

"Life After Idolatry"

Exodus 34

September 10, 2017

Exodus 34:8-10, 28 ...How on Earth did we get Here?

- Previously ...at Mt. Sinai

Ex 32:9-10 And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

-- **Clearly the Relationship with God is Broken**—they have chosen idolatry over God ...**What can fix this?**

Remember The Relational Arrangement... Ex 19, 24 ...the People hear the 'terms of the Covenant' and 'they agree to do their part!' ...**clearly, there are expectations and responsibilities assumed by God's people in relating to God!**

Ex 19:4-8

Ex 24:3-8

Is this meeting at Mt. Sinai Installing a 'God-Human Relationship' based on Human Obedience to God?

...but the idol prone race of men are weak and vulnerable to the slightest threat!...

...And They Break Their Commitment to God ...from Their End The Covenant has Failed! ...Now What?

Holy/Righteous ←-----→ 'Stiffnecked/Great Sinners'
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- **How do you try to alleviate this tension?**

How Do You FIX What Idolatry Breaks?

....How do we get from Ex 32:10—to—Ex 34:10[+ the Tabernacle]

...What Happened between Ex. 32 & Ex. 34??

...the 'imposition' of God's Character—Ex 34:6-7

...Notice what did NOT remedy this problem - Human performance!

NOTE: Failure Requires Forgiveness

Heb 9:22 "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

- *Blood can fix what's broken ...HOWEVER, our blood is forever tainted— so what can the Israelites do after exodus chapter 32?*

"The Gospel According to Moses"

...Observing How Romans Explains Exodus

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- The gospel good news - reveals the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:21-27 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

v. 21 ...the Law and the Prophets bear witness to the gospel (to the righteousness of God) ...Ex 32-34 is bearing witness to the gospel!

v. 23 ... "all have sinned and fall short" = 'Stiffnecked, great sinners'

v. 23 ... **How did the Israelites 'recover' and keep going with God after Ex 32? ... "justified by his grace"**— ('rightness with God') comes 'by grace as a gift' ...and that gift is made possible 'through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus'

NOTICE: 'Grace & Mercy' from God is NOT detached from Other Divine Attributes! (Ex 34:6-7)—It is Not Some Mood that Has No Basis

ILLUST: Currency of God's Grace is Backed by Righteous Redemption ...It is Not like just 'Printing Money'

That brings us to one last question which the Mosaic covenant leaves unanswered. How can so much grace be dispensed under this covenant? How can a righteous God simply forgive iniquity and transgression and sin? How can a judge just let guilty sinners go free? Surely the sacrifices of bulls and goats are no just satisfaction for all the dishonor heaped on God's name by Israel's sins. Again the answer lies in the future. Isaiah saw it most clearly and said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" ([Isaiah 53:6](#)). How could a just God, under the Mosaic covenant, be so gracious and forgive so freely? Answer: he looked forward to the coming of his Son and the sacrifice that repairs all the injury done to God's honor through the disobedience of the elect. There could have been no covenant with Abraham, no covenant with Moses, and no new covenant without the coming of Jesus Christ. What was freely given under Moses was purchased by Christ.

... consider these two things. First, every forgiven sin from Adam to the end of the age was laid on the innocent Christ and crushed him to hell. He accepted it willingly for the glory of his Father and the good of his people. Second, if you trust him and follow him in the obedience of faith, then you are the heirs not only of God's covenant with Abraham but also God's covenant through Moses. You are God's special possession. You are a kingdom of priests. You are a holy nation ([1 Peter 2:9, 10](#)). God opposes your enemies with wonder-working power. And to you he is now and always will be "the Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." **John Piper**, "God's Covenant Through Moses"

v. 23-26 ...Propitiation then and now ...How Do You 'Satisfy a Righteous God'?

...WE CAN'T ...HE MUST

- v. 25 ...**GOD puts forward the means of Fixing**

- v. 26 ...**GOD is Both Just and the Justifier**

-- THIS Reveals His Righteousness (The Gospel reveals God's Love, Mercy, Grace—Righteousness!)

- v. 27 ...**This Eliminates BOASTING**

-- **AND it also eliminates "Self-Fixing-Insecurity"!!!** ...Because the Gospel is NOT based in whether I've done something worthy or attractive to God!!