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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“THE LORD, WHOSE NAME [IS] JEALOUS, [IS] A JEALOUS GOD:”**

**Exodus 34:1-18**

***Exodus 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."***

In the last chapter we read that the Lord had forgiven the people for their sins. The covenant He had made with these people had to do with them keeping the law. Previously God had given Moses the first tablets written with the finger of God. Now, God commands Moses to cut two stone tablets like the first ones that he had smashed.

***Exodus 31:18 “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”***

***Exodus 32:19 “And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.”***

Moses had broken the first two tables of stone when he saw the sins of the people. God had the first two stones ready for Moses. Even the stones were provided by the Lord the first time. We see, here, that the Lord required Moses to hew these stones, because he broke the others. The Lord would write on the stones that Moses provided. The words would be the same the first stones, “written with the finger of God”. The "finger of God" is a phrase used in the Bible to emphasize the power of God. It was first used in Exodus 8:19 by the Egyptian [magicians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_%28supernatural%29). In Exodus 31:18 and Deuteronomy 9:10 it refers to the method by which the Ten Commandments were written on [tablets of stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tablets_of_stone) that were brought down from Mt. Sinai by Moses. It was also used once by [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) to describe how he had cast out demons in Luke 11:20. Two additional times in scriptures reference is made to God writing on the wall in Daniel 5:24 and Jesus writing on the ground in John 8:6.

***Exodus 34:2 "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."***

***Exodus 34:3 "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."***

***Exodus 34:4 "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."***

The Lord told Moses to have the stones ready the next morning. Moses, once again, was to go to the top of mount Sinai and commune with the Lord. He was to bring them with him the next day when he ascended the mountain. This whole mountain had been made a very holy place, because of the presence of God. This was why the restriction was made not to allow anyone, or any animals to touch the mountain. Had they touched the mountain, they would die. Moses was the only one who could go to the top of the mountain. We see in verse 4, here, that Moses obeyed to the letter and did just as the Lord had commanded him. He lost no time heading up the mountain the next morning. Moses carried the two tables to the Lord to be written on.

***Exodus 34:5 "And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD."***

The Lord left the tent "tabernacle" after meeting with Moses and went out of sight of the people. When Moses went up the mountain, the presence of God came down. Just as the Lord had promised, He revealed the Lord's name to Moses. God proclaimed his name and passed in front of Moses.

***Exodus 34:6 "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"***

Here, we see the personality of God. All goodness, all grace, all truth, all mercy, and even long-suffering in all of this. He proclaimed his glorious attributes, the marvelous divine nature. He said, The Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth. He is rich in mercy and kindness.

***Exodus 34:7 "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]."***

At the very same time that we see all of this goodness, we also see justice. God will not leave the guilty unpunished. The Lord is the Judge of all the world. They had known God until this time as Jehovah. The Self-Existent One. This name "Jehovah" had shown the power, and greatness of God. Now, we see the Lord revealing to Moses more of Himself in His dealings with man. We are told by Jesus that He is the Truth, Word, and Light. The name that tells all about God is the one that I believe He revealed Himself to Moses here. This name is not to be spoken or written by mere man. We will not know this name until we hear it in heaven. Most people want the Lord to be all the good things, and want to forget that He is, also, the Judge, and that He is just. Forgiveness is the only way to get to heaven. Jesus is the door we must go through. There is no other way. Without Jesus' shed blood, we would be judged and found guilty as charged. We have been pardoned and justified; just as if we had never sinned. This tells us that God’s love is not permissive. It’s a holy love. He is righteous and cannot overlook sin. That, in fact, is what makes the gospel such good news. In the cross of Christ, God’s justice and God’s love met. He satisfied his own righteous demands, so that he could show grace to those who come to his Son in repentance and faith.

***Exodus 34:8 "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped."***

As God’s glory passed by, Moses had the appropriate response. He immediately knelt low and worshiped. Moses, even though he was God's friend, knew that God is the Lord. Moses bowed and worshipped. Moses knew better than anyone else what reverence should be shown. Moses knew that he was not equal with God. He knew that he was the servant, and he knew to let God alone be God.

***Exodus 34:9 "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 repeated the prayer of the previous day and asked God afresh to forgive His people, even though they did not deserve it. Moses feels sure at this point that he had found favor ("grace") with the Lord. God had said the day before that He would do this, so we know that Moses prayed more than once. Sometimes it is difficult to believe that God has answered our prayer. I believe this was the case here.

***Exodus 34:10 "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."***

In spite of Israel’s sin, God vowed to stay true to the covenant. We had already seen some miracles, but in this, He was speaking of miracles like the walls of Jericho which would fall down before them and crossing the Jordan on dry land. Just the fact that they walked forty years in the wilderness, and never wore their shoes out is a fantastic miracle in itself. The most unbelievable miracle of all was that God forgave them over and over, and truly did lead them to the land of promise. We see in all of this (speaking of the terrible things) these were not terrible for the children of Israel who God brought through victoriously, but terrible for their enemies. The surrounding people would greatly fear and would avoid any trouble at all, because God would remove everyone who got in the way of His people.

