

YOU WILL NEVER SEE HIS BACK

Exo 33:21 And Jehovah said, Behold, a place by Me! And you shall stand on a rock.

Exo 33:22 And as My glory is passing it will be that I will put you in a cleft of the rock; and I will cover My hand over you during My passing.

Exo 33:23 And I will remove My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face cannot be seen.

Here in the book of Exodus, Moses was uneasy about the Israel's trip into the Promise Land. He wanted to be assured that God would indeed be with them on the journey. Moses asked for a sign of God's favor and blessing. He asked that God would show him His glory. God honored the request and told Moses that all of His goodness would pass by him and He would proclaim His name to him. He then placed Moses into a cleft of a rock and covered His hand over Him while He passed by. God said that Moses could not see his front side but He would allow him to see His back. Then it was time for the first parade in history!

Exo 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Exo 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

As God was passing by He placed His hand over the cleft in the rock where Moses was so he could not see His front or face. While God was passing by He proclaimed His name and nature to Moses. He declared He was Jehovah. This is the redemptive name of God. God is a redeemer! He then said he was El Jehovah. This means the Almighty redeemer. There is no sin, sickness, or lack too big for God to redeem someone from. Again, as God was passing by He had His hand over Moses. He could not see God but heard these words as God began to pass by: "**The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.**" At this point God had passed by Moses and then He lifted off His hand from the cleft in the rock and then Moses saw God's back and while he was looking at His back he heard the final words- "**and that will no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation**".

If you look at what God said to Moses it seems quite odd. He begins speaking of His mercy, grace, patience, goodness, and forgiveness. However, at the end He changes and speaks of His justice, wrath, and punishment for sin. It makes you say, "Which God is it? Is He a God of mercy and forgiveness or one of Judgment?" God's goodness and severity are actually both a part of God. (Romans 11:22) God's face speaks of His goodness and

God's back speaks of His judgment. Moses only heard about God's goodness while God's hand covered him in the cleft of the rock but he did not get to see it! Moses only got to see God's back! Moses is a type of the Law. The Law speaks of God's goodness but all it could show people was His holiness and judgment for sin. All the Law will show you today if you try to live under it is condemnation. Living under the Law only shows people God's back. God turning His face away and showing His back speaks of His judgment.

The Law was but a shadow of the person of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work for us on the cross. Jesus was the true sacrifice that all the sacrifices pointed to. Jesus suffered and died upon the cross and bore the judgment of God for all our sins and transgressions. God did not just sweep our sins under the rug. God did not clear the guilty. He punished the guilty (all of us) in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. God visited our sins that day at Calvary and punished Jesus. That day on the cross Jesus saw and experienced God's judgment for our sin. God turned His face away from His Son and Jesus saw God's back that day.

Mar 15:33 *And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.*

Mar 15:34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

On the cross Jesus yelled, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" God turned His face away from Jesus and turned His back to Him. **Jesus saw God's back for us so we would never have to!** My friend, today God is facing towards you because of what Jesus did for you. His face is **forever** towards you!

1Pe 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

Psa 11:7 *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*

Because of what Jesus has done for us we have been made righteous and upright in Christ. Righteousness does not come from our own works or good deeds. It comes as a gift from God's grace. This gift is what produces the good deeds in our life! You do not lose your righteousness every time you mess up. You have been given the righteousness of God which never changes. This means God face will never be turned away from you! Jesus saw God's back so you could always experience God's face. God's face beams out His glory. This glory contains His mercy, grace, patience, goodness, and forgiveness for all your sins and transgressions. This glory is directed at you! His glory actually transforms your life! Moses only got to see God's back but today you get to see God's face. You might rightly point out that the Bible teaches that no one can see God the Father's face. We can't see the Father's face but we can see Jesus. To see Jesus is to see the Father.

2Co 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

We see the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. To see Jesus is to see the Father! Look to Jesus today and what He has done for you on the cross and you will see the glory of God directed towards you personally.

Satan's is busy trying to block out the light from God's face towards us. He brings storms into our life in hopes that the clouds will block out the fact that God's face is towards us and that God's glory is shining upon us. He wants us to doubt God's love and goodness to us. He wants us to believe that God has turned His back on us and that He does not care for us any more. This is a lie. We have the authority to command these storms to cease and the clouds to move. God's face has been shining upon us the whole time. If this does not work then Satan will put up a smoke screen of deception and tries to block out our view of God's face by pointing our sins. When something bad happens Satan is there to tell us that God is visiting our sins. He tries to tell us that God is getting us back for our sins and that He has turned his face from us. This is a lie. God placed all your sins on Jesus and punished Him. Jesus died for and paid for all the sins you would ever commit in your life. God visited our sins in Jesus and the blood has removed them forever! God's face is now forever towards you! His glory is shining upon you. We must not let Satan fool us with his smoke screen. If we call the devil's bluff by confessing that we are righteous then the smoke will clear and we will see that God's face has always been shining towards us and that His mercy, grace, patience, goodness, and forgiveness are constantly coming from Him to us. Live with this indelibly marked in your mind- Jesus saw God's back for you so you will always get to see His face and you will never ever see His back! Amen.