

It Is A Terrible Thing I will Do With Thee

Exodus Chapters Thirty-Four and Thirty-Five

~ With but a cursory reading, it would be a little difficult to realize how this section of Scripture is applicable in any way today, but all Scripture is profitable; and this section of the Word of God is, also. We find Moses with the second tables of the law here in this report. Remember, Moses broke the first tablets when he came down from the mount and the children of Israel had made the golden calf and worshipped it. After breaking the tablets Moses now comes back to the mountain with these blank tablets the Lord had instructed him to make. God proclaims a name for Himself and names, of course, have meaning. I'm not talking about the meaning of names as we have in the Bible dictionary, but I'm talking about a meaning that conjures up certain mental pictures of meaning in the mind's eye. When we hear Cesar or Nazi or Egypt or Israel there is a certain mental imagery we have connected with each. God is proclaiming His Name now, and it is derived from experiences the children of Israel have had since they left Egypt. God says He does not simply clear the guilty without the penalty being paid. God extends mercy and forgiveness only because a sacrifice has been provided. Their sacrifices did not take away sins, but it pointed ahead to the coming of the One Who could - two thousand years ago! This chapter and the next are an amazing revelation of the mercy of God....

XXXIV

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.

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; 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.

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.

~ It is possible to commit a sin that will affect your grandchildren and their children. Children are not to be punished for their father's sins, but your children sure may be affected by the things you do! We're not going to beat God at His own game, my beloved; we're not going to get around Him and His laws with impunity. Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. God ALWAYS operates the same in our lives and there is no changing in or of Him. Thank God He keeps mercy for thousands and forgives iniquity - if we will only turn to Him! Verse nine is the fourth time the children of Israel have been called stiff necked. God did not save these people because they were a superior race or a nice bunch of people. God sure didn't save them just because they agreed to keep His laws! They are a rebellious and stiff-necked people. That's the record. That is another wonderful prayer of Moses, too....

8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

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.

10 And God 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.

~ God means that He will incite terror! God has a shield around His people right now. If God did not protect them, they would have been devoured in no time by the enemies round about. This is the third time God has mentioned driving out the inhabitants of the land. God also warns the children of Israel against making a covenant with the current inhabitants. We are going to see the Gibeonites come to Joshua pretending they had come from afar off and tricking him, actually, with their stale bread and worn-out shoes. Well, association with any of these groups of people would have sunk them back into idolatry. I don't think we need to apologize for God being jealous, either. Any man that is not jealous of his wife has a serious problem, friends. If there is no jealousy in a marriage then there isn't any love in that marriage, either – you can just write that down....

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.

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:

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

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

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.

~ The land they were going to was simply covered with idolatry like a dog gets covered in fleas! Gross immorality was rampant; and God is warning them to separate themselves from that. Those inhabitants are to be driven out. The critic through the years has sure latched onto that bit of meanness. Of course, the critic never investigates why God put them out of the land; they just think a God of love wouldn't do this mean thing! Well, we know God judges sin; and we know the story is that Israel DID go into idolatry and that's another reason they were sent into the Babylonian captivity. Another problem was that sexually transmitted disease was a plague in that day - and was at epidemic stage at the time in which we are studying. If God had permitted them to remain in that land, they would have polluted the entire human family with disease! Well, God decides to clean up the land - and clean it up He did....

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the Passover be left unto the morning.

26 The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

~ God is preparing them to enter the Promised Land and He wants the children of Israel to put Him first! All of these are very wonderful laws; and God will give them feast days a little later. We aren't going to spend too much time here on our safari, but you really need to read and understand all that is written in this chapter. Also, notice that God never commands any fasting. Fasting is totally voluntary and its personal between you and the Lord. The minute you even tell someone else you are fasting you have ruined the fast! God said that when we DO fast, we should have a good countenance and let no man know we fast; is that how you do it? ~

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.

29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.

35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

XXXV

~ In this chapter, we're going to come back to the Sabbath day for our third go around with those instructions. As we move along you will discover the reason God insists on the Sabbath is because the Sabbath belonged to the first creation; God rested on the Sabbath day. God tells the children of Israel of a very definite relationship between Him and them. Mankind will continue to depart from God and will continue to attempt to get away from God altogether as time goes by. Then, there comes the day when they no longer recognize God at all and begin to worship the creature; this is when man gives up the Sabbath day.

God has said it is a peculiar relationship that exists between the children of Israel and Him. This aspect of the Sabbath has more to do with the land than anything else. It would be impossible for our society to function without someone working on the Sabbath day; be it Saturday - or irrespective of what day you might think it is! There is simply no way we could do without fire for an entire day. No, this is all geared towards the land over there – not to you today, friends....

1 And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them.

2 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

3 Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the Sabbath day.

4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

~ This is not part of the tithe and it's not part of the offering; this is a voluntary giving of all these different things that are mentioned. Israel out here in the wilderness has no currency like a dollar to exchange, of course. The method of trade was the exchange of goods. Here we have these things being given to the Lord's work. Frankly, many people could serve the Lord by giving goods and services instead of money. Giving is not just about writing out a check, although that is greatly needed. There is more than one way to serve the Lord and that's what these people are doing by bringing all of these voluntary goods. The list of things that were brought is incredible. Remember, the Israelites "borrowed" from their neighbors right before they left Egypt and that's how they collected their back-slave wages; it's also how they got these possessions out there in the wilderness. Israel left Egypt with a whole lot of wealth of the Egyptians....

6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,

9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

10 And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;

11 The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets,

12 The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering,

13 The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread,

14 The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,

15 And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle,

16 The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,

17 The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court,

18 The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords,

19 The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office .

20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

~ Does your heart stir you up to give to the Lord's work? Have you tried to help that poor man who is making the obscure fine works for the temple? How much do you really want to give to the work of the Lord? Where do you give and where does that money go after you give it? We can answer a whole lot of questions about ourselves with the answers to those questions, friends....

22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.

23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.

24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.

25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

30 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

33 And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work.

34 And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

~ We have already met Bezaleel and his assistant, Aholiab; and here we see the trade they had was handed down in their family. They were the engravers; and this tabernacle was a beautiful thing. It was a jewel of a work of art in and of itself. It wasn't very large, but it was extremely costly. A whole lot of wealth went into the construction of this magnificent structure. Notice how many times it says those who gave were of a willing heart. Where is your heart in giving today, friends? Are you willing? Well, that's about as far as we get in this report from our Spiritual Safari. Next

time we will begin to physically set the tabernacle up and see exactly how it functions ~

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