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Friday, April 21, 2023 ▫ Read Exodus 33:12–23

Questions from the Scripture text: Who speaks to Whom in v12? What had Yahweh said to him? But hasn't Yahweh said? With what two statements does this lack of information seem to conflict? From Whom has Moses taken the statement in the first part of v13? What does he ask to be shown? Whom does he ask to know? What is his final request in v13? What will Yahweh send (v14)? Who will be the One to give them rest? What does Moses say about this (v15)? Why is this necessary (v16)? What sort of people must they therefore be? What will Yahweh do (v17)? Why—what two things does Yahweh now repeat (cf. v12)? Now what request does Moses make (v18)? What does Yahweh say He will make Moses to see (v19)? What will He make him to hear? How is it that Yahweh can be gracious and compassionate (cf. Rom 9:14–16)? What can't Moses see (v20)? Why not (cf. Jn 1:18, 14:8–9)? Where does He tell Moses to go (v21)? What will pass by (v22)? Where will Yahweh put Moses? How will Moses be covered? Then what (v23)? What will Moses see? What won't he see?

What encourages God's people to ask great things from Him? Exodus 33:12–23 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God's people learn what to ask of Him from His own Word, and what they learn to ask is marvelously glorious.**

The Lord has told Moses that His Angel would go before Him (v2), but He has made it clear that, as of now, He will not go with Him (v3, 5). As we have seen, this is cause for mourning (v1–6), but as we have also seen, the Lord has a special favor toward Moses, speaking face to face with him as a man speaks to his friend (v11). So, it is on this basis that Moses prays that in His personal mercies to Moses (“show me now Your way, that K may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight”), Yahweh would show national and covenantal mercy to Israel (“consider that this nation is Your people”).

Where did Moses get the idea to ask that he would know the Lord and find grace in His sight (v13)? The Lord Himself has said, “I know you by name, and you have also found grace in my sight” (v12). And He will say it again (v17). Since we don't have recorded the instance of God's saying this that is previous to v12, the implication is that the Lord Himself has said it in that speech described at the end of v9 and beginning of v12.

The prayer request is a great one—not only that the Lord would be present do them (v15, 14a), but that this presence would be favorable (end of v13, v14b). The Lord's answer in v14 uses the verb form of Noah's name. Although the Lord's presence may be a consuming presence as unto the rest of the world in the flood, He promises here that His presence will be a redeeming presence to give them rest, as it was unto Noah.

The Lord's response encourages Moses to continue praying the same thing, again in v15–16. He takes a further cue from the “Noah” reference, coupled with the “found grace in my sight” language (cf. Gen 6:8) to pray specifically regarding the distinction that the Lord's grace would make between Israel and “all the people who are upon the face of the earth” (borrowing language from Gen 6–7).

Again, the Lord repeats a promise (v17) and again Moses prays as provoked by that promise (v18). Unto what end is the Lord's grace and fellowship, except that we would know His glory? Moses specifically uses a verb for sight (“show me” in v18), and the Lord promises to make that goodness (v19a) and glory (v22a) pass by.

But it is not by his eyes but by his ears that the Lord will give Moses to know His glory. The Lord will cover Moses while the goodness and glory pass (end of v22) and make him to see some remnants and effects (v23), but this will not be the great revelation of the Lord. Rather, it will be in Yahweh's proclamation of His own Name (v19, cf. 34:6–7) that He will most fully reveal Himself.

There is a play on words here. The Lord tells Moses that he cannot see the Lord's face (v20, 23), but we have just heard the Spirit emphasize that Yahweh spoke to Moses face to face (v11; cf. Num 12:8, Deut 34:10). It is by the Word that we “see” God's face. And this is most true when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. It was then that the Spirit says that men “beheld His glory” (cf. Jn 1:14). No one has seen God at any time, but it is in Jesus that God is fully revealed (cf. Jn 1:18) to such an extent that Jesus is all that one can see or will ever see of God Himself (cf. Jn 14:8–9). And it is by the hearing of the plain word that the Lord currently gives us to “see” Jesus's face, and the glory of God in that face (cf. 2Cor 4:2–6).

Would you have the great glories that God has promised? Then what you should look for and pray for is to know God in Jesus Christ by the hearing of His Word! This is the ultimate gift of God's grace to us.

How are you building the skill of praying according to God's Word? What sorts of things, then, do you pray for?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us to be known by You and to find grace in Your sight. Grant unto us to know You and find rest and favor from You in Jesus Christ, through Whom we ask it, AMEN!

ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH73C “In Sweet Communion, Lord, with Thee”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 33 versus 12 through 23. These are God's words. Mother said to y'all, who i 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.

Now, therefore i pray if i have found grace in your sight, Show me your wet 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? And he said my presence will go with you.

And i will give you rest. And he said to him, if your presence does not go with us, Do not bring us up from here. 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, So you always 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. And he said, please show me your glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before you And i will proclaim the name of yahweh before you i will be gracious to whom i will be gracious.

And i will have compassion. I'm whom i will have compassion. But he said you cannot see my face. For no man shall see me and live, And yahweh said, Here is a place by me. And you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be you all my glory passes by But i will put you in the cleft of the rock.

And we'll cover you with my hand. While i pass by. Then i will take away my hand. And you shall see my back. But my face shall not be seen. So, for the reading of god's inspired, And an air and tort Well, the last thing we knew mozes was going back and forth.

Between the camp and What had been has tent, but has now Serving is a tent of meeting a tabernacle of meeting with lord. Joshua was staying there though, not Um, Uh, as far as we know, Entering. But whether or not he did, it was specifically when mozes entered that the glory cloud would come down.

And stand at the door. Of the tabernacle. And the summary was, That the lord was speaking. With mozes. Not as he spoke with anyone else. Uh, but as with a friend, Face to face. As evidently one of the things that Uh, the lord has told Mozes and this these meetings.

We find out in verse 12. Because it's on the basis to put. The lord has told him that mozes is praying. Says you have said, i know you by name And you have also found grace in my sight. And so, he's praying. If he has found grace in his sight, That the lord would show him his way.

And consider that the nation is his people. And so, this is not just the lord would show him his way like the lord would show him. Uh so mozes what the lord wants Mozes to do? But that the lord would take Mozes on the path with the people. But he would lead them into the promised land.

That he would not think of israel as mozes people. The Mozes brought up out of the land of Uh, egypt, you remember that was Uh, language that came from the excuse of the people when they were asking. For Aaron to make a god for them. And it was language that the lord's repeated when he was cursing them.

As if they are just another people with another human leader. And not separated unto God. And so this is, Uh, this is the big distinction. That this is a people who do not have a merely human leader, but have the lord. Uh, himself as their leader and therefore, Are separated from.

The earth. And this was, This is the ultimate goal and result. Of finding grace in the sight of the lord. The first time we see that language as in genesis 6. Where? Every thought every intention of the thoughts of men's hearts, Are only evil and that continually and the lord decides to blot out, man.

From upon the face of the earth. And then in verse 8 of that chapter, it says But noah. Found grace. In the eyes. Of yahoo. That is how Noah came to be a righteous man. A separate man in his generation, that is how Noah came to be separated. Not only by the grace that counted and righteous.

The grace that gave him a called, the character flowing out of that included righteousness. Uh, but grace that separated him. Even. By means of the waters of the flood. And one of the places. Uh, one of the things that we can't see so easily in the english, is that noah's name is used here.

As verb at the end of verse 14, where it says, i will give you Rest. It's actually, i will know what you my presence. We'll go with you. And he uses, The name of noah there. In speaking to mozes. The lord's. Grace is a separating. Grace. And the grace that gives us.

That which is hoped for in christ. Remember, noah was given that name not necessarily as a mistake. Uh, but in a hope that would not be realized yet for thousands of years. It was a mistake if it was thought that noah was the seed who would crush the circumstances?

But noah was the seed through whom. The seed, who across the serpent's head would come. And so Mozes is learning here. To pray. From the things that god has said. The things that God has done and the lord encourages him in that by speaking consistently with what these scripture formed.

Prayers of Noah. Are asking for. And adding to it. And so, Uh, the lord continues. When? When he says consider that this nation is your people more. It says okay? The presence will go with you. And i will. Uh, noah you Give you rest. Mozes responds with more. Uh, prayer.

Asking specifically. That the lord would be the one who brings them into the land. That the whole point of coming into the land was not that they would have land. But then everyone would know that the lord is the one whose grace saves. The lord is the one whose grace makes a difference that the lord actually does bring sinners into fellowship with himself by grace.

That there is hope in the lord and in his promises, Uh, there is hope of salvation even for sinners. And so israel being sinners is is not. Against that hole. But the opportunity For that grace. To be shown that favor to be shown. And so he asks, again, That.

Presence of the lord. Would go with them. And the lord answers in verse 17, that he will do this thing. And, It's wonderful. He says, i will do this thing that you have spoken. But where did Mozes learn to speak those things? If you learned it from the lord, the lord teaches us in prayer.

But when we pray, Through faith in jesus christ, as formed by the words that the holy spirit has taught us from jesus christ. The lord listens to our speaking. This is one of the miracles, one of the glories of prayer. That the living god. Listens to the voices. Of redeemed, sinners as we pray to.

And that he has given us his word to teach us how to pray. It was from god, that mozes learned. To pray. For to find grace and his sight to pray to know him to pray that the people would be considered as the lord's people to pray that. It would be shown that his people are made holy in separate by their connection.

Uh, to God, Mozes has learned all of those things. Of course, from the lord. And yet, in this, Marvelous statement of Uh, the mercy and grace that there is in praying. The lord says to Mozes. I will also do this thing that you have spoken. Now that doesn't, that doesn't

Detract it all from the sovereignty of god or the degree of god or the plan of god. Of course god has sovereign and he had already ordained and planned. Every part of what he would do. What it does is it shows the mercy that is included in god's decree.

That he acts in response to prayer. And it should encourage us. Very much to pray and that should encourage us very much to learn from the bible. How to pray? So he says, i will do this thing you've spoken for, you have found grace on my sight and i know you by name And then mosas goes full filip here.

And he says, please. Show me your glory. Mozes has been speaking with god and god has been more specifically. God has been speaking with mozes in a way that he's never spoken with anyone else in a way that the holy spirit describes as face to face. Uh, you could almost hear the voice of y'all play saying Have i been with you so long mozes and you still do not know me.

He who has heard me has seen me. The lord communicates himself to us. By his word. And so, The lord gives this. Uh, this plan. Uh, but in the plan, he's going to cover Mozes and Mozes isn't going to see any face. And he concludes it. By saying my you cannot see my face in verse 20, and then he says he concludes it in

verse 23.

My face shall not be seen, but what is in just said. In verse 11. So you always spoke to Moses face to face. In other words, We see god's face by hearing. We see god's face by his word. And the wonderful thing is. This word. Became flesh. His word is a person.

His word is the sun. And what does it say about him? When he became flesh in john chapter 1? The word became flash and we beheld, his glory And it says of jesus, no one has seen god at any time. And of course, everyone is immediately thinking about What about x's, 34?

Those son, the word. Who is the in the only begotten, who is in the bosom of the father? He has fully revealed him. And so, even in the Passing of the glory, the great revelation of the glory is not in the brightness. That is there or anything that Moses sees with his eyes.

The great moment that we're going to see in the opening portion of verse 34 is what the lord promises in verse 19 here. I will proclaim the name of yahweh before you. As some 138 tells us, Hi, every salted, my word. Above all my name. So mosas already had.

Moses already had all the face to face. There is for us with y'all play until the incarnation. And all the face and face face to face you, and i can have until the resurrection. Because by the time we're before the face of jesus, we won't have faces. Uh, but we will.

Of course, in the resurrection. And so, the lord Uh, the The climax, the pinnacle, the ultimate. Of all of this. Showing. Us grace. Uh in his sight and making us to know him, giving us fellowship and making his presence to be with us making us to walk. As those who have in, in our midst, the ultimate climax of all of that.

Is to know God. By his word. Which we ultimately discover. Is to know him in his son. And, His spirit. Has given us the words of scripture. That are the way by which we know him. In his son. It's a little to ask god. Would get much glory. By giving us to know him.

In the way that He teaches us about here. Our father. We hardly know what to pray, or how to ask. For anything. But we thank you for your word. And we ask for the help of your spirit. That he who intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

He who knows your mind and prays perfectly. That he would help us more and more to pray in a way that has taught by your word. Thank you for teaching Moses to pray by your word. We pray. Oh lord that you would give us To have grace in your sight.

To be known by name and to know you to have fellowship with you. We pray that your spirit would communicate your presence to us. And we pray, most of all. That you would make us to see jesus christ by faith. Through your blessing of your words to us. That you who caused the light to shine in the darkness.

Would make the light of the knowledge of your glory. To shine in our hearts, in the face of jesus christ. That's what we thank you. We bless you. And we ask for your spirit to write the truth. At this portion of your word, upon our hearts, in jesus name, Amen.