

Relentless
Exodus 34:1-9
Dr. Paul Cannings

A. Even After (vs. 1-3):

1. Now the Lord said – After explaining how Moses would be able to see the Lord, the Lord with all the authority and power that He possessed continuously kept telling Moses how to construct a new set of tablets.
2. I will write – Moses presents the tablets to God, but it is God who is engraving His Word on the tablet. Moses is not doing any of the writing.
3. I will write – When God uses the word 'to write' He is communicating to Moses that what He is putting on the tablets is completely what He wants to say and it is permanent. It is unchangeable and binding.
4. I will write – The writing of the Word is done without any input from Moses and it is supernaturally inscribed into the tablet. It comes directly from God, it is directed by God and it is not never to be changed by anyone (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Ecc. 3:12-13; Rev. 22:18-19).
5. I will write on the tablets the words – The words that are being engraved into the tablets is also a prophetic revelation of God's Word.
6. On the former tablets which you shattered - Their is no change from what God said the first time compared to what God said the second time. He is the truth (34:6) so what He is saying is unchangeable.
7. So be ready in the morning – From the time God spoke to the morning Moses is to appear on the mountain God commands Moses to make it a mission to be ready. The writing of the divine word of God requires Moses' full attention.
 - a) At the former time God, Himself, had provided the materials, as well as written upon them. Now, Moses was to prepare the stone tables, and God was only to retrace the characters originally inscribed for the use and guidance of the people.^[1]
8. Come up in the morning - Moses must focus his complete attention to continuously be ready, with the tablet, to ascend to the top of the mountain by himself. No person or animal can come with him.
 - a) It does not matter how many God works through, Moses must always remain humble in serving the Lord God.

9. Come up in the morning - The word used for 'come up' is the same word as to present an offering to God. Moses was not only coming up He was also offering Himself to God as a representative of His Word.
10. Present; Station - Moses on schedule must completely station himself at the appointed place and before God as if he is erecting a statue of himself before God. This nature of this meeting was discussed in Ex. 33:18-23.
11. Be seen anywhere – When God arrives at the meeting place and He inspects all that surrounds where Moses continuously stands no one or animal must not be there with him.

B. Faithful (v. 4):

1. Moses rose up early in the morning – Moses made it his mission to continuously, diligently, actively do exactly as God instructed him to do. He was eager to obey God and meet the Lord on Mt. Sinai because this was his continuous request for God to maintain His presence among the people.
2. Went up – The word used for going up to the mountain means that despite the fact that Moses' load was heavy he still continuously made his way up the mountain with no help.
3. As the Lord had commanded him – Moses in submission to the Lord's authority obeyed what was communicated to him with an inner commitment to do all that the Lord said.
 - a) It is impossible to have a relationship with the Lord if there is no respect given as to who He is. Moses must follow the Lord's instructions, unlike the people, exactly as the Lord prescribes.
4. Took; receive – Moses made absolutely sure that he selected the tablets that were made and ascended the mountain.
5. The Lord descended in a cloud – On His own initiative, as He stated He would do, the Lord powerfully and continuously came down to meet with Moses in a cloud. This means that the cloud did not suddenly appear, it continuously descended from heaven.
6. Stood there with him – The Lord in all His majesty stood before Moses as He described he would do, after Moses pleaded with him to remain with the people, as the Lord described in 33:18-23.
7. He called upon the name of the Lord – Moses loudly and continuously calls out the Lord's name as the almighty God descends in the cloud.

C. His Love Never Fails (vs. 6-9):

1. The Lord passed by – The Lord who is powerful and has all authority passed by Moses in the manner He said He would in chapter 33:18-23.
2. And proclaimed – The almighty, powerful Lord loudly announced what kind of nature He possessed before Moses. The Lord said:

- a) The Lord God – He is/has all authority, power, desires to have a relationship with His people, but He is also the creator of all things and reigns supreme over all.
- b) Compassionate - The Lord could have destroyed people when they worshipped the calf god, but he relented, because of Moses' request and for those who repented. This demonstrated that the Lord, who has all power, is merciful.
- c) Gracious - The Lord generously extends His favor even when it is not merited and keenly responds to those who are oppressed.
- d) Slow to anger - The Lord is slow to becoming highly emotional expressing Himself in anger and even wrath.
- e) Abounding in lovingkindness - God in a very large manner is obligated to Israel and therefore no matter what, He remains steadfastly committed to serve, lead and discipline them to walk in His ways.

