

Exodus: No Longer Slaves – Part 11

God's Grace and the Covenant of Moses

Exodus 34:10 - *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..."*

Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. Two million people have received food from the sky and water from the rock. Now, three months out of Egypt, they arrive at Mount Sinai. Here in the middle of the wilderness, God makes some powerful covenant promises with the Jewish people.

Exodus 19:1-8 - *On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. v.2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, v.3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: v.4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. v.5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; v.6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." v.7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. v.8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.*

How Was The Covenant Established?

- 1) In Exodus 19:3, Moses goes up the first time into Mount Sinai, and God gives him the general terms of the covenant.
- 2) Exodus 19:10-24 tells us how the Lord showed up in a fire and from the smoke He spoke to Moses before the people.
- 3) In Exodus 20, God gives Israel the 10 Commandments.
 - a) Exodus 20:1-2 - *God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord (Yahweh) your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."*
 - b) Exodus 20:1–17
 - i) You shall have no other gods before me.
 - ii) You shall not make for yourself a carved image or idol of any kind.
 - iii) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 - iv) You shall keep the Sabbath and make it holy.
 - v) You shall honor your father and mother.
 - vi) You shall not murder another person.

- vii) You shall not commit adultery.
 - viii) You shall not steal.
 - ix) You shall not lie to one another.
 - x) You shall not covet.
- 4) In Exodus 24, Moses reports all the ordinances to the people, and again, they accept the terms of the covenant: Exodus 24:3 – “...*All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do.*”
- a) Then Moses writes the words he had received in a book (v. 4), builds an altar, sacrifices several oxen, and seals the covenant with blood.
 - b) In Exodus 24:12, the Lord calls Moses further up to receive the “tablets of stone” written by God.
- 5) In Exodus 25–31, we find how God spoke to Moses mainly about a plan for the tabernacle and the ministry of the priests.

Moses remains on the mountain for 40 days.

- a) During the forty days, the people broke their covenant promise and made an idol. In Exodus 32:8, God says, “They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them.”
 - b) When Moses comes down to the camp:
 - i) He smashes the two tablets to show how the people have broken the covenant.
 - ii) He burned the idol and reduced it to powder.
 - iii) He spread it on the water and made the people drink.
 - iv) He had the Levites kill the unrepentant who rebelled in the camp.
- 6) What becomes of the covenant?

God Gives Grace:

- a) God holds back His judgment and spares them.
- b) God graciously renews the covenant.

GRACE GIVING FOUND IN THE LAW

- 1) **God gives grace because He is a grace giver.**
- a) God is a God of grace and He will always be a God of grace.

- b) The law was not merely a covenant of works to make a person righteous.

God renews the covenant and uses specific words which make the foundation of grace very clear.

Exodus 34:6-10 - 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, v.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."

v.8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. v.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."

v.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."

2) **God gives grace to be His prized possession!**

- a) This was His promise to Israel. In Exodus 19:5, God says, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine."

Has God rejected Israel today? No Way!

Romans 11:1-5 - I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means!... v.2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew... v.5 at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. v.6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

- b) Through Jesus, all believers are God's treasured possession.

This is exactly what Peter is referring to in 1 Peter 2:9, 10.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. v.10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3) **God gives grace to draw near to God.**

- a) Their inheritance was not the land; rather, it was the Lord.

- b) Kingdom of Priests that have access to God on their own. (Exodus 19:6 - "and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests.")

Some of the sweetest words in all the Bible:

Exodus 34:6, 7 - 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, v.7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.