

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Right after God gives Moses the marriage contract in the Two Tables of stone, He reveals His plan to annul the marriage and destroy the people because they are already breaking their vows in adultery; it is only Moses stepping in as the people's mediator that saves their lives by saving their marriage to God.

Sermon Point: *Be Thankful for the Mediator of Your Marriage.*

Move 1: You Need a Mediator to Maintain Your Marriage with God, and You Have One.

Only reason people do not perish is marriage mediation by Moses: vss. 11-14. Moses reminds God of history with Israel (Ex. 20:2), they are *His* people (vs. 11-12), that His reputation is wrapped up in them (vs. 12), and of His sworn covenant (vs. 13; 31:18). He steps into the gap and asks for mercy on the marriage: Psalm 106:19-23. God showed mercy because of the mediator's relationship with the people and Him: vss. 33:13, 17. Vs. 10: So you in the hands of Christ: Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 12:24; Isa. 53:12; Eph. 2:13, 18; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn. 2:1: ... *if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Move 2: God is a Jealous Husband Who Would Be Right to Divorce You.

God distances Himself from Israel: "*thy* people which *thou* broughtest out" (vs. 7). He is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5); thus angry vs. 10. *Just* married them (Ex. 20, 24), signed contract (Ex. 31:18); finished plans to build their home to live together (Tabernacle). Causes God to go outside camp; threaten annulment (33:1ff). He is extremely angry; Heb. lit., "burning of nose". Though agrees not to annihilate the present generation (vs. 14), He has seen and will punish them (vss. 7, 9, 33-35); This is still the case: Heb. 4:12-13.

Move 3: Are You Not Often an Unfaithful Wife?

People broke covenant vows of 19:6-8; 24:3, 7, as written down in 31:18. Broke first 3 commandments (Ex. 20); led to breaking 5th/7th. Specifically reminded against in 20:23, 26 (see also, 28:42-43). Got golden calf from Egypt (Josh. 24:14; Ez. 20:8; 23:3, 8; due to Ex. 12:38). Took Apis, fertility god, with its religious activities: vs. 6, 17, 19 "play" is sensual dancing. Vs. 25: "naked" or "stripped" (typical cultic orgies. 1 Cor. 10:6-8 connects with "fornication". Self led: Vs. 7. The *people* said, "These are your gods" (vss. 4, 21-23). Where did they get gold rings?: Ex. 12:35-36! They forgot/turned from God so "quickly": vss. 1, 4, (same day Moses was to return!). Impatiently walked by sight. Acts 7:36-41, 51: Stephen compared Church w/ Moses to Church of his day: "stiffnecked" (Ex. 32:9; 33:3, 5; 34:9).

Conclusion:

Rom. 15:3-4.

Be Thankful for the Mediator of Your Marriage.