

Title: Seeing to the End
Text: Exodus 34; 2 Corinthians 3
Date: August 19, 2012
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Turn to two passages of scripture: 2 Corinthians 3 and Exodus 34. We will go back and forth between these two passages.

Proposition: In the second giving of the law by Moses in Exodus 34, we have a beautiful illustration of the Lord Jesus Christ who fulfilled the law for his people, who by the Spirit of God through the gospel comes to each of his children, revealing the glory of God to us in Christ's face, giving us a new heart of faith and love. Then we begin truly worshipping and serving God in newness of life.

This is illustrated by what happened before Exodus 34 and what happened after.

In the first giving of the law, Moses delivered the law to the children of Israel. They said, "All that the Lord has commanded we will do and obey." In the legal covenant of works, God fully proved that we are sinners. It proved that in Adam, all died.

We see what we are by nature in the children of Israel. While Moses had returned to the Mount, receiving from God the pattern of the tabernacle, they broke every commandment when they made a golden calf and danced around it in idolatrous worship.

Romans 3: 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

That is you and me and all of Adam's fallen race. We are a fallen and sinful people. We are born spiritually without strength, ungodly, enmity against God.

Man is not on trial. We are under the sentence of condemnation. When Christ brings the gospel to us this is where we are found: already "lost."

After Exodus 34, after the second giving of the law, we find Israel willingly bringing offerings for the building of the tabernacle and serving God in the actual building of the tabernacle. It pictures the believer having been given a new heart and a new spirit by the Spirit of God, having been made willing in the day of God's power. The believer rests in Christ through faith, having the law of the everlasting covenant of grace written on our hearts by God.

This is what every sinner experiences when Christ is revealed in us. First, we are slain in our condemnation by the law then we are given the good news of everlasting acceptance in Christ Jesus our Righteousness wherein we rest by faith.

I. A PICTURE OF CHRIST PREPARING HIS PEOPLE BY FULFILLING THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD ON OUR BEHALF.

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.

The first time the law was given, the tables were the work of God just as the writings were the writing of God. This time God commanded Moses to hew the tablets on which God says I will write. Paul compares the tablets to the new heart created in the believer.

2 Corinthians 3: 2: Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, [some copies read “written in your hearts”] known and read of all men: 3: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Moses Hewed the Tables, God Wrote on Them

As Moses hewed the tablets, Christ, as the GodMan, prepared a people by his work for us in the earth.

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. 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. 4: And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first;

As those tables had to be made new—the elect of God given to Christ had to be made new. As Moses hewed them in the earth and God in the mount wrote on them—Christ, the GodMan prepared his people by his work in the earth then from Mt. Zion Christ our God creates in us a new heart and writes his everlasting covenant of grace in our hearts through the gospel—“the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

Exodus 34: 4:...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.

God said, “Be ready in the morning.” Christ finished the work before the morning. The third day he rose up early in the morning from presenting himself to God, not in Mt. Sinai, but in Mt. Zion, just as the Father commanded. As Moses carried up those tablets, so Christ carried his people up with him as he presented himself to God.

II. GOD SHOWED HIS GLORY TO MOSES BUT CHRIST JESUS IS THE GLORY OF GOD

Exodus 34: 5: And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 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, 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. 8: And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Like as Moses desired to see the glory of God, Christ Jesus prayed to be glorified with the Father’s own self and was glorified.

John 17: 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

This desire in Moses to behold God’s glory is the result of sweet fellowship and communion with our God. Much more, it was with Christ who never left the bosom of the Father.

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.

As Moses made intercession for his people so the Lord makes intercession with the Father for ALL HIS PEOPLE for his people to behold the glory of God in him.

John 17: 9: I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10: And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11: And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are...15: I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil...21: That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24: Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25: O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26: And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

III. TWO COVENANTS

The covenant God made here with Moses and the people differs in many ways from the everlasting covenant of grace which Christ makes in the hearts of his people.

