



Exodus 33

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: 2 And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: 3 Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way. 4 And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. 6 And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. 8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. 10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. 18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. 19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. 20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

God's Separation from Sin (Ch. 33)

- I. God's Presence Renegotiated. (vv.1-6)
 - II. God's People Needs God's Word. (vv.7-11)
 - III. Renewal and Rededication. (vv.12-23)
1. God's presence was no longer going to be direct but rather through an angel. This was how bad their sin (idolatry and immorality) was to God.
 2. As Christians, we are always in a constant state of spiritual flux – and we must acknowledge that and maintain spiritual vigilance. (The Pilgrim's Lot)
 3. Moses' "Tabernacle of the congregation" was a tent of meeting (not the Tabernacle – for this wasn't yet constructed) – however, it was removed to "without the camp" and "afar off from the camp." – God is separated from sinners. Those who desire to seek the Lord will have to go out of their way to hear from Him.
 4. God deals with Moses face to face. (Num. 12:8). This was unlike any other Old Testament prophet.
 5. Today, God meets with us through His Word and in His church (assembly).
 6. Moses needed assurance (v.16) to the benefit of Israel and all the people (Gentiles) upon the face of the earth, and requested two things:
 - A. Show me now thy way. (v.13) (Ps. 81:13-14)
 - B. Show me thy glory. (v.18)
 7. God's grace enabled Moses to see God's goodness – which is a glimpse of His glory. – the hymn – He Hideth My Soul in the cleft of the Rock.
 8. God's response to Moses' intercession:
 - A. He will accompany them to the land (vv.19-23)
 - B. He will grant them His mercy and graciousness (v.19).
 - C. Moses cannot see His face (v.20).
 - D. He will cover him along the way (v.22).