

# GLORY!



**Purpose:** To show God as revealed through His Grace, His Presence and ultimately His Glory!

## Exodus 33:12-23

Small intro: Some men become proud and insolent because they ride a fine horse, wear a feather in their hat or are dressed in a fine suit of clothes. Who does not see the folly of this? If there be any glory in such things, the glory belongs to the horse, the bird and the tailor.

Often I have heard people say, "How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic, and look at the lovely weather!" Yes, God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when He allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp. Was God when he allowed Pearl Harbor to happen, when the great preacher Martin Luther King the civil rights leader was shot without mercy outside a hotel? Was God good when Robert Kennedy head was nearly blown off by gunman? Was good when 911 happen and thousands of victims died? What declares the goodness of God? Is God still good even when things are bad?

A question: do you still serve God with as much fervor and spirit in the bad times as you do in the good times?

### Featured Text for Bible Study: Exodus 33:12-23

<sup>12</sup> **Then Moses said to the LORD,** "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'<sup>13</sup> Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is **Your people.**"

<sup>14</sup> And He said, "My Presence **will go with you, and I will give you rest.**"<sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go **with us, do not bring us up from here.**"<sup>16</sup> **For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.**"<sup>17</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, "**I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.**"

<sup>18</sup> And he said, “**Please, show me Your glory.**” <sup>19</sup> Then He said, “**I will** make all My goodness pass before you, and **I will** proclaim the name of the LORD before you. **I will** be gracious to whom **I will** be gracious, and **I will** have compassion on whom **I will** have compassion.” <sup>20</sup> But He said, “**You cannot see My face**; for **no man** shall see Me, *and live.*” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said, “**Here is a place by Me**, and you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup> So it shall be, **while My glory** passes by, that **I will** put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. <sup>23</sup> Then **I will** take away My hand, and *you shall see My back*; but **My face** shall not be seen.”

### **Backdrop and intro:**

The Lord refuses to go with Israel. (1-6) The tabernacle of Moses removed without the camp. (7-11) Moses desires to see the glory of God. (12-23)

This is a dark time for the nation of Israel. They had rebelled to the point of kindling God’s wrath on themselves, so much so that God called them a “stiff necked people” the term simply means unwilling or able to turn. This is where we get the Phrase “crick” as crick in the neck when we are unable to turn.

Moses is the interceder for the people of Israel and he is constantly before God praying on their behalf. And hear this: GOD IS LISTENING TO MOSES AND IS GRANTING MOSES REQUEST to spare the people! (Thank God for those who pray for us!)

## **I. There is a need for God’s Grace ( vv12-13)**

<sup>12</sup> **Then Moses said to the LORD**, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found **grace** in My sight.’” <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, **I pray**, if I have found **grace** in Your sight, **show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find **grace** in Your sight.** And consider that this nation is **Your people.**”

- a. Moses once again interceding on behalf of the people is talking to God. V1
- b. Moses is petitioning to God that is by His instruction that he was leading the people of Israel out of the land of bondage.
  - a. There was a point for Moses when he felt like he was all alone, ( many of us have been at that very point at some time in our spiritual lives)
  - b. Moses asks two things of God in relation to His Grace. V13
    - i. Show me Your way
    - ii. That I may Know You
  - c. Grace here in this text is different from the grace in the New Testament.

- i. The word Grace here is mentioned three times in these two verses
- ii. Here the word “GRACE” is Hebrew {knan-nan’} which means to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior.
- iii. In other words: God came down to the level of lowly people in order to extend kindness

## II. There was a need for God’s Presence (vv14-17)

<sup>14</sup> And He said, “My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here. <sup>16</sup> **For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who *are* upon the face of the earth.**” <sup>17</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, “**I will** also do this thing that you have spoken; **for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.**”

- a. Moses speaks as one who dreaded the thought of going forward without the Lord's presence
- b. Moses in essence told God that the task was too great for them to do without the Presence of the going with them by God!**v14**
  - a. With the presence of God there also accompanied REST!**v14**
    - i. So important is rest because we tend to get restless
    - ii. We get unsettled when life is not acting right!
    - iii. REST here means a state of calmness in midst of dire circumstances!
    - iv. Notice that this kind of rest is only when the presence of God is with you
  - b. In other words God unless You go with me I am NOT going!**v15**
  - c. The Presence of God symbolized more than protection, it symbolized the providence of God in that he had destined them to achieve such a feat.
  - d. With the presence of God the travels would have been in vain!
- c. He says here that the people of Israel are unique to all other people on the face of the earth.**v16**
  - a. That uniqueness is NOT in regards to their pedigree, but rather in relation to what God has done in their lives!
    - i. The grace and presence that brought them out of Egypt solidified them as the people of God
    - ii. NOTICE HERE THAT THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE SUPPOSED TO BE UNIQUE- WE ARE TO BE DIFFERENT!! **V16**
  - b. God tells Moses that (I WILL) do this as you have spoken

- i. The “I will” statement is a certified promise of God on behalf of the people.
- ii. The reason why God is doing this is not because of what they done as if they deserve what God is graciously giving them.
- iii. But because he stooped down to an inferior people to grant them the superb riches of His grace he was going to do it!**v17**
- c. Canaan itself would be no pleasant land without the Lord's presence.

### **III. There was a need for God’s Glory (vv18-23)**

<sup>18</sup> And he said, “**Please, show me Your glory.**” <sup>19</sup> Then He said, “**I will** make all My goodness pass before you, and **I will** proclaim the name of the LORD before you. **I will** be gracious to whom **I will** be gracious, and **I will** have compassion on whom **I will** have compassion.” <sup>20</sup> But He said, “**You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.**” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said, “**Here is a place by Me,** and you shall stand **on the rock.**” <sup>22</sup> So it shall be, **while My glory** passes by, that **I will** put you **in the cleft of the rock,** and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. <sup>23</sup> Then **I will** take away My hand, and **you shall see My back;** but **My face** shall not be seen.”

- a. in verses 18-23 there are nine “I will” statements from God to Moses
- b. **MOSES ASKS GOD TO SEE HIS GLORY!!!**
  - a. Upon the rock there was a fit place for Moses to view the goodness and glory of God.
    - i. The rock in Horeb was typical of Christ the Rock;
      - 1. The Rock of refuge, salvation, and strength.
      - 2. Happy are they who stand upon this Rock. T
      - 3. He cleft may be an emblem of Christ, as smitten, crucified, wounded, and slain.
        - a. Matt 16 “Upon this Rock”
        - b. 1 Cor 10 “that Rock was Christ”
        - c. Isaiah 26: “The Rock of Ages”
        - d. Psalm 18 “The Lord is My Rock”
        - e. Song of Solomon 2:13 my doves are in the cleft of the rock!
- c. What follows, denotes the imperfect knowledge of God in the present state, even as revealed in Christ; for this, when compared with the heavenly sight of him.
- d. Is but like seeing a man that is gone by, whose back only is to be seen. God in Christ, as he is, even the fullest and brightest displays of his glory, grace, and goodness, **are reserved to another state.**

