

Exodus - Week 12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024 - MICHAEL BOWERS



Summary - “The Story Continues”

We have seen some incredible things throughout our study of Exodus. We have seen God’s people, the Israelites, enslaved to Egypt and their Pharaoh. We have seen God raise up Moses in the most troubling of circumstances, take him out of Egypt, and task him with the job of confronting Pharaoh and telling him to let God’s people go. We have seen God send ten incredible and miraculous plagues to destroy Egypt at every level when Pharaoh rejects God’s demands. We have seen God part the Red Sea and the Israelites escape to freedom while Pharaoh’s army is completely destroyed. We have seen God lead His people in the wilderness with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, while also providing for their physical needs with manna from Heaven each morning. We have seen the power, majesty, and glory of God on display through the giving of the ten commandments and His law to His people. We have also seen His incredible grace, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, steadfastness, and faithfulness when His people choose to sin greatly by worshiping a false idol. When God could have easily destroyed them for this act of rebellion, He instead shows mercy and continues to be near to His people, proving that His word and His promises are true and steadfast. As we wrap up our study in Exodus this week, we will see God’s glory on display again through His servant Moses, but more importantly, we will come to see that this temporary glory, found in Exodus and the Old Testament account, is made permanent through Jesus Christ in the hearts and souls of those who believe and follow Him. His Spirit and glory no longer temporarily dwell on the mountain, on the face of Moses, in the ark of the covenant, or in the temple’s holy of holies, but rather now, His Spirit dwells permanently in us as believers, and we all, with unveiled face, behold the glory of the Lord. As believers, our lives should reflect the Spirit and the glory of God to all of those around us. May we reflect His glory as we dwell in His presence!

Scripture - Exodus 34:29-35 (see also 2 Corinthians 3:4-18)

29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. 34 Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, 35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 34:5; John 1:14; Acts 4:13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:4-18; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:19-22

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)



Key Thoughts

After coming down from the mountain, Moses realizes that the people cannot look upon him. The veil over his face allows the people to be in the presence of Moses because they could not look upon him without it. After all, the presence and glory of God are blinding.

When Moses entered the house of the LORD, the impact was undeniable to all who saw Moses when he exited these moments. Moses entered a physical structure where the presence of God would temporarily visit, but the beauty that we must see today is that we have a more significant, more permanent gift than what was given to Moses.

You can't spend real time in the presence of God and not have it change your life. If it's God you're meeting with, it's quality time in His presence. There will be a change; we should never have to announce to people, "I've been in the presence of God all day. I prayed for five hours." You never have to announce this because it will be evident that you've been in God's presence. People will know it. When we spend time with God, we will shine.

We don't have to enter a physical location to experience God's presence because we are the house of the LORD! We, as believers in Jesus Christ, are where the presence of the Holy God makes His home, and out of this we collectively come together in worship.

We reflect on whatever we spend our time on or with. We may reflect it with our words, attitudes, actions, and, yes, our presence and persona or how we carry ourselves. We become like what we worship. What we are reflecting to others can often reveal where and with whom we are spending our time.

Acts 4:13 - "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus." They recognized they had been with Jesus. They were astonished. And they recognized they had been with Jesus. They were astonished by these uneducated men for they recognized that they had been with Jesus. It was not; they were astonished and knew they had spent much time researching Jesus online or had earned many degrees and certificates, but rather they recognized that they had been with Jesus. They reflected on whom they were spending time with.

The glory that Moses experienced faded, but Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 that the "ministry of righteousness," which is another way of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, continues to grow and exceeds even the glory that Moses experienced.

When we turn to God in repentance, acknowledging our sinfulness and our need for a savior, the veil is removed as we surrender our lives to Christ, and our eyes are opened to see the glory of God. And in turn, we become living examples of God's grace and forgiveness in the lives of others, and we display God's glory to others.



Key Thoughts

When we are transformed by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ and grow in Christ, we reflect Jesus Christ. We are transformed as we worship. We are transformed as we behold Jesus. We become like what we worship. We reflect what we worship. Therefore, we need to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Our schools, churches, worship services, doctor offices (visiting or working there), and all other professions need people who have experienced the veil of sin being removed through Jesus Christ and those people experiencing the freedom of Christ. (2 Cor. 3:17) that leads others to Jesus Christ.

Church, we don't study a book of the Bible for twelve weeks simply to gain knowledge of the people, stories, and more knowledge. We read books of the Bible like Exodus to learn how God's people desperately needed freedom from sin, struggled with idolatry, grumbled, created false idols to worship when they became impatient, and were discontent with God's provision. Yet, God allowed them to experience His radiance and goodness through Moses and his time with the Lord.

We read these moments to see ourselves and to have the veil of sin lifted in our lives by the authority of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

We read these moments to be awakened, as we all need from time to time to the character of God and our need to spend time in the presence of Jesus, leaving us to reflect Jesus.

When the people of God spend time in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit goes before them to impact those without a relationship to Jesus Christ.

God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Dwell among us means to take up residence among. It was the equivalent of the tent of meeting and the Tabernacle in Exodus, but now Christ has come to live among us. God came to earth as Jesus Christ to dwell and make his place among us (1 Corinthians 3:16). He became a sacrifice and payment for our sins, and because of that, the Tabernacle is no longer a physical structure built in Egypt but in us. In Jesus Christ, this body of believers, individually and together, is being made into a dwelling place for the Spirit of God to reside (Ephesians 2:19-22).

- In Exodus, God came to a mountain to speak to a prophet who displayed the afterglow of God's presence.
- In Exodus, God instructed the Tabernacle to be constructed, and willing spirits of forgiven people did exactly as commanded.
- The gospel of John depicts the message of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to dwell among us and lived on the earth.
- Corinthians teaches us that, through Christ, each of us is a holy temple, a place where the presence and spirit of God reside.
- And in Ephesians, we are to be drawn together to be God's people, reflecting the glory of God, to draw others to Christ.

Key Thoughts

In Exodus for You, author Tim Chester states:

- “In Exodus, the Tabernacle had the ark, where God resides, but in the New Testament, we are where God reigns.
- In Exodus, the Tabernacle had a table for sacrifices to cover the people's sins, but in the New Testament, we are invited to the table where Christ proclaimed his body and blood would serve as the payment for our sins.
- In Exodus, the Tabernacle had a lampstand, but in the New Testament, we are the place where the light of the gospel shines.
- In Exodus, the Tabernacle would have a priest and only the priest who could approach the holy of holies, but in the New Testament, we are told we can each enter God's holy presence.”

God rescued His people that he might dwell among them. That was true in Exodus, and it is no different today. The living God is among us and will be at work among us. His work in us should showcase His Spirit and His glory to those around us.

Reflect & Respond

Who or what are you reflecting on? Are you reflecting the character of God to others? Merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, faithful, forgiving? (See Exodus 34:6-7)

Are you living out the impact of the good news of Christ in your life? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? (see Galatians 5:22-23)

As you read Exodus 34:29-35 and see it up against 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 how does this impact your heart? How does it move you to see the importance of your time with the Lord and making it a priority in your life?

How do you spend time in God's presence? What does your “tent of meeting” look like?

How do you recognize when you are being influenced by the world and those of the world versus being influenced by the Word and time spent with God? What are your red flags and what guardrails do you have in place to recognize when your relationship with the Lord is suffering?

If you are not spending time with the Lord regularly, what steps do you need to take to ensure that you are deepening your relationship with the Lord and that it is indeed impacting those around you for His glory?

