

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 5 – UNRESTRAINED!

February 25, 2025

Following the parting of the Red Sea in Ex. 14...following Moses' song of VICTORY, of praise to God...and of Miriam's praise to God (Ex. 15)...the children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai (Sinai means "thorny"). The Israelites reached the desert of Sinai in the third month of their trip from Egypt. Then Moses climbed up the mountain to meet with God. How old was Moses? EIGHTY!!

We're told in Ex. 19:3 that Moses went up to God – the LORD having called to Moses from the mountain. We read of God giving Moses the ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and MANY other commandments (total of 613 commandments in the Torah [first five books of Moses – the Law]). Why 613 commandments? The 613 commandments cover all the instructions on how to craft all the implements used in the tabernacle, all the offerings/sacrifices, all the feasts, how they were to encamp around the tabernacle...

Ex. 20:18-21 - *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.' ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (!!!) TEST? In the Hebrew the word means "prove." That doesn't so much help, does it? It's been suggested that in this "test; proving ground" God REVEALED WHO HE IS! His GLORY was being manifested!*

They were to see what kind of God they served: a God above nature, personal, good, and holy.

God revealed to them His expectations in giving them the commandments. He is a God Who is holy and sets before them His desire for them to be holy (Lev. 19:2 – *be holy for I am holy*). Is man able to do so? Here a contrast is drawn between God and man.

God revealed to them their weaknesses and the need for God's grace, help, and rescue.

Yes – the people stood at a distance; but Moses drew near. Near to where? The thick darkness where God was? What is this thick darkness? We need to remember that I John 1:5 tells us that *God is light and in Him is no darkness AT ALL!!!* "at all" strongly affirms that God is absolutely perfect. There is NO DARKNESS in God AT ALL! We can understand it this way...God was IN the darkness – in the thick cloud.

Ex. 19:9 - *And the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.'* God was and is APART from darkness!

In attempting to grasp the thinking of the children of Israel, they decided they didn't need to meet God, after all. It was enough for Moses to do so. He could fill them in later. Did the people NEED GOD? YES!!!! They needed to experience God's POWER. AND, God REVEALED Himself in this way to His people so that they would REVERENCE HIM.

2

If we just pick and choose the parts we like re: God, His love, mercy, and grace, and ignore the rest...His holiness, His justice, His righteous judgment...our understanding of God is incomplete!

People who believe in a God of love but not a God of judgment, are not submitting to God's revelation in the Bible...and because they are determining what God should be like – they are setting themselves up as The Judge – over God and over the Bible. They are worshipping their own agenda!

...consider the goodness and severity of God.

The Lord descended on Mt. Sinai...in fire....

Ex. 24:16-18 - *Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. ¹⁸ So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

God showed Moses the pattern of the tabernacle in heaven...and God showed Moses all the furnishings.

Ex. 25:8 – *...let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. ⁹ According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.* On Mount Sinai, God instructed Moses how to construct the tabernacle in the wilderness - where God would DWELL - and where the children of Israel would WORSHIP Him! What a LOVING relationship God desires!

Ex. 32:1-24 - READ

And, while Moses was communing with God, what were the children of Israel engaged in down below...in the camp? The people were UNRESTRAINED! They were OUT OF CONTROL! They were worshipping a golden calf.

Ex. 32:26 - *'Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!'* And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. ²⁷ And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his

neighbor.' ” ²⁸ So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. OBSERVATIONS!!!!

We are going to view God’s marvelous grace in the midst of His judgment on sin!

Ex. 32:30-32 - Now it came to pass on the next day after the death of about 3,000, that Moses said to the people, ‘You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin. ³¹ Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written. Moses was the mediator. Moses petitioned God to forgive the people for their great sin.

What do we observe re: the exchange between God and Moses? Is this a foreshadowing?

3

What is this book that Moses mentions? Some have suggested that this book concerns physical life and that Moses was asking God to take his life prematurely.

However, when we read of this book in Psa. 69:28 – *Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the RIGHTEOUS.* AND, again, Ex. 32:33 - *And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.’* This book does not focus solely on physical life. If it did, people who sinned against God...their names would remain in this book. I’m suggesting that this book contains the names of those whose sins are forgiven and who have been placed into a right relationship with God – those who will live eternally with God!

Rev. 3:5 – *He who overcomes (is VICTORIOUS in Jesus) – GOD tells them – I will NOT blot out his/that person’s name from the Book of Life....*

I’m suggesting that what we are reading in Ex. 32:33 is Moses’ sacrificial heart. It seems to go deeper than premature death. He was willing to sacrifice himself for his people. It appears that Moses was willing to be taken out of the book containing the names of the righteous!

We read of the Apostle Paul stating the same in Rom. 9:3...from his heart Paul said *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren.* Paul said he wished that he could be separated from Jesus for his brethren.

We know that, according to Scripture, neither Moses nor Paul, as believers, could ever be separated from God (Rom. 8:35-39; read the entire chapter of Romans 8).

Ex. 32:28 - *So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day* – about 3,000 DIED that day – at the giving of the law! What is the purpose of the law? Psa. 19:7 - *The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;* The law reflects Who God is – He is perfect, righteous, holy...and mankind is NOT. The law calls out our sins; the law shows us our

sins and our need for salvation. Rom. 7:7 – the Apostle Paul asked the believers in Rome, *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.*

The law cannot redeem. Man cannot keep the law! So, what do we do! We need to cry out to God and ask Him to reveal Himself to us and to cleanse us from our sin/transgressions

Isa. 33:5-6 -READ; Isa. 33:14-16 - READ

Isa. 33:17-24 *Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; ...They will They will see the land that is very far off....²⁰ Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, This is speaking of our future home in the Kingdom of God on earth during the Millennial Kingdom. ²⁴ And the inhabitant will not say, “I am sick”; the people who dwell in it (in the Kingdom of God) will be forgiven their iniquity.*

How do we know that God’s cleansing is crucial?

Psa. 51. David wrote this Psalm following his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba.

4

Psa. 51:1-2 - *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

Fulfillment of Ex. 32:28: at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given and “about 3,000” were given eternal life (Acts 2:41)!!!! What a contrast!

The law shows us our NEED for the Messiah Who would come to REDEEM – to forgive – to remove sin.

The Church is comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. The two loaves may very well represent Jew and Gentile coming before the Lord – ONE NEW MAN (Eph. 2:15) – placed in the body of Jesus – the CHURCH – that was born on this Feast of Weeks, on Pentecost!!

BUT why two loaves with leaven? Leaven symbolizes sin. Jew and Gentile – coming into the body of Christ - sinners BUT sinners SAVED by GOD’S GRACE!

Today in synagogues - on the Feast of Weeks – the Book of Ruth is read. What does the Book of Ruth teach? The Book of Ruth tells us of God’s plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile through the kinsman REDEEMER! In the book of Ruth, Naomi represents Israel and Ruth represents the Gentiles. In the book of Ruth, Boaz, the kinsmen redeemer, represents JESUS. In the book of Ruth, Boaz redeems BOTH Naomi, the Jew, and Ruth, the Gentile, who were destitute!

Ex. 32:34-35 - ³⁴ *Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.* ³⁵ *So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.* TO BE CONTINUED....

QUESTIONS

Have you read this account – in total – in the past?

What is new to you

What hit you most?

Are you seeing the harmony within the Godhead re: all His attributes existing and operating simultaneously?

On what are you/will you be pondering?

What are you going to do with this passage? Share it with a friend or...?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 5 w/ Bible referenced.

Continue to write in your Glory of God Journal.

Pray regarding w/ whom you can share this passage.

Read Week 6 when you receive it.