· The word *chesed*, usually translated in 34:6 RSV as steadfast love, suggests a constant and “unchanging love” (Durham), and *'emeth* suggests the idea of reliability and truth. (See the comment on *chesed* at 15:13.) The two words are often used together. Possible renderings are “great love and faithfulness” (34:6 TEV), “faithful love and constancy” (NJB), and “ever faithful and true” (REB). Another way to express this is “I show great love to my people and they can trust me.”^[2]

- a) Truth - God will always be faithfully committed to His divine standards which substantiated by all that He does.
- b) Who keeps lovingkindness for thousands - God powerfully and with all authority, faithfully and steadfastly meticulously watches over thousands and does the following:

· Forgiveness of iniquity – The Lord independently, on His own initiative, carries, as if lifting up a heavy object, mankind's past misdeeds, guilt and shame.

Ø Forgiving comes from the word meaning to lift or raise. In context it may be understood as “taking away the guilt or consequences” of the three conditions listed. (See the discussion on forgive at 10:17.)^[3]

· Transgression - The Lord carries mankind's rebellious nature to willfully turn away from the righteous path of God.

· Sin - The Lord even generously carries lifestyle turning away from the Word of God.

c) He does not leave the guilty unpunished - Those who are guilty He is going to exercise His authority over them inspecting all their actions to determine their consequences for better or for worse.

d) Visiting the iniquity of the children and grandchildren – The Lord will also exercise His authority over the depraved sinful deeds of their children and grandchildren.

3. Ran quickly to bow low – Upon seeing and experiencing the Lord's description of Himself Moses continuously with urgency, and with much enthusiasm prostrated himself in reverent devotion before the Lord, worshipping Him.
4. Worship in your sight – As God manifest Himself in a glorious manner Moses responds by continuously humbling, bowing and prostrating himself before in complete submission.
5. He said – Moses while humbly continuously prostrated before God endlessly keep asking the Lord to remain among His people.
6. If now I have found favor in your sight – With intense urgency Moses completely desires to know if his request reached a point where God was willing to extend His kindness and grace towards him. In other words has Moses request found the compassionate heart of the Lord whose lovingkindness is ever present? If Moses has would the Lord extend this kindness and compassion towards him.
7. I pray thee; now – Moses repeats (this highlights how intense Moses is trying to cause God to decide to resume His presence among His people) his intense, urgent plead to the Lord to be among His people.
8. Go along; walk - Moses desires the Lord to make His presence among the people something that endlessly takes place.
9. In His midst - Even though the Lord renewed His covenant and therefore remains committed to His people Moses's desire is that the Lord God is in the innermost parts of the entire congregation.
10. Stiffen - Moses understands that the people he is requesting the Lord to live among are still in their hearts rebellious, very stubborn, can get into a state of apostasy and even behave in an arrogant manner towards God.
11. Forgiveness our iniquity - Moses, knowing the people are rebellious, asks the Lord God to completely blot out everyone's depraved sinful deeds. Moses included himself in this request.
12. Forgive their sin - Moses also request that the Lord blot out everyone's desire to willfully turn against His Word.
13. Take us are your own possession – Moses' desire for the Lord to take complete possession of His people is honored because of the nature and character of God.

a) The word for pardon means to practice forbearance, but it is essentially the same meaning as “forgiving” in verse 7. (A different word is used in 32:32.) And take

us for thine inheritance is just one word, meaning “and you inherit us.” The word means, as 34:9 TEV translates, “and accept us as your own people.”^[4]

^[1] Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 70). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

^[2] Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. A. (1999). [*A handbook on Exodus*](#) (p. 801). New York: United Bible Societies.

^[3] Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. A. (1999). [*A handbook on Exodus*](#) (p. 801). New York: United Bible Societies.

^[4] Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. A. (1999). [*A handbook on Exodus*](#) (p. 803). New York: United Bible Societies.