

Exodus 34:1-35

<p>Exodus 34:1-35</p> <p>¹And the LORD said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first <i>ones</i>, and I will write on <i>these</i> tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. ²“So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. ³“And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain.”</p> <p>⁴So he cut two tablets of stone like the first <i>ones</i>. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.</p>	<p>1 Kings 19:11ff Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, <i>but</i> the Lord <i>was</i> not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, <i>but</i> the Lord <i>was</i> not in the earthquake;</p>
<p>⁵Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.</p> <p>⁶And the LORD passed before him (עַל-פָּנָיו) and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷“keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing <i>the guilty</i>, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”</p> <p>⁸So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. ⁹Then he said,</p> <p>“If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance.”</p> <p>¹⁰And He said: “Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you <i>are</i> shall see the work of the LORD. For it <i>is</i> an awesome thing that I will do with you.</p>	<p>The Sermon on the Name of the LORD:</p>
<p>¹¹“Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.</p> <p>¹²“Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. ¹³“But you shall destroy their altars, break their <i>sacred</i> pillars, and cut down their <i>wooden</i> images ¹⁴“(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name <i>is</i> Jealous, <i>is</i> a jealous God),</p>	<p>Warning</p>

<p>¹⁵lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and <i>one of them</i> invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, ¹⁶and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.</p>	
<p>¹⁷You shall make no molded gods for yourselves. ¹⁸The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt. ¹⁹All that open the womb <i>are</i> Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, <i>whether</i> ox or sheep. ²⁰But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem <i>him</i>, then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. ²¹Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. ²²And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. ²³Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel. ²⁴For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year. ²⁵You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning. ²⁶The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."</p>	<p>True Worship</p>
<p>²⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."²⁸ So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.</p>	

²⁹Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that **the skin of his face** shone while he talked with Him. ³⁰So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. ³⁴But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. ³⁵And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, ⁸how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious. ¹²Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— ¹³unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Apology IV, 132 But Christ was given so that for his sake we might receive the gift of the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit, to bring forth in us eternal righteousness and a new and eternal life. Therefore we cannot correctly keep the law unless by faith we have received the Holy Spirit. Paul says that faith does not overthrow but upholds the law (Rom. 3:31) because the law can be kept only when the Holy Spirit is given. ¹³³ In 2 Cor. 3:15-17 he states that the veil that covered the face of Moses cannot be removed except by faith, which receives the Holy Spirit. For this is what he says: "Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." ¹³⁴ By the "veil" Paul means human opinion about the entire law, both the moral and the ceremonial; that is, hypocrites think that outward and civil works satisfy the law of God and that sacrifice and ritual justify before God *ex opere operato*. ¹³⁵ But this veil is removed from us, and this error taken away, when God shows us our uncleanness and the greatness of our sin. Only then do we see how far we are from keeping the law. Then we recognize how our flesh in its smugness and indifference does not fear God or truly believe in his providential care, but supposes that men are born and die by chance. Then we experience our failure to believe that God forgives and hears us. But when we are consoled by faith through hearing the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, we receive the Holy Spirit, so that we can think rightly about God, fear him, and believe in him. From this it is clear that without Christ and without the Holy Spirit we cannot keep the law.

Formula of Concord, Epitome, V. Law and Gospel, “Now as to the disclosure of sin, as long as men hear only the law and hear nothing about Christ, the veil of Moses⁷ covers their eyes, as a result they fail to learn the true nature of sin from the law, and thus they become either conceited hypocrites, like the Pharisees, or they despair, as Judas did, etc. Therefore Christ takes the law into his own hands and explains it spiritually (Matt. 5:21–48); Rom. 7:14). Then “God’s wrath is revealed from heaven” over all sinners⁸ and men learn how fierce it is. Thus they are directed back to the law, and now they learn from it for the first time the real nature of their sin, and acknowledgment which Moses could never have wrung from them.

⁹ Therefore the proclamation of the suffering and death of Christ, the Son of God, is an earnest and terrifying preaching and advertisement of God’s wrath which really directs people into the law, after the veil of Moses has been removed for them, so they now know for the first time what great things God demands of us in the law, none of which we could fulfill, and that we should now seek all our righteousness in Christ.”

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