- This one is from Mount Sinai, it is the law, the covenant of works but the everlasting covenant is from Mount Zion, the gospel, the covenant of grace.
- The covenant of works is the old covenant (or testament), the everlasting covenant is the new testament-- **2 Corinthians 3: 6: [Christ] also hath made us able ministers of the new testament;**
- The old covenant came in letter, the new covenant comes in spirit--**2 Corinthians 3: 6:...not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.**
- The covenant of works is the ministration of death, the gospel is the ministration of life--**2 Corinthians 3: 7:...the ministration of death**
- The law was **written in tables of stone, the covenant of grace is written in the heart--2 Corinthians 3: 7:...written *and* engraven in stones,** “fleshly tables of the heart”
- The glory of the law was **glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was to be done away:** but the glory of the gospel is permanent.
- When compared with the gospel the covenant of works has no glory at all. **2 Corinthians 3: 8: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? 9: For if the ministration of condemnation *be* glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. 10: For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excellet. 11: For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious.**
- The gospel has been revealed so that we speak plainly the truth of God seeing Christ who is the end of all that the law says, but Moses covered his face representing the vail on the heart of the dead sinner--**2 Corinthians 3: 12: Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:**
- The law had no ability to give spiritual sight but in the gospel of grace Christ removes the vail--**2 Corinthians 3: 14: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15: But even**

unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. 16: Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Paul says when “reading the old testament; the veil is done away in Christ.”—so let’s continue now in Exodus 34 and see to the end of the law. Let’s see Christ typified here and use great plainness of speech.

IV. THE EVERLASTING COVENANT IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW BY CHRIST FOR HIS PEOPLE. WHEN CHRIST WRITES THE LAW ON OUR HEARTS, HE MAKES AN EVERLASTING COVENANT IN OUR HEARTS ORDERED IN ALL THINGS AND SURE.

Exodus 34: 10: And he said, Behold, I make a covenant:...

As the LORD made a covenant with Moses, so the Father made an everlasting covenant with the Son before the world began. When Christ arose, having finished the work, Christ sat down at the right hand of the Father, “Henceforth, expecting till his enemies be made his foot stool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever all them that are sanctified.’ Which means the same is done for all his redeemed. He makes this covenant promise in our hearts. God has given Christ as a Covenant formed in our hearts—one in Spirit. Here is what he promises Christ and us in Christ.

Exodus 34: 10...before all THY people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation:

God’s elect are Christ’s people—**before all thy people I will do marvels.** Before us, God reveals the marvel of his grace toward us in Christ Jesus

- Righteousness
- Full forgiveness
- Perfect Pardon
- Complete in Christ.

There is no work ever performed in all the earth like the work of redemption, the work of regeneration, the work of God saving his people from our sins

Exodus 34: 10...and all the people AMONG which THOU ART shall see the work of the LORD:

When God gets done, everybody in heaven, earth and hell will see his wonders toward us and upon us (Ephesians 2:7). But this is especially true of Christ’s redeemed, among whom “thou art”—among whom Christ dwells as Moses dwelt among his people. All Christ’s people shall be made alive to see this wonderful work of the Lord.

Exodus 4: 10...for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

The Lord our God, did an astounding thing with Christ our mighty Savior.

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

He has taken away all our sins. The work he has done with Christ is terrible—astonishing, a marvel and a wonder. He has and he promises he will destroy all our enemies!

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.

When the Lord writes his law on our hearts, the Lord God makes us no longer willing to join with men in the worship of other gods.

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:

We have to associate with wicked men to work and live in the world, but God forbids mixing with the heathen in the exercise of religion. And God's people have no desire to do so anymore.

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

This is not done by law or physical force, but by the preaching of the gospel.

2 Corinthians 10: 4: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Our motive is the love of God which constrains us.

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

The love of God constrains us. Christ is jealous over us as his bride. God the Father is jealous over us because his children belong to his Son. We are jealous for God's children and Christ's glory.

