

Exodus Chapter 34 Verses 08-17 Covenants and Purgings

Ex 34:1 ¶ "And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. 2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. 3 And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. 4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. 5 ¶ And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

We read these verses to get us back into the context of the scene.

Ex 34:8 "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. 9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance."

Moses has made the two new tables of stone as God commanded him and gone back into the mount. God met Moses there and God proclaimed the name of the Lord, and God also proclaimed his attributes.

Moses hastily bows down before God and worships. Moses then begins to make intercessory prayer for the children of Israel. Moses prays that God will "**go among us**," Among means in the center. Moses is asking God to be the centerpiece of Israel so that all Israel could focus upon God and be reminded to not turn aside to idolatry again. Moses agrees that Israel is a stiffnecked people, which has already brought God's judicial wrath upon them. Moses asks God to pardon their iniquity. Moses asks God for Israel to be taken as his inheritance.

As kings and priests to God, we are in the same position as Moses. We are commanded to be leaders in the New Testament Church, and to our families and friends. How often do we recognize we are in the presence of God and bow and worship Him? How often do we go to God in intercessory prayer for the nation of God's people? How often do we go to God in prayer for our families? How often do we ask God "**go among us**" and be the center of our lives? How often do we request of God to make our families and kindred his inheritance? I must confess, with great shame, that I fail to do these things often. When things are going well for us, we tend to forget the needs of others and only pray for what we presently desire.

10 ¶ "And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee."

God accepts the intercessory prayer of Moses for Israel. God declares he will make a covenant with Israel to do great marvels in the earth. The first definition of marvels is distinguishing or separating. This tells us that even though the nation of Israel is a sinful people, God will distinguish them from other nations of the world as his own people. This is the perfect description of the New Testament Church, who are a sinful nation of people, who are separated from the nations of the world through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Marvels also means doing wonderful and astonishing things. God says he will do these marvels before the nations who they are among, not heretofore been seen on earth. Why? To reveal to the other nations that God has chosen Israel to bear his name on the earth. God will in the future dry up Jordan for Israel to pass into the land of promise. God will make the walls of Jericho to fall down flat, and many other marvelous things.

When we are born again, God makes a covenant of eternal salvation with us, through Jesus Christ, and God performs marvels before us. What kind of marvels does God do before us. God brings us to the knowledge of our eternal life and salvation. The marvels that God performs are to reveal to us that we have been saved by God's grace, through Jesus Christ's finished work. God performs marvels by the implantation of the Holy Ghost in us, who continually reveals Jesus to us, if we adhere to the voice of God in us. He performs marvels before us in revealing himself, and Jesus, from the scriptures to us. He performs marvels whenever he creates bonds of fellowship and love between his children. And many other marvelous things God does for us.

11 "Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: 15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; 16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods. 17 Thou shalt make thee no molten gods."

Notice the order of how things will happen. God tells Israel, you obey my commandments, and I will drive out the inhabitants of the land of promise before thee. Does not God give us the same commandments when we are brought to the knowledge of the gift of salvation that God has given us? After all, God said **Ex 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** In the new birth, God drives out the enemies of our inherited sin nature that the Holy Spirit will have a sinless place to dwell. This is applied to the spiritual person of the new birth.

God warns them to make no covenant with the former inhabitants of the land of promise, but to utterly destroy the people, and their idols, so there is nothing left to turn Israel from obeying God. God warns them of eating things offered to idols if they do not utterly destroy the people and the idols.

Well, what about eating things offered to idols that God spoke of here? Let's look at the scripture in **1Co 5:8; 1 ¶ "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 ¶ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."** Paul is warning the church to remove from fellowship, any person that is blatantly living in sin, so that they do not eat the Lord's Supper with a person who is blatantly living in sin, for this is an abomination to God, and a discredit to the holiness of God and his name. This is the same principle that God gave Israel.

God warns them: to not intermarry with the idolator's: Declaring if you do this, the daughters of the idolators will go whoring after their gods, and your sons in their fleshly lust will follow them.

This is why the church cannot allow worldliness and sinfulness into the church fellowship. We are not to be yoked to the world, but rather, we are to be yoked together in Christian fellowship. Is this not what God tells us in **2Ti 2:19-22; 19 ¶ "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."** Just as God was directing Israel to purge the land of promise, so God is directing us to purge our own minds, souls, and bodies when we are born again. This is a daily battle with children of God. This also applies to the church at large.

Praise God the Father, that He sent God the Son to die in our stead, and through His sacrifice we have eternal forgiveness of sins. Praise God, that he has indwelt us with the Holy Spirit, who will guide us in keeping the commandments of God, to the glory, honor, and praise of God's name. Thank you, King Jesus, for the wonderful marvel of sacrificing yourself on the cross, to bring eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life unto us. Hallelujah! Amen!