

Exodus Chapter 34 Verses 28-35; God's Presence Makes Us Shine

Ex 34:28 ¶ "And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."

Did you notice that it was not necessary for Moses to eat or drink during the forty days he was with God? We believe, the essence of God was all the sustenance Moses needed, while he was with God in the mount. We also believe that the presence of God, Christ in us, is our life sustaining food and drink. After all, we are to eat of the bread of life, which is Jesus Christ, the Word of God, as seen in **Joh 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."** and drink of the fountain of living waters, as seen in **Joh 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."** We have an example of this with Moses in the mount with God not eating or drinking, naturally, which is manifested to us when the gospel is being preached, and we are absorbed in the message of the Gospel, or when we are immersed in praise and worship in the song services, you do not experience natural hunger or thirst.

"And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments." This text seems to indicate that Moses wrote the Ten Commandments on the two tables of stone he had prepared by God's Command. However, we have scriptures that tell us that God did the writing the second time, just as He did the first time, seen in: **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."** That God did the writing is confirmed in **De 10:4; 1 ¶ "At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. 2 And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. 3 And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. 4 And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me."**

What application can this have for us today? Scripture teaches us in **Heb 8:10-13; 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."** This text clarifies to us that the law service was set aside with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who ushered in the age of Salvation by the Grace of God, and who laid the foundations of the New Testament Church. Jesus also gave us New Testament scriptures to exemplify how we are to live in this age of salvation by the grace of God, as seen in **Heb 8:10-11; "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."** This text teaches that we cannot cause a person to be saved eternally, as many people believe. When God has put his laws in their minds and written them in their hearts: then God can use us instrumentally to point the newborn souls to discipleship in Christ. Discipleship is making the public profession of faith in the finished work of Jesus, joining the New Testament Church, and being baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

God wrote the commandments twice on the tables of stone. What does this mean to us? First, we would say that it shows that the Ten Commandments were applicable under the law service to God's people, and God's people broke every one of them. They broke them first in the first commandment "**thou shalt have no other gods before me**" by making the golden calf, which made Moses so angry that he threw down the first two tables of stone and broke them. Second, they are applicable to God's people, in this age of Grace, in the fact that they convince us of sin, as seen in **Ga 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."** Jesus came to earth, in the prepared body, and lived a sinless life complying

to all the Ten Commandments, in their true meaning. Since Christ fulfilled the commandments, that fulfillment is imputed to us in the new birth. Their application to us is seen in **Ga 3:24-25; 21 "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** The law, the Ten Commandments, are what convince us of our sins, once the Holy Spirit inhabits our bodies, minds, and souls. Thus, convinced that we are sinners and that we cannot keep the Ten Commandments, we can only turn to Christ, our Redeemer, pleading his finished work, and his imputed righteousness to us, before God the Father. Praise! to our Saviour and Lord! for the fulfillment of the law, and the imputation of eternal forgiveness of our sins.

Do you remember where the second set of two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments were stored? They were in the ark of the covenant of God, which was covered by the mercy seat. The mercy seat being a type of Jesus Christ, and the place where God communicated with his people, was sitting over the two tables of stone so that they were enclosed in the ark of the covenant of God. This prophesied of the coming of Christ to earth and his fulfillment of the law, and his removing God's people from under the law commandments and lifted them up to his position on the mercy seat. This is the picture of the new birth in a Child of God. How, remember **Heb 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.**" Whether we be Jew or Gentile, in the new birth, we are given the new nature, the nature of Christ, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit power of God, which has power over the old inherited sin nature. Hallelujah!

29 "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. 31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. 33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him."

Moses did not know that his face shone, and neither do the children of God see their own face shining with the glory of God. Have you seen a Minister of the Gospel preaching God's truths, and there was a glow about them that is not seen at other times? The minister is not aware of it, but the people are. We believe that this is because Jesus is manifesting that He is present in the word of truth being preached, and the light of Christ is shining through them. Likewise, our own countenances should shine before one another and the world, that all may know that we are separated from the world. Remember, Christ tells us, **Mt 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."** Wherefore, we ask ourselves this question: does my countenance shine with the glory of God, or have I hid it under a bushel?

One other point we want to make on the face of Moses shining: Why did Moses's face shine? Because he had been in the presence of God. Now, we point out that both God, and Christ, commanded that we are to have no other gods before the LORD God. Thus, we see that being in the presence of God keeps us from breaking this commandment of God, and we absorb, and reflect, the light of Christ by being in the presence of God. This is a reminder to us today, to spend as much time as possible in the Word of God, in prayer to God, and thanksgiving to God and to Christ. It also reminds us that the commandments of God are a sword of defense for us.

However, we also see that when Moses was speaking to the people, he put a veil over his face, but when he talked with God, he removed the veil. Israel was not used to seeing the Holy Spirit of God residing upon a man. Here, it appears that Moses was not going back to the mount to speak with God, but rather, he is entering the tabernacle and speaking with God.

What does this say to us today? Do you remember the scripture in **2Co 3:12-18; 12 ¶ "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."** This text teaches us that God placed a veil upon the Old Testament scriptures, so that Israel could not comprehend the fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor comprehend that Jesus was coming twice. When the age of Salvation by Grace came, for both Jew and Gentile, who are born again, that veil is taken away, that they might behold the glory of the Lord, and see Jesus Christ, by faith, once crucified, now risen and exalted, seated upon the throne of God, in and from the king James Bible, the Word of God.

We also find **1Co 13:11-12; 11 "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."** Even in this age of Grace, we cannot fully comprehend the full glory of God, even though the veil is taken away in the new birth. However, we shall behold the fulness of the glory of God, and Christ, in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those who are alive and remain. Then our resurrected bodies will shine with the glory of the Lord. To which we say, Hallelujah! Glory to God, forever, Amen!