

## The Next Steps Forward

**READ:** Exodus 33:1-4; 12-17; 34:10-11; 40:34-38

33:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised

on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' <sup>2</sup>I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>3</sup>Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

<sup>4</sup>When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments.... <sup>12</sup>Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' <sup>13</sup>If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup>How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." <sup>19</sup>And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

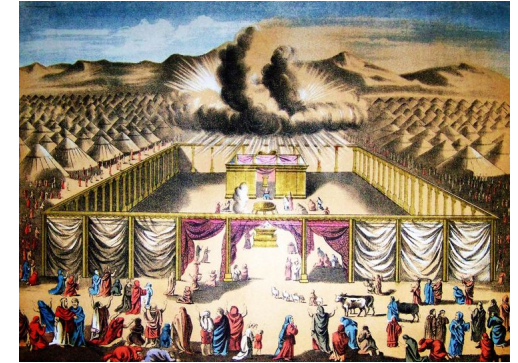


34: <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you. <sup>11</sup>Obey what I command you today.

Exodus 40: <sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

<sup>35</sup>Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

<sup>36</sup>In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; <sup>37</sup>but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. <sup>38</sup>So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.



### REFLECT

Q: Where has this journey with God taken the Israelites?

- The story opened with Israel being oppressively enslaved to the Egyptians.
- God met with Moses at the Burning Bush and called him to lead the people out of Egypt.
- God sends the plagues on Egypt, judging them, but passing over those who had the blood of a lamb on their doorposts. He did it all so that everyone would know that He alone is LORD (7:5, 8:10, 8:22). And he did so that Israel may worship him (7:16).
- God parted the Red Sea, delivering believing Israel, and destroying the Egyptians.
- He fed them with bread from heaven, and water from the rock.
- He gave them his law. Israel saw his glory on the mountain.
- Then he gives Moses instructions to build the tabernacle.
- While Moses is there, however, the Israelites are at the bottom of the mountain worshipping a golden calf.

- God responds with judgment and mercy. 3,000 die, but the rest are spared, and told that they may go on (32:34).

Three key questions to determine if we are ready to move forward with God's plan and promises for us:

**#1: WILL WE BE DESPERATE FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
OR WILL WE DEPEND ON \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**#2: WILL WE WAIT TO SEE GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_  
OR WILL WE RELY ON OUR OWN \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**#3: WILL WE BE \_\_\_\_\_ OR  
\_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US?**

## **RESPONDING THIS WEEK**

**Read the following from John chapters 1,3, & 14**

1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....

1:12-14,17 <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (*tabernacled*) among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth....  
<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

14:15-17 <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth.

**Q: How does Jesus provide the final fulfillment of God's promises to the Hebrew people AND all humanity?**

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