Law. Secondly, we see that the logical and ultimate consequence of such rejection, if continued, is God's rejection of the sinner; and that only wholehearted and sincere

and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and *lest* ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

¹⁸ Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

¹⁹ And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

²⁰ And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

²¹ That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

²² For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

²³ Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

²⁴ Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

²⁵ There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

²⁶ Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

²⁷ A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

²⁸ And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

²⁹ And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.

³⁰ Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh?

³¹ For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.

³² And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

II Conditions and Demands of the Covenant

1 The first condition was for absolute and complete allegiance to God, Exodus 34:12-17;

Matthew 22:36-39 ³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Luke 14:26-33 ²⁶ If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish it?

²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able

repentance on the part of the sinner will reverse God's attitude and bring him into favor with God again. Thirdly, we see demonstrated the qualities and characteristics of a true leader, as exemplified in the great man, Moses, who was willing to forsake every thought of his own welfare and intercede for the welfare of those over whom God had placed him. Fourthly, we see how important it is that God's presence be with us at all times; and, also, somewhat of the physical and spiritual blessings the Israelites would have missed had not Moses interceded for them.

Fifthly, we see that God tests His people, even His own most carefully selected and schooled, that they might know for sure what is in their own hearts. Sixthly, we see the wonderful fact demonstrated that God will draw near to everyone who draws near to Him, and that each step we make toward Him, whether from the summit of a mountain or the depths of a valley, will bring us a better revelation of His great name and His glorious attributes. Seventhly, we see the conditions on which our covenant relations with God are made and preserved: unflinching allegiance and devotion, unquestioning obedience to His revealed will, and faithful attendance upon every means of grace that is given to us. Lastly, in this summary of some of the truths revealed to us through this chapter of Israelitish history (**1 Corinthians 10:1-11**) ¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. ⁸ Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. ⁹ Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. ¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come, we see an evidence of the glory that will come to us when we follow God with all our heart, take up the God-given responsibilities we have toward each other, faithfully and unselfishly intercede for the lost in sin, prefer the honor of God's name to any personal glory of our own, and uncompromisingly stand for the Word of God against every one who would fail to uphold all its precepts.

The Testing of Moses

God permits His ministers to be tested many

to finish.

³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 5:27-28 ²⁷ And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

²⁸ And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

Luke 18:29-30 ²⁹ And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

³⁰ Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Philippians 3:8 ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

- 2 The Feasts of the Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, the offering and redemption of the first-born, the offering of the first fruits, and the weekly Sabbath were given to aid in keeping the worship of God perpetually before them, Exodus 34:18-28;

Leviticus 23:1-44 ¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* my feasts.

³ Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

⁴ These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

⁵ In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.

⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

⁸ But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

¹² And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

¹³ And the meat offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin.

¹⁴ And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

¹⁵ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after

times and in devious ways, One might think that Moses had been schooled sufficiently in the 40 years as an heir to the throne of Egypt together with the period of similar length spent in tending the sheep of his father-in-law in the wilderness_ It is true that Moses made great spiritual progress during that time. He who was able by faith to forsake the treasures of Egypt, choosing rather to dwell with the despised Hebrew slaves because he saw greater blessings in the reproach of Christ than in the temporary and transitory things of the world, learned a great lesson of discipline in the desert. For one thing, he learned to follow God and not to run ahead of the divine will And that is a lesson that requires more than 40 years for many people to learn!

But the test that Moses was subjected to at this time was one far different from any he had had in Egypt or in the wilderness. It was a test, the surmounting of which showed the true spirit that was in Moses: the spirit of perfect meekness and humility, the spirit of true love for God, and the desire to see God honored above everything *else*.

When the Israelites murmured against Moses at Rephidim because there was no water for them to drink, they said, "Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt" (Exodus 17:3). When they asked Aaron to make them a golden calf they also referred to Moses as the one who had brought them out of the land of Egypt (Exodus 32:1). Moses accepted such statements as an indication of the condition of their rebellious hearts. They had turned away from God and His leadership. Moses reminded them that their complaints were not directed against him, but against God.

But when God told Moses that the Israelites had corrupted themselves and resorted to idolatry, God Himself called the people Moses' people and said that Moses had brought them out of Egypt. God asked that Moses let Him alone so that He might, in His wrath, utterly destroy them and make a nation from the posterity of His faithful servant Moses. God could have done this without breaking His covenant with Abraham, because Moses was a descendant of Abraham, and a nation founded upon Moses would still be descendants of Abraham.

But Moses was not like many who would eagerly accept such an opportunity to become the father of a nation, that men of all ages might look upon them in respect and honor. Moses thought more of the honor of God's name than of any personal honor of himself. We have seen that he reminded God of what the Egyptians would say and of the reproach such an action would bring against the name of God.

