

Exodus 33

King James Version (KJV)

33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: (God will lead the people into the Promised land – despite their great sin)

² And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: (These heathen tribes were evil, corrupted and sexually perverted. They even practiced human sacrifices of their own children unto their false gods)

(Further, they had mated with the fallen angels and produced deformed giant offspring. God will send an angel to defeat the enemy for the Israelites. All they have to do is follow him. They won't)

³ Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way. (stiffnecked = stubborn)

(God didn't want to lead them in person anymore; because He might just as well kill them for their idolatry; and for their refusal to accept Him as their God, instead of their idols)

⁴ And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments (They stopped the partying and sobered up quickly)

⁵ For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. (Straighten up, and start doing what is right; and then I'll decide what to do with you)

⁶ And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb. (These idiots are finally coming to their senses. They got rid of their idol symbols)

⁷ And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out

unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.
(They had to choose to go to the Tabernacle, because it was now outside of the camp. God is no longer dwelling in the center of the camp, after their golden calf debacle)

⁸ And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

⁹ And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. (God came to the tabernacle to be with the people)

¹⁰ And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. (It appears that they are changing their ways and returning to God. How long will it last?)

¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

¹² And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

¹³ Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. (Moses is asking God to accept the people as His people)

¹⁴ And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. (God forgave them. HE will send an angel to be with them) (My presence – a representative; not God himself)

¹⁵ And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. (But Moses is asking God Himself, to lead them. He needs God to lead them; not an angel. This is just as we need God to lead us today)

¹⁶ For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be

separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

¹⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. (God agreed to lead the people Himself, instead of sending an angel, because of Moses' prayer)

¹⁸ And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. (God will show His mercy to whoever He chooses to. Every person must earn God's blessings. There are always people in the group who don't deserve blessings)

²⁰ And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. (This is because God is in a different dimension, where there is no flesh. When we die, we enter that dimension. Then will we see God) see 1Corinthians-15:50, Ecclesiastes-12:6-7

²¹ And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: (Spiritually, the Rock we stand upon today is our Lord, Jesus Christ. HE is the Rock that cannot be shaken. HIS doctrine will stand forever)

²² And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: (God is protecting Moses)

²³ And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen. (We can only see God if we make it to the Third Age; not while we are in the flesh)