***Exodus 34:11 "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."***

***Exodus 34:12 "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:"***

***Exodus 34:13 "But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:"***

God promised to perform further wonders and drive out the wicked inhabitants of the land he was giving them. Israel’s job was to observe what God commanded. God promised to move all these people out so that the children of Israel could inhabit the land with no problems. God would do this if the Israelites followed His commands. The believers are warned all through the Bible not to be yoked with those of unbelief. Compromise is not in God's plan. God wants our devotion, 100%.

***II Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"***

***II Corinthians 6:15 "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"***

God will not allow His people to worship with those who worship false Gods. In fact, in these Scriptures (Verses 12 and 13) we see that these Israelites were to destroy the altars of these false gods and break their images. They were to aggressively destroy these items of false worship. Agreements with these people would include tolerance of their false religion which God would not allow. This was the reason God told them not to make a covenant with them. God would remove His blessings, so this would certainly be a snare to these people. These altars, images, and groves were all used in false religion.

***Exodus 34:14 "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God:"***

We find, here, that God is not only jealous, but that one of His names is Jealous. “Godly Jealousy” is basis of the first Commandment. God will not under any circumstance allow the worship of other gods. It is important to understand how the word “jealous” is used. When humans use the word “jealous,” we use it in the sense of being envious of someone who has something we do not have. When used in reference to God we must understand that God is not jealous or envious because someone has something He wants or needs. God is jealous when someone gives to another something that rightly belongs to Him.

***Exodus 20:4-5***

***4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.***

***5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;***

In these verses, God is speaking of people making idols and bowing down and worshiping those idols instead of giving God the worship that belongs to Him alone. God is possessive of the worship and service that belong to Him. It is a sin (as God points out in this commandment) to worship or serve anything other than God. It is a sin when we desire, or we are envious, or we are jealous of someone because he has something that we do not have. It is a different use of the word “jealous” when God says He is jealous. What He is jealous of belongs to Him; worship and service belong to Him alone and are to be given to Him alone. Perhaps a practical example will help us understand the difference. If a husband sees another man flirting with his wife, he is right to be jealous, for only he has the right to flirt with his wife. This type of jealousy is “Godly Jealousy” is not sinful. Rather, it is entirely appropriate. Jealousy is a sin when it is a desire for something that does not belong to you. Worship, praise, honor, and adoration belong to God alone, for only He is truly worthy of it. Therefore, God is rightly jealous when worship, praise, honor, or adoration is given to idols. This is precisely the jealousy the apostle Paul explained to the Corinthian church.

***2 Corinthians 11:2 “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”***

***Exodus 34:15 "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;"***

***Exodus 34:16 "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."***

God has always called unfaithfulness to Him "going a-whoring". The Christians are the bride of Christ. The book of Hosea actually deals with Israel being unfaithful to God. Hosea's wife, who is spoken of as a "whore", is symbolic of the church that is not faithful to God. This whoredom, spoken of above, is spiritual adultery. God does not want His people to fellowship with those who worship other gods. He has commanded His people to be faithful to Him alone. This intermarriage of those of different faiths is a real problem in our society today. God will not permit His people to worship, or even attend church in false religions.

***Exodus 34:17 "Thou shalt make thee no molten gods."***

This is a terrible blight on our society today. Many people have Buddhas, totem poles, and other items associated with false religion in their homes. God is Jealous. He will not allow this. "Molten gods" fall into the category of the created and should not be in any Christian's possession. God will not overlook this spiritual adultery.

***Exodus 34:18 "The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt."***

We dealt with the feast of unleavened bread more than once before. This was the feast in April ("Abib") that closely coincided with the Passover. This eating of unleavened bread symbolized the body of Jesus Christ which was completely free of sin. The eating of unleavened bread for these Israelites was in remembrance of the flight from Egypt, and of God delivering them, Himself.

**Questions**

1. Who was to make the two stones for the Commandments?

2. What had happened to the first two tablets?

3. What was the condition of the covenant God made with these people?

4. Who would write on the stones?

5. Where was Moses to go to meet with God?

6. Who should come with Moses?

7. What did God proclaim to Moses, when He descended on the mountain top?

8. What were some of the adjectives which described God in V-6?
9. If not forgiven, how many generations will the sins of the people affect?

10. These people had known God by what name up until this time?

11. What are three things Jesus called Himself?

12. What type of marvels was the Lord speaking of in V-10?

13. Who did God promise to drive out of the land before the people?

14. What were these Israelites warned not to do with these strangers in the land?

15. What three symbols of false religions were to be destroyed by the Israelites?

16. We are told that God's name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in V-14.

17. In II Corinthians chapter 6 verses 14 and 15, what are believers told not to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
18. What does God call following other gods?
19. What was the book of Hosea about?
20. In V-17, what were we not to do?
21. What is a blight on our society today?
22. What was the seven day feast they had to celebrate?

23. What month on our calendar is similar to Abib?