

Exodus 33-35

August 28, 2011

33:2 What do we learn about God in chapter 33 verse 2?

- God goes before us in our lives. He has promised the land of Canaan to them. He says that He will drive out the people who are now in the land.

Does this mean that Israel will have to do nothing?

- **No.** Israel will have to fight battles to claim the land. See [Joshua 1:1-9](#). ¹ After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. ³ I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—⁴ from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. ⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. ⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." NLT

How does this parallel the Christian life?

- Christ lives in us. He has already promised us the victory, but we must do battle with our old habits and with our sin nature. As Israel conquered the land a little bit at a time, so we too gain victory in our lives one step at a time.

33:11 Did Moses actually see God's face, or was this expression just a form of speech?

- It was a form of speech. See [verses 20 & 23](#) and [John 1:18](#) and [1 Timothy 6:16](#). ¹⁶ He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen. NLT

33:13 What is significant about what Moses asks in verse 13?

- If we are going to enjoy God's favor we must know His ways.

Is it enough just to know what God wants us to do?

- **No.** See [Joshua 1:7-8](#) ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. And [John 13:17](#). ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. We must be "**doers**" of the Word – [James 1:22](#).

33:17-23 What principles do we learn about seeing God's "back" in verses 17 to 23?

- There are times in life when we can't see what God is up to. Sometime later, though, we look back and see exactly how He was at work in our trial. When hurting, it seems as though He is nowhere to be found. After we are doing better, we look back and realize that He was carrying us and working out details for our good.

34:6-7 God describes Himself in chapter 34 verses 6 and 7. What does He say?

- He is the I AM (LORD – Yahweh – Jehovah), the self-existing One.
- He is God...all knowing, present, and powerful.
- He ABOUND in His love for us.
- He ABOUND in truth.
- He longs to bless us {*keeps loving kindness to thousands*}.
- He forgives sin, both accidental and deliberate.
- God is “just”: He punishes the guilty.
- He declares that our sin gets passed down to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

34:10 What do we learn about God in verse 10?

- God wants to work in our lives in such a way that others will know that He is real. See **Psalm 67:7**.

34:14 What does verse 14 tell us about God? Is this right or wrong for Him to be this way?

- Sometimes jealousy is appropriate. There is only room for one husband or wife. It is, therefore, appropriate for a mate to be jealous if an outsider threatens his marriage. It is right for God to be jealous because there is only room for one God in our lives. If someone or something else becomes our God, then the Lord is no longer our God. It is inappropriate for churches or preachers to be jealous of each other; there is room for different churches and different preachers. See Paul's rebuke in **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**.

34:19, 26 What do we learn from verses 19 and 26?

- God wants the first part of our lives, not the leftovers. The first offspring, the first fruits, the first day now (our holy day – Sunday), the first of our earnings (the tithe) are His. All of these are reminders that we are to put Him first in our lives. See **Matthew 6:33**.

34:21 Why does God want us to take a day of rest?

- There are several reasons. The first is that we take time to remember that we are His. We came from Him, we were created for Him, and we will one day be judged by Him. See **Psalm 100:3; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; and Colossians 1:16**. The second is that God wants us to trust Him as our “source”. Just as we give to God first, when we don't work we are trusting God to take care of us. Third, our bodies need rest. The person who “burns the candle” at both ends is not nearly as bright as he thinks he is. **If you look at 35:2-3, you'll see that failing to keep the Sabbath was a deal-breaker with God.**

34:29-35 When Moses spoke with God, he received some sort of glow or shine on his face. Why do you think Moses wore the veil over his face?

- When Moses spoke to God, his face would shine and the people would give him reverence. Over time, though, the glow would diminish. Moses wore the veil so that they would not see the glow diminish. The next time they saw his face was after speaking with God and his face would again shine. See **2 Corinthians 3:13**.

35:5 Chapter 35 verse 5 talks about what in our day is called a “love offering”. What is the difference between a “love offering” and a tithe?

- A tithe is giving to the Lord 10% of our income to the place we worship. Love offerings are additional gifts Driven by gratitude and responsibility that we give above our tithes.
- God expects us to give as He tells us to. **Malachi 3:8** says that we rob God when we fail to give tithes *and* offerings as He has directed us. That passage goes on to say that we rob ourselves when we fail to give as God leads.
- The tithe is the same for everyone – 10% of whatever we make. Since people make varying amounts of money, the amounts that they tithe will differ. An offering, though, is based upon how God leads you (**34:5 – willing heart**) and how much God has blessed you. See **1 Corinthians 16:2** and **Luke 12:48**.

Notice this same principle of giving as God leads in **verses 21,22, and 29**.

If our lives are blessed, is it a cause for pride or humility? Explain your answer.

- It should humble us, not make us proud. See **1 Corinthians 4:7**.

Why does God bless us?

- God blesses us to bless others. We are not the end point; we are to be a distribution center of God's blessings. **Luke 6:38** says *Give, and it will be given to you*. The more God blesses us, the more God expects more from us. This is why Moses eventually fails to enter the promised land.

35:31-35 How do you see the principle of God blessing us for a purpose in **verses 31 to 35**?

- God blessed this particular man (**35:31**) to do something (**35:32 – to make & 35:34 – to teach**). In **verse 35** God has filled these men *with skill to perform every work* that He wanted them to do.

God has blessed you. God has blessed you to use you to do something for Him and for people that He loves. How are you using your time, gifts, and resources to fulfill His purpose for you?

- Everyone should be involved in church and in using his or her gifts, talents, and skills to fulfill God's purpose. Everyone should tithe and contribute as God leads to projects and ministries that advance God's purpose and kingdom in the world.