

MOSES, WILDERNESS AND GOD'S GLORY

The Old Testament Today

Banska Bystrica, 25th September 2022

Exodus 32:35 - 34:10 ³⁵ Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made. **33:1** The LORD said to Moses, "Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.'" ² I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." ⁴ When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. ⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.'" ⁶ Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward. ⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. ¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'" ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" ¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." **34:1** The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." ⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance." ¹⁰ And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or 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."

Ταῦτα δὲ τύποι ἡμῶν ἐγενήθησαν, εἰς τὸ μὴ εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἐπιθυμητὰς κακῶν, καθὼς κακῆλυοὶ ἐπεθύμησαν.

1Co 10:6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

Ἡμεῖς δὲ πάντες, ἀνακεκαλυμμένῳ προσώπῳ τὴν δόξαν κυρίου κατοπτριζόμενοι, τὴν αὐτὴν εἰκόνα μεταμορφούμεθα ἀπὸ δόξης εἰς δόξαν, καθάπερ ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος.

2Cor 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS
- 0.2. LEGISLATION AND HISTORY
- 0.3. "EXAMPLES FOR US"

1. THE CRISIS

- 1.1. THE CALF
- 1.2. SEPARATION

2. THE RESPONSE

- 2.1. GOD FIRST!
- 2.2. THE TENT OF MEETING
- 2.3. COVENANT RENEWAL

3. RECHARGING

- 3.1. DESIRE FOR MORE
- 3.2. EXPERIENCING GOD'S GLORY

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS

- He has 40 years before him – but he does not know it.
- Israel turned back to Egyptian religion – rejected the LORD as their leader.

0.2. LEGISLATION AND HISTORY

- Wilderness journey and the Law of Moses – inseparable
- Life in light of the Law. ↔ The Law in light of life.

0.3. "EXAMPLES FOR US"

- There is no inspired history of the church, but we have an inspired record of the history of Israel. The New Testament says we should read it as an analogy.
- [LLOYD-JONES *Revival*] "The Church has been re-enacting this very thing, chiefly, of course, in the matter of setting up its own god."

1. THE CRISIS

1.1. THE CALF

- Ex 32:35 Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf

[LLOYD-JONES *Revival*] The Church, and I am speaking of the Church particularly, has set herself over the Book and above the Book. Philosophy has taken the place of revelation. And men have not hesitated, to express their opinions of the God of the Old Testament...

- [STANLEY Andy *Irresistible*, p. 280] "when it comes to stumbling blocks to faith, the Old Testament is right up there at the top of the list"

1.2. SEPARATION

- Ex 33:3 ...but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way
- **1Cor 3:16-17** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

2. THE RESPONSE

- the promises stand – just the PRESENCE is no longer there...

2.1. GOD FIRST!

- Ex 33:15 And he said to him, "If your presence (תְּפִלָּתְךָ) will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.
[CALVIN *Ephesians 4:30*] (And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption) Par cela il nous montre que pour bien surmonter les allechemens de Satan et les cupiditez de nostre chair et toutes les tentations de ce monde, il nous faut tousiours penser à la vie celeste laquelle nous est promise et à laquelle nous devons aspirer.
- **Gal 5:25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit

2.2. THE TENT OF MEETING

- ^{CSB} **Ex 33:7** Now Moses took a tent and set it up outside the camp, far away from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. Anyone who wanted to consult the LORD would go to the tent of meeting that was outside the camp.
- **Malachi 3:15-17** And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape."¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

2.3. COVENANT RENEWAL

- Ex 33:6 Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.
- Ex 34:1 "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke
- **James 4:9-10** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
- **Rev 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me

3. RECHARGING

3.1. DESIRE FOR MORE

- Ex 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory."
- Moses experienced (1) miracles in Midian and Egypt, (2) great liberation from slavery, (3) getting the Decalogue, (4) seeing the model of the Tabernacle
- still desired for MORE → correct?

3.2. EXPERIENCING GOD'S GLORY

- the Presence → Ex 34:5a The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there...
- the Attributes → Ex 34:5b ... and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ..."34:6 The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means

clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

- **2Cor 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- the Spirit and the Word together

4. TO REMEMBER

- In crises, the most important thing is God's presence.
- In church community there are those who want closer walk with God. They need to get together regularly.
- Longing for more of God is good provided it is not presumption.