

SLAVES SET FREE
A Study in the Book of Exodus
Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

God's Mercy and Justice

Exodus 34–35:3

"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13–14

Day 1: Read Exodus 34:1–4.

1. How does verse 1 show that our God is a God who forgives?
2. God promised a new covenant. What are those promises? (Jer. 31:31-37)
3. Moses is told to prepare himself to meet God in the morning (34:2). How might we prepare to be in God's presence?

Day 2: Read Exodus 34:5–7 and Numbers 14.

4. What request of Moses in Exodus 33:18 does God grant in Exodus 34:5–7?

What does this reveal about his relationship with God?

5. In Exodus 3:14 God revealed the glory of his self-existence ("I Am Who I Am"). What aspect of his glory does he reveal now in 34:6, 7?
6. Considering what had just happened in the golden calf incident (Ex. 32), how do you think these words in 34:6, 7 would affect Moses?

7. Part of God's character is that he cannot clear the guilty without satisfying his justice (34:7). How does this compare with much of today's popular conception of God as benign, tolerant, and pandering to sin?
 - a. In Numbers 14, we see an incident of God's forgiving and yet not leaving the guilty unpunished. Describe what happens here. (34:20–23, 33)
 - b. How is God able to be merciful and forgiving—and at the same time to satisfy his justice? (Rom. 8:1–4; Gal. 3:13; Col. 2:13–14)

Day 3: Read Exodus 34:7–9 and Numbers 14.

8. Moses acknowledges that the people are "stiff-necked." How does he dare, in 34:9, to ask God to forgive Israel, yet again? (34:6–7; Num. 14:11–19)
9. Moses quotes God's words back to him verbatim in Numbers 14:18 to stay God's hand from destroying recalcitrant Israel. What does it teach us about how to pray? (See Josh. 7:8–9 for similar "argumentative" prayer.)
10. After God's declaration of his merciful stance towards man, what three specific things is Moses emboldened to ask God for? (34:9)

Day 4: Read Exodus 34:10–28; 35:1–3.

11. Who is responsible for breaking the covenant? (Ex. 32:1ff) Who is responsible for renewing it afterwards? (Ex. 34:10)

12. When Israel made the golden calf, they held a feast in honor of it (32:5–6). What feasts, once given to Israel, does God now remind them to observe? (34:18–28; Note: the laws about leaven and first-fruits and milk here relate to those three feasts respectively.)

13. Why is it forbidden to marry an unbeliever? (34:16; 2 Cor. 6:14–16)

Describe the “slippery slope” to disaster traced in Exodus 34:15–16.

14. Read Ex. 34:14. Why is jealousy generally unsavory in man but not in God? What is the difference between human jealousy and divine jealousy? (When might jealousy be appropriate in a human relationship?)

Day 5: Read Exodus 34:29–35.

15. What does Moses’ face look like after spending 40 days with God? (34:29)

16. Do you know any other people who have a certain radiance from their relationship with God?

17. What does 2 Corinthians 3:18 say is happening now to all Christians?

18. In 2 Corinthians 3:7–11, Paul gives an allegorical interpretation to the veil Moses used to hide his face—that it covered the fading glory of the old covenant. How does the new covenant in Christ far surpass the glory of the old one? (Heb. 8:6–10)