

Part 6 – The Glory of the New Covenant and the Vail

Exodus 34

27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: *for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.*

First off, note that God told Moses to *write* His Word down. This tells us that there had to have been a written language of Israel at that time and Moses had to have known it. Of course, we know this language to be Hebrew but many so called ‘scholars’ (higher critics) question whether they had a written language back then. However, even back in Exodus 17:14, after Amalek attacked Israel (unprovokedly), God told Moses to *write* His charge to annihilate Amalek in a book for a memorial so the children of Israel would not forget to do this when fighting them. Although Amalek was a tribe descended from Esau, Israel’s distant cousins, (and they were not allowed to fight with Esau, Moab or Amon unless God approved it because they were family to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel), because of what Amalek did (they attacked Israel’s women, children, sick and elderly shortly after they came out of the Promise Land) God charged Israel to totally blot them out (kill them all off, even their women, children and animals), just as they were to do to the heathen nations in the Promise Land. That’s why God had Moses write this charge down.

But the point to our study here is to point out the fact that, God would not have told Moses to write, if there was no written language. And a note in the Companion Bible back in Exodus 17:14 explains that there have been tablets found at Lachish and Tel-el-Amarna that show that writing of high order was indeed fully developed even *before* the time of Moses. Remember too that Moses was educated in Pharaoh’s own household, so he would have been taught the discipline of reading and writing (likely yet another reason God chose him to lead Israel along with the fact that he was so humble as Num 12:3 tells us). So, while God wrote on the two tablets His Law, there were apparently other words (such as what we’ve been reading of) that Moses was also to write down. Why do we write things down? To remember them, and hopefully for many generations to come. For example, the prophet Jeremiah said: *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts* (Jer 15:17). Because God’s Words were written down, Jeremiah was able to read and understand what God commanded many years prior to his time. That’s the blessing we have today too. Writing is one of the few ways to pass knowledge and understanding on from one generation to another. That is why God had His Words written down and it’s also why He wants His words written in our heart and mind (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10 and 10:16) *so we will remember them always!* That’s why Ps 119:11 says: *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Also to note is the that, the word ‘tenor’ here means: *the mouth* (as the means of blowing) (#6310). In other words, the words Moses was to write down *came directly from God Himself* and we should *never* forget that. Why? Ps 119:105 tells us that: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* And Jesus Himself said *blessed are they that hear the word of God, and*

keep it (Luke 11:28). Why? Jesus answered this in John 15:3 when He said: *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.* God's Words are what clean our heart and mind (our spirit). But if you have not read God's Word (with understanding) ..., how can you be cleansed spiritually? Ps 119:9 asks: *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?* He then answers the question (in the same verse) by stating: *by taking heed thereto according to thy word.* How can we cleanse our 'ways' if we don't study God's Word? As Paul points out in Rom 10:17: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* We must be able to hear God's Word if we are to have faith in it and hearing God's Word comes from studying God's Word. God's Word are what gives us spiritual life. As Jesus said: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life* (John 6:63). So, it was incredibly important for Moses to write down the Words of God, just as it was for all others moved by His Holy Spirit to write His Words for *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost* (2 Peter 1:20-21). God has revealed Himself and what He requires of us through His Word. We cannot accept Jesus Christ if we don't accept God's Word. And if we don't even study God's Word, how can we know what we believe in? Those who refuse to study to show themselves approved (2 Tim 2:15) *will be deceived*, because sin is incredibly deceitful (Heb 3:13). Let's remember this as we continue to study this great book of Exodus. And remember too, this book of Exodus teaches us how to come out of spiritual bondage: that's what God's Word is for!