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. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in 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; 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. 17: Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

But by God's grace it is not possible for the elect to be deceived. Christ said, My sheep hear my voice and a stranger they will not follow.

When Christ writes his law on our hearts, he reveals he has redeemed us and we begin feeding and living upon him alone by faith. This is pictured in the feast of unleavened bread.

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.

The Passover pictured Christ our Passover by whom we are redeemed from the curse of the law. This feast of unleavened bread began the day after the Passover feast ended and continued for seven days—the number of perfection—a perfect week long feast. It was to be observed at an appointed time. It pictures how that all of Christ's Redeemed shall be made alive and given faith at God's appointed time. At which time we experience the redemption and liberty given us by Christ our Passover so that we continue living and eating upon Christ by faith and never stop till the full week of time is up and we go to be with our Savior forever.

John 6: 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

When Christ writes his law on our hearts, when we behold our redemption accomplished by Christ, then Christ becomes preeminent in our hearts and we give to God the firstborn which he has given to us—Christ Jesus the Firstborn.

Exodus 34: 19: All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male. 20: But the firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shalt thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

When Christ is revealed in us, we behold that the work is finished and we rest in Christ through faith.

Exodus 34: 21: Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

Hebrews 4: 3: For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

When Christ writes his law on our hearts, we believe Christ that he shall lose none of his elect but shall call them all so that we continue in the gospel waiting on the Spirit to bring in the harvest. This ingathering is pictured in the feast of weeks.

Exodus 34: 22: And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

The feast of weeks was the feast of harvest. It was held fifty days after the feast of firstfruits. The name by which it was commonly called is "Pentecost" because it was held on the 50th day. The harvest feast speaks of ingathering of God's elect by Christ. As the feast of harvest followed the feast of the firstfruits so after Christ the Firstfruit was risen, the harvest-salvation of God's elect follows. Christ gave us a foretaste of the ingathering of all his elect on the day of Pentecost. He poured out his Spirit upon all flesh and 3000 souls were gathered into the fold of his grace at one time.

Isaiah 43:5: Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 6: I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; 7: Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

When Christ writes his law on our hearts, we worship him, worship Christ publicly as he commands, and we do so with his promise to protect us from all our enemies. Christ is our Shield and Defender. We never lose by leaving that which is dearest to us to worship Christ publicly.

Exodus 34: 23: Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. 24: For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.

When Christ writes his law on our hearts, we honor Christ by worshipping in God's way. We add nothing to Christ's finished work.

Exodus 34: 25: Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven;

We reject or despise nothing Christ has done or commanded us but take all of Christ who is All unto us.

Exodus 34: 25:...neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.

We give to Christ the first and best of all that he has given to us.

Exodus 34: 26: The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God.

We add none of this world's superstitious inventions.

Exodus 34: 26:...Thou shalt not see the a kid in his mother's milk.

We establish the law by faith in Christ who magnified and honored the law on our behalf by his obedience from the womb to tomb.

Exodus 34: 27: And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. 28: And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

As Moses fasted forty days and forty nights, so our Savior fasted forty days and forty nights when he began his public ministry. As Moses did not come down out of the mount till all was written, Christ did not ascend to Mt. Zion till he had fully accomplished all that was written.

Moses took the tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments was written by the finger of God and placed them inside the ark of the covenant under the mercy-seat. Christ is our Ark. Christ is our Mercy Seat. The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the law, satisfied the law and is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes. Christ Jesus is even the perfection of our worship just as he is the end of the law for righteousness.

V. REMEMBER WHO RECEIVES THE GLORY FOR WRITING THE EVERLASTING COVENANT IN OUR HEARTS SO THAT WE ARE MADE NEW TO REST BY FAITH AND TO TRULY WORSHIP AND SERVE OUR GOD IN LOVE.

2 Corinthians 3: 3: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart...17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Amen!