

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 15 – “I Will Not Go Up In Your Midst”

September 7, 2025

Ex. 32:33-34 - *And the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. ³⁴ Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you.*

Ex. 33:1-3 - *Then the Lord said to Moses, Depart and go up from here you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, To your descendants I will give it. ² And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey for I will NOT go up in your midst, LEST I CONSUME YOU ON THE WAY, for you are a stiff-necked/stubborn people.*

WHY did God tell Moses that IF HE, GOD, would go up with Moses and the people that HE could CONSUME them? God swore to deliver on His promises. God obligated Himself re: the fulfillment of these promises. What about that burning bush that was NOT CONSUMED??

This STRONG statement provides us with a graphic picture of God’s GRACE and MERCY! God had told them that they would NOT be consumed through His everlasting unconditional covenant with Abraham.

Eze. 36:16-28 - God has OBLIGATED HIMSELF to deliver on His promises to Israel. While Israel could NEVER obey 613 commandments – and they veered from obeying God – God’s carrying out His promises to Israel glorifies His name – AS THE WORLD IS WATCHING!!! God is telling Israel and the world that HE, GOD is FAITHFUL!!!

We need to know that the Hebrew word “in your midst” speaks to not approaching, not being near. God would not journey with the people in their midst – closely/intimately – because then He would need to consume them. Because of His holiness, God must deal with all sin.

Consider: God’s holiness cannot coexist with persistent rebellion without bringing judgment!

Ex. 25:8 – God had told Moses, *Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.* “Dwell” (schachan) – lodging residing, abiding, continuing, remaining,

Ex. 33:4-6 - *And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. ⁵ For the Lord had said to Moses, ‘Say to the children of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.’ ⁶ So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.*

What are we observing about the people? Obedience? Desiring to please God? A heart change?

Ex. 33:7-11 - *Moses took his tent (his personal tent) and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.*

⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. ⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door; and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. ¹¹ So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.