However, the test was not yet over. God repented of His momentary purpose to destroy the people, and gave Moses instructions to lead them into the promised land because of the covenant He had made with Abraham. But God said He would not go with them because of their sin and evil hearts. He promised to send an angel before them to drive out the hostile inhabitants of the land, but there would be

the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

¹⁶ Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

¹⁷ Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the firstfruits unto the LORD.

¹⁸ And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be *for* a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

¹⁹ Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

²⁰ And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *for* a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

²¹ And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work *therein*: *it shall be* a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

²² And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: *I am* the LORD your God.

²³ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²⁴ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

²⁵ Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

²⁶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²⁷ Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

²⁸ And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

²⁹ For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

³⁰ And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

³¹ Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

³² *It shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

³³ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

³⁴ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD.

³⁵ On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

³⁶ Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

³⁷ These *are* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

³⁸ Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

no divine Presence to go with them as they journeyed there.

Moses knew the hearts of the Israelites. He also knew the hopelessness of any venture unless God was in it, unless God's presence was there all the time. He interceded still further with God for the Israelites, reminding God of the intimate relationship that he, personally, had with God, "If I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people." He was asking not only for guidance, help, and strength for himself but was asking that the Israelites again be adopted by God and again taken for His own people.

"Wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." Moses was a true leader, a great intercessor, and a faithful man of God! He was not led aside from the God-given responsibility by human pride nor by a fleshly desire for fame and honor. His responsibility before God was to lead the Israelites into Canaan, not only as a nation of people but as a nation of God's own people! He did not let anything turn him from his task.

Even though God repeatedly referred to the Israelites as Moses' people Moses continually reminded God that they were His people and that none but God alone had brought them out of Egypt. Moses wanted it known that the miracles were not his, even though they came about after his rod was extended. The people might easily have believed that Moses had some supernatural power, as people of all ages have always been prone to discount the miracles of God and attribute them to some unseen power of man or working of nature. But Moses would not let that thought be held by anyone for one moment; and at every suggestion of it, even when God allowed it to come as a test to him, Moses would immediately rectify the statement and let it be known that the Israelites were God's people, that God had brought them out of Egypt, and that the miracles and wonders they had seen were performed by God's hand. **Exodus 32:7** ⁷

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:

Exodus 32:11 ¹¹ And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? **Exodus 32:31** ³¹

And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. **Exodus 32:34** ³⁴ Therefore now go, lead the people unto *the place* of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

Exodus 33:1 ¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, *and* go up hence, thou and the people

³⁹ Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day *shall be* a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be* a sabbath.

⁴⁰ And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

⁴¹ And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

⁴³ That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

⁴⁴ And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

Numbers 9:1-14 ¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

² Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season.

³ In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.

⁴ And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover.

⁵ And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

⁶ And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

⁷ And those men said unto him, We *are* defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?

⁸ And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or *be* in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

¹¹ The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, *and* eat it with unleavened bread and bitter *herbs*.

¹² They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

¹³ But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

¹⁴ And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.

Deuteronomy 16:1-17 ¹ Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

² Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

³ Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, *even* the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the

which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: **Exodus 33:12-13** ¹² And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. ¹³ Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. **Exodus 33:16** ¹⁶ For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that *are* upon the face of the earth. **Numbers 10:11-13** ¹¹ And it came to pass on the twentieth *day* of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. ¹² And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran. ¹³ And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses. **Numbers 10:33-36** ³³ And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. ³⁴ And the cloud of the LORD *was* upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. ³⁵ And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. ³⁶ And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

The Renewed Covenant

When the testing of Moses was finished and when the Israelites had returned to God in penitence, repenting of the sin of idolatry (**Exodus 33:4** ⁴ And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments), God made Himself known to Moses in a much greater way than ever before. But Moses was not content, and stood upon his increased favor with God and asked still greater blessings for the Israelites, demonstrating still further his great unselfish spirit. This resulted, as we have seen, in the promise that God would cause His goodness to pass before Moses and that He would proclaim the mighty name of Jehovah before this humble, yet forceful, leader of Israel.

At God's time Moses was called to the Mount again, this time to bring two tables of stone with him upon which God would again write the commandments. It was while Moses was in the Mount for this period of 40 days that he received the most sublime experience that mortal man has ever received. There, during that time, the name of the Lord was proclaimed before Moses. There this man of God came

land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

⁴ And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there *any thing* of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.

⁵ Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:

⁶ But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

⁷ And thou shalt roast and eat *it* in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents.

⁸ Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day *shall be* a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work *therein*.

⁹ Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from *such time as* thou beginnest to *put* the sickle to the corn.

¹⁰ And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give *unto the LORD thy God*, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

¹¹ And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that *are* among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

¹² And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

¹³ Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine:

¹⁴ And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that *are* within thy gates.

¹⁵ Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.

¹⁶ Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

¹⁷ Every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

III The Relating of the Covenant to the Israelites

- 1 Moses' face shone with the glory of God because of his long communion with God, which was a testimonial of God's approval of His prophet, Exodus 34:29, 30;

Matthew 17:2-3 ² And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

³ And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Deuteronomy 34:10 ¹⁰ And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

- 2 Moses, as a faithful minister of God, told all the Israelites the words of the Lord, Exodus 34:31, 32;

Isaiah 62:6 ⁶ I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

Acts 6:4 ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to

into a better knowledge of who God was, what He meant to man, and what He would do for those who feared Him.

When Moses returned from Mt. Sinai he told the Israelites all that the Lord had spoken to him on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:32), and it was there that Israel had their earliest insight into the divine attributes. They found that God is not at one time just, and at another merciful. They found that He is not at one time wise, and at another good. They found that He is at all times just, merciful, wise, and good. They came to the realization that all His perfections are present and operative in Him at all times. They first knew Jehovah as the self-existent One who purposed to deliver His people with a mighty hand (**Exodus 6:1** ¹ Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land), but now they came to know Him as a living Savior who could and would forgive their sins if they sincerely repented, and a just God who could and would eternally punish them if they did not repent.

The Importance and Rewards of Intercession

We realize that nothing can stop God's plan, no power of earth or hell being strong enough to retard God's workings. And we know that God would have worked out His plan in spite of man, if He could not work through man; still one cannot help pondering the possible outcome if Moses had not been eager to glorify God rather than to accept worldly honor for himself. The angel of the Lord would have gone before the Israelites to drive out the Canaanites, and the people would have struggled on in their own human weakness toward that land, but God would not have gone with them. The tables of stone might never have been re-hewed and the finger of God might never have traced upon them the glorious precepts of divine will. Perhaps the Tabernacle would never have been constructed in the wilderness, and the sacrifices offered there for the forgiveness and cleansing of sin would never have been presented. The incense of praise then could not have been burned upon the golden altar, nor the Shekinah have dwelt between the cherubims.

If Moses had not been faithful to God in this manner, the overwhelming power present at the setting up of the Tabernacle would never have visited Israel, neither would the many evidences of God's leadership been present during those 40 years. An example to those who may be tempted to rebel against God's leaders would have been lost, because there would have been no Power present in Israel to smite down Korah, Dathan, and Abiram when they rebelled. A great example would have been lost to us if we could not now read of the report of the spies and of the evil consequences that followed the Israelites when they attempted to go into the land against the will of God.

Much depends upon our faithful intercession for God's will in our lives, and in the lives of those who are influenced by us. We can thank God that Moses stood

prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 10:28 ²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

1 Timothy 4:6 ⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Peter 5:2-4 ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 4:10 ¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 ¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 Because of the radiance of Moses' countenance it was necessary that he wear a vail when talking to the Israelites, Exodus 34:33-35;

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 ⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

⁸ How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

¹⁰ For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

¹¹ For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

¹² Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

¹³ And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

¹⁶ Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

¹⁸ But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why was it necessary that the tables of stone be reconstructed and rewritten?
- 2 Tell of the great test that Moses was put to, as we have studied in recent lessons, and how he proved true to God through it.
- 3 How long did Moses fast and pray on Mt. Sinai this time?
- 4 What great blessing and divine revelation was given to Moses because of his constancy in prayer?

the test! We can thank God that the great covenant was renewed! We can also thank God for other intercessors, down through the line of sacred history to the present day, who would rather see God's cause prosper and God's name honored than anything else in the whole world. Faithful intercession may, and will, cost us something, but it has its own rich rewards. Moses received a revelation of God that no one else received at that time, for he ascended the mountain alone on this occasion. And because he was in such long communion with God the skin of his face shone with a God-likeness that the earthly-minded Israelites could not bear to look upon. Probably Moses appeared a little as he did at the Transfiguration when he stood with Jesus on top of a mountain at a later time (**Luke 9:30-31** ³⁰ And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: ³¹ Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem). This radiance showed the Israelites the spiritual exaltation of their leader. It also shows us that God may impart His own glory to those to whom it is His will to show great favor (**Exodus 33:19** ¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy). It teaches us that long communion and intimate fellowship transfigures the child of faith into the very image of the heavenly God (**1 John 3:1-3** ¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure).

- 5 What was the part that the Israelites must do to keep the covenant made on Mt. Sinai?
- 6 Why did God's plan for the Israelites necessitate the destruction of the nations of Canaan?
- 7 Name the three great occasions in the year when all of the Israelite men appeared before the Lord.
- 8 What was the purpose in these three great events?
- 9 What did the shining of Moses' face signify?
- 10 Tell the different characteristics of Moses' life that made him such a wonderful spiritual leader and minister.