

GLORY OF THE LORD

Lesson Aim: Ask believers to draw near the LORD to be more like Him and do all things for His glory.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the questions below where they fit your lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: After Moses chastised the Israelites for making a golden calf and worshipping it in the name of the LORD, he pleaded with the LORD to forgive Israel and restore His covenant with them. The LORD granted Moses' plea and blessed Moses for his selfless ministry that was done for His glory. "But we all, with open face beholding . . . the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor 3:18).

How do we prepare ourselves to meet with the LORD of glory? 34:1-4

Let us see how Moses prepared himself to meet with the LORD. Moses was told to prepare two stones on which He would write His commandments and be ready to bring the stone tablets with him when he ascended Mt. Sinai in the morning. He also was told to remove all men and beasts from that mountain and the region around it. When Moses made all these necessary preparations he was ready to meet the LORD. Jesus told His disciples to go to a private place to pray and meet alone with God (Mt 6:6). This is what Daniel did three times a day (Dan 6:10). Paul told the believers in the churches in Galatia that they needed to walk in the Spirit, which means we are walking in obedience to the Word of God (Gal 5:16). If we do what Jesus and Paul said, we will be ready to meet God.

How can we see the glory of the LORD? 34:5-9

Earlier Moses had been promised that he would see the glory of the LORD (33:18-23), so when Moses arrived at the place where he would meet the LORD, the LORD kept that promise (34:5-6). The sight of the LORD'S glory blessed Moses and he bowed his head to the earth and worshipped Him. Then he interceded on behalf of Israel that the LORD would forgive their sin and take them for His inheritance (34:8-9). The Lord has promised to let you behold His glory as you study the Bible. Ask the Spirit to teach you and He will bless your heart with the glory of God that it will cause you to worship the LORD (1 Cor 2:9-13; 2 Cor 3:18). Furthermore, all believers will see Him in glory and be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 Jn 3:2).

How does the Old Covenant that the LORD gave to Israel relate to us? 34:10-28

The LORD renewed His original covenant with Israel and promised to bring them to the land He had promised them. However, He gave them strict commands to keep themselves separated from the idolatrous worship of the heathen in the land (34:10-17). Furthermore, He gave them explicit instructions that they were to keep three feasts each year in His honor and acknowledge that the firstborn of man or beast belonged to Him (34:18-26). Then Moses wrote down the words of this covenant and the LORD wrote for the second time the words of the covenant and the ten commandments on the tables of stone (34:27-28). Since sinners could not keep this covenant to be saved from their sins, God sent His Son in human flesh to keep it for them and then He paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross. It is still useful to show us our sins and to make us appreciate what Jesus did for us in fulfilling the demands of the Old Covenant. The LORD promised to make a New Covenant with His people about 600 years before Christ came to live on earth (Jer 31:31-34). The LORD would write His law, not on tables of stone, but on the hearts of all people that put their faith in Jesus' death for their sins and resurrection for eternal life (1 Cor 15:3-4). Preachers and soul-winners are ministers of this New Covenant (2 Cor 3:6). We need to walk with the LORD so we can share the glory of His the New Covenant with others. It is the best news that people can hear, but it is not well

known because Satan has made Christians afraid of the unbelievers' opposition or he has distracted them from knowing the glory of Christ by the pleasures of this world.

How can our lives reflect the glory of the LORD? 34:29-35

After Moses had been with the LORD in the presence of His glory for forty days, he returned to the people of Israel, but he did not realize that the glory of the LORD was on his face. When Aaron and the others saw him, they were afraid of him because his face shone with that glory. Then Moses called them and talked with them to quiet their fears. He told them of the LORD'S renewed covenant with them. When he finished talking to them, he put a veil over his face. From that time forward Moses wore a veil except when he talked with the LORD or when he was giving the LORD'S commandments to the people. This was a glorious experience that Moses had, but every Christian has a more glorious experience when he walks with the Lord in the light of His Word. Paul compares Moses' experience with that of today's believer in his letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor 3:6-18). It should be our desire to have our lives changed into the LORD's image from glory to glory by walking in the Spirit. He directs our lives by the Scriptures that He inspired holy men to write.

How can Christians experience the glory of the LORD? 35:1 - 40:38

After Moses returned the people were given an opportunity to show their reverence for the LORD by giving a freewill offering of their possessions so the tabernacle of the LORD could be built (35:4-5). The people responded with more gifts than what were needed (36:5-7). Then special men were called by the LORD and empowered by Him to build the tabernacle according to the pattern the LORD gave to Moses in the mount (35:30 - 36:4). They also made the garments for the priests. When all was completed Moses inspected it and saw that it was done accurately. Their reverent obedience called for his blessing (39:43). Then, on the day which the LORD had appointed, the tabernacle was set up and the LORD showed His approval by covering and filling it with His glory (40:1-38; esp. 40:34-35). This showed that He was dwelling in their camp. As glorious as this was, the believer under the New Covenant has a greater experience than those who were under the Old Covenant. Instead of having the glory of the LORD dwell in the tabernacle, the New Covenant believer has the glory of the Spirit of God dwell in his body (1 Cor 6:19). When the Spirit fills and controls a Christian, he will know the will of God (Eph 5:17-18; Rom 12:1-2). When he is generous with gifts for the Lord and does the work of the Lord, he will experience the glory of the Lord.