*31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If** ye continue in my word, **then** are ye my disciples indeed;*

*32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:31-32

Exodus 34

*28 And **he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water.** And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.*

There's two important points in this verse. Let's look at the first one first. Moses was up on that mountain for forty days and nights and did not eat nor drink any physical food or water. This is written of also in Deut 9:9 and 18 when Moses is reminding Israel of their history before his departure. How was Moses able to survive so long without even any water? Well, we get a clue from other Scriptures because Moses was not the only person who did this. Let's first look to Elijah. To 'set the stage' for this next account we're going to read, let's remember that account comes after Israel had been through a three-year drought and Elijah had just challenged all the false prophets (of Baal) to a test to see whose God was really true. He let them make an altar, put sacrifices on it and ask their gods to bring fire down from heaven... yet nothing came. All day they begged their false gods to bring fire down from heaven and yet nothing happened. Then, it was Elijah's turn. He repaired God's altar and set the sacrifice upon it. But then he also had people put a ton of water upon it. In the time of a drought this was making a very large point because water was very precious. Yet, Elijah was using up perfectly good drinking water for this

altar to prove a point that his God (YHVH) was the only true God. This showed to the all the people watching (he had called all the rulers of Israel to watch the entire thing) that Elijah had a lot of confidence in his God. Then, after a whole bunch of water had been poured upon the wood and surrounding area of the altar, Elijah then *publicly* (out loud vocally) called upon YHVH and said...

*36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, **let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.***

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

1 Kings 18:36-37

So, remember the point to this was *to turn the hearts of God's children back to Him*. God does not provide miracles for our entertainment. There's always a purpose for them. How did God answer?

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

1 Kings 18:38-40

After the people saw the fire come down from heaven, and totally consume *the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench* the people actually believed and thus obeyed Elijah when he said to arrest the (false) prophets of Baal. Elijah then killed all of them at the brook of Kishon. However, not everyone was impressed. The wife of Ahab (king of Israel) was not in attendance to this event, and this then is where we will pick up with the Scriptures...

1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

3 And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel** touched him, and said unto him, *Arise and eat.*

6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

7 And **the angel of the LORD** came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and **went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.**

1 Kings 19:1-8

The food that the ‘Angel of the Lord (YHVH)’ gave Elijah sustained him for forty days and forty nights so he could make to the mountain of God in Horeb – that’s the same mountain Moses was on – Mount Sinai. And there, God spoke to Elijah, not in the strong wind, earthquake or fire that came but *a still small voice* (1 Kings 19:12). So, like Moses, Elijah also fasted forty days and nights but *it was because he had been given divine food and water that would sustain him for this long of time*. Yet we have another example of One fasting for forty days and nights and that is, of course, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have several accounts written of his fasting while in the wilderness...

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Matt 4:1-2

1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Luke 4:1-2

Jesus was God incarnated (in the flesh) so naturally He was full of the Holy Spirit (John 1:1, 14, Col 2:9). Yet, He was still in a flesh body. He therefore was ‘hungered’ after having gone forty days and nights not eating or drinking anything. (Forty, by the way, in Biblical numerics means: *Trials, Probation and Testings*). Yet in the Gospel of Mark, we’re given insight into how Jesus did this...

12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; **and the angels ministered unto him.**

Mark 1:12-13

So, there was definitely divine help for Moses to be able to live forty days and nights without eating or drinking anything. What these three men (whom were all on the Mt. of Transfiguration, by the way – Mth 17:1-7, Mk 9:2-8, Lk 9:28-36) teach us by their experiences fasting forty days

and nights is that: we must fast from sin (in our heart and mind) and eat of the spiritual food and water that God alone gives us, IF we want to have the nourishment to make it through all of our *trials, probation and testings*. It was food from heaven that sustained them and likewise, it will be food from heaven that sustains us through our life here on earth. So, these accounts are very much symbolic of how *our soul needs* God's Word (our spiritual bread – John 6:35,48) and the Holy Spirit (our spiritual living water – John 4:10-15, 22-25, 7:38-39) *to live*. We must never forget this point for *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace* (Rom 8:6). *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness* (Rom 8:10).

Exodus 34

28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

The next point we need to be sure to glean from this verse is the fact that the words of God were written on tables of stone. Now, we've learned previously that this is symbolic of how God wants His Words written *not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart* (2 Cor 3:3). For it is written...

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; [law of ordinances]

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. [quoted from Ps 40:6-8]

*10 By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

*13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. [learn what this means in the special study: **The Footstool Factor** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/989>]*

*14 For **by one offering** he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

*15 Whereof **the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us**: for after that he had said before,*

*16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;***

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

*20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is to say, **his flesh;***

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
Heb 10:8-23

Verses 16-18 are quoted from Jeremiah 31:31-34 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Jeremiah/451] and explained again in Heb 8:8-13. Paul explains the New Covenant really well in the book of Hebrews [to study Hebrews: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Hebrews]. The book of Psalms (quoted in Hebrews 10:8-9) also clearly tells us this...

6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

*8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, **thy law is within my heart.***

Ps 40:6-8

God Almighty (YHVH) wants His Laws in our heart and mind, *forever*. Why? Because this is the only way we live forever. Notice how Hebrews 10:10 says: **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** What is Jesus' body? It is God's Word and the Holy Spirit. That's why we take Communion...

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Luke 22:19-20

Communion is the way we publicly show (remember) that we believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and it reminds us to partake of God's Word and His Holy spirit *daily*, for that's the true spiritual food we need to live forever, not just forty days and nights without flesh meat and water.

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Prov 4:20-22

This is the second point to verse 28 that we should never forget. We need God's Word (the Bible) and His Holy Spirit to be able to live forever. Our flesh body will die so our focus should be more so on nourishing our soul and cleaning it so we can obtain eternal life, through faith and believe *in Jesus Christ* for that's the only way we'll ever live forever. We also need to remember Heb 10:20, which says: *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the***

veil, that is to say, his flesh; in order to understand the remaining part of this chapter 34th chapter of Exodus, so let's keep it in mind as we move along...

Exodus 34

29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

*30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, **the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.***

Contrary to what some teach, this shining of Moses' face was *not* manifested as two horns (there are even some pictures depicting Moses this way). While the Hebrew word qaran (pronounced as: kaw-ran') means: *to push or gore or to shoot out horns* it also means, figuratively, *rays* (#7160). And it comes from #7161, which means: *a ray (of light); figuratively, power*. This can be better understood when you consider how the light comes out of something that gives light, like a candle or even a flashlight – light radiates *as a beam* of light. The Companion Bible has an excellent note on this word 'shone' and we're referred to Habakkuk 3:4 which gives us more details [to study Habakkuk 3, click here: <https://t.me/TheMinorProphets/43>]. So, Moses didn't have horns, his face was radiating light as a beam coming from his face. Why? Well, He was in the presence of God for a month, which means He was in the presence of God's glory. Remember what it was described as?

16 And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

*17 And the sight of the **glory of the LORD was like devouring fire** on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.*

Ex 24:16-17

The children of Israel literally saw God's glory and it was described to be *like devouring fire*. But this is not the only time God's glory was seen. Many years later, after Solomon had built the Temple for God, he asked that God would 'put His name' there (among many other things in the prayer). How did God respond to Solomon's prayer request?

*1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, **the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.***

2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

*3 And when all the children of Israel saw **how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house**, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

2 Chron 7:1-3

God's glory again is likened to fire and it not only consumed the sacrifices but it also filled the Temple. God had accepted Solomon's heartfelt prayer indeed. But this is still not the only place that God's glory is spoken of. Years later, after the first wave of Babylonian invasion, God appeared to the prophet (and priest) Ezekiel while he was in captivity to the Babylonians. What did he see?

1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

*4 And I looked, and, behold, **a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.***

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

Ezek 1:1-5

Ezekiel saw a flying vehicle and it moved like a whirlwind (circling like the blades of a helicopter do) and there was a brightness about it that **looked like fire**. [Study more about this with the study: **You Will See Clouds and Wheels**, part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392> and **You Will See Clouds and Wheels**, Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393>]. Just what did Ezekiel see within this flying vehicle?

25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

*26 And above the firmament that was over their heads **was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.***

27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

*28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, **so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.** And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

Ezek 1:25-28

Again, God's glory is likened to fire. It's bright and magnificent. And, as Ezekiel 1:4 and Moses' experience in Exodus 3 testifies to, God's glory is likened to *a fire infolding itself*. God is the originator of life and therefore, He is pure energy. He is self-staining and needs no one else to live. Rev 1:8 tells us that He is the *Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty*. The meaning of His name,

YHVH, (often translated as Lord) means *(the) self-Existent or Eternal* (#3068). This is why it's written that *our God is a consuming fire* (Deut 4:24, 9:3, Heb 12:29). We also get more information about God's glory from the Revelations when John was taken '*in the Spirit on the Lord's day*' (Rev 1:10) to the Heavenly dimension - he saw the following...

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

*13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto **the Son of man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

*16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and **his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength***

Rev 1:12-16

John saw the 'Son of man' (Jesus) whose countenance was '*as the sun shineth in his strength*'. Is not the sun a large ball of fire? Further, we see Jesus also likened to bright light while he was on the 'mount of transfiguration'...

2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

*3 And **his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.***

4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Mark 9:2-4

Jesus was transfigured before the very eyes of Peter, James and John. The word 'transfigured' is #3339 which means: *to transform* (literally or figuratively, "*metamorphose*"). It comes from #3445 which means: *to fashion* (figuratively). This is the same word translated as 'transformed' in Romans 12:2, which tells us to *be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*. That's certainly a Scripture we should keep in mind, for the transformation of our mind (our heart, carnal mind as well) is what the mystery of God is all about. *The mystery of God is how God's Holy Spirit transforms our wicked heart into a loving a faithful servant of Jesus Christ*. Those who have not begun to experience this transformation (which takes time) think it's foolishness but to us who believe in Jesus Christ and are being transformed (our heart is truly changing deep inside us) we realize it is the power of God's Holy Spirit working within us (1 Cor 1:18-31).

So, again: Moses didn't have horns. His face was radiating light as a beam coming from his face simply because He had been in the presence of God for a month. *God is light, and in him is no*

darkness at all (1 John 1:5). However, Moses did not realize his face was shining. Apparently, he forgot to take his mirror up the mountain (that's a joke). But he figured it out pretty quickly when everyone back at the camp was afraid when he tried to talk to them.

Exodus 34

31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

Moses had to call the elders to come near and talk to him, for even his own brother was afraid of him. It's possible they thought Moses was some sort of ghost or something, due to the bright light radiating out of his face. But when Moses called out and told them it was he, and not to be afraid, they came to him.

Exodus 34

32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

*33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, **he put a vail on his face.***

Only after Aaron and the other elders of Israel came close to Moses did the rest of the children of Israel come close to hear what he had to say. But it wasn't that they suddenly became 'brave hearts' or something; Moses had to put a vail over his face in order for them to be able to handle being around for him. The book of John gives us insight into why Israel had such a hard time handling Moses's face being so bright...

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:19-21

Those who's heart is not clean have a hard time being in the presence of God. This is why cleaning our heart must be done over time. We cannot handle the light of God's Word in our heart all at once. Over time, as we study God's Word, His Holy Spirit helps to convict our wicked heart of the sin within it (Heb 4:12). Eph 5:13 also tells us that *all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light*. Prov 6:23 further tells us that, *the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life*. Moses had been given the Law of God and his countenance radiated of the Light that comes from God Almighty. And, since Jesus Christ *was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world*, we too are supposed to be a reflection of His Light...

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matt 5:14-16

Remember that the point for us reflecting God's light (through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us) is for God Almighty (YHVH) to be glorified, not so that we get any glory. Jesus added onto this in the book of Luke...

33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Luke 11:33-36

Prov 20:27 also says that: *the spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.* It is through our eyes that our spirit shines through. When our heart is crooked (has sin in it) then our eyes reflect that. Have you ever noticed some people's eyes seem to be a bit cloudy? Perhaps you've even seen some that have very large pupils? There is not much light in those souls and you should pray for a lot of discernment from the Holy Spirit on how to communicate with them, if at all. Many times, a person who is possessed or strongly influenced by evil spirits will have cloudy eyes or a very large pupil (although drugs can do that too) and we need God's guidance and protection in those situations. It is not something to be scared of but, we must learn to use great spiritual caution who we entertain in conversations.

1 Cor 15:33 warns us that *evil communications corrupt good manners.* 'Communications' here means: *companionship* ("homily"), i.e. (by implication) *intercourse* (#3657). It comes from #3658, which means: *association together*, i.e. *a multitude*. So, who you associate with (companionship with) very much has an impact on you, for the good or the bad. We have a saying today that really expresses this warning well: 'birds of a feather flock together'. It means that *we become like the people we hang out with*. That's why we should spend time studying and thinking about God's Word, *so we can learn to be like Him, