

Bible Study 19 – God’s mercy and glory – Exodus 34:1-35

Imagine a couple sitting in a lawyer’s office signing divorce papers. Years of broken promises have brought them here. The husband has been unfaithful, and the marriage covenant is shattered. The papers are ready; the signatures are all that remain. But as the pen hovers over the page, the wife does something shocking. She closes the folder, looks her husband in the eye, and says, ‘I’m not signing. I’m willing to start again—but this time, you need to know who I really am and what kind of marriage this will be. That’s what God did after His people failed and the old covenant was shattered. He offered the Israelites a new beginning.

The context	God sent Moses and used miracles to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. But they complained, so God provided water, manna and quail. At Mount Sinai God gave Moses the ten commandments and other laws which they were to obey. The Israelites were impatient and broke the second commandment soon after it was given and they were disciplined for their idolatry. But they repented and Moses asked for a visible demonstration of God’s presence with them.
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PART 1 Read & write each section in your own words – Exodus 34:1-35

God’s character (v.1-7)	
Avoid idolatry (v.8-17)	
Celebrate festivals (v.18-28)	
A radiant face (v.29-35)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

- 1. What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?***
- 2. What does it teach about people?***

3. Summarize a key verse in your own words.

4. In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in this passage?

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. Why did Moses wear a veil (2 Corinthians 3:7-18)?

How does the new covenant differ from the old one?

7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

God forgave the sin of the Israelites and renewed his covenant with them. He stressed that they avoid idolatry and celebrate religious festivals. The veil that Moses put over his face hid its fading radiance. The transient nature of the glory on Moses’ face corresponds to the temporary nature of the Mosaic Covenant. The new covenant established by Jesus is superior to the old one (Hebrews 8:6).

