

The God of Covenant: part three reflecting

Exodus 34:29-35

Revealing (1-9)

Renewing (10-28)

Reflecting (29-35)

Moses descended.

Exodus 34:29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain,

Two tables of the testimony

Ten Words

Moses was radiant.

Exodus 34:29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that *the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.*

Lit: skin of his face sent out horns

Shone (qā·ān): be radiant, emit light rays

Swanson, J. (1997). In [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The prophet was incandescent. He had been in the glorious presence of God, and as a result of his exposure to divine radiation, his face was glowing.

Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). [Exodus: saved for God's glory](#) (p. 1071). Crossway Books.

Exodus 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

The people are afraid

Exodus 34:30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

The wording of the verse specifically includes Aaron along with everyone else as unable to bear coming too close to Moses, thus pointing out that the leader of the people at the time of the idolatrous rebellion described in chap. 32 now can see for himself Moses' authenticating divine glory. The people who had once dismissed Moses' leadership by saying, "As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him" (32:1) now could see for themselves that what had happened to him was that he had been with and had been accepted by the very God they needed to fear.

Stuart, D. K. (2006). [*Exodus*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 739). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Moses obeys God

Exodus 34:31–32 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai.

Exodus 34:11 Observe what I command you this day.

Moses covers his face

Exodus 34:33–35 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵*the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining.* And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The glory of God

The glory of God exposes us

Isaiah 6:1–5 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a

man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Hebrews 4:12–13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The glory of God in a mediator

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God...

The glory of God in us

We do not glorify God by looking at ourselves but by looking to him. It is so easy to get lured into a performance-based approach to the Christian life, in which we are always looking at ourselves to see how we are doing spiritually. It is also easy to waste time worrying what we look like to others. Instead, we should be looking to Jesus. Only then can we reflect his glory to others. As we look to God, we are transformed by his splendor. And then when people look at us, they see his glory shining through.

Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). [*Exodus: saved for God's glory*](#) (p. 1075). Crossway Books.

Psalm 34:5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Future glory

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Philippians 3:20–21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

The glory of the Gospel

2 Corinthians 3:7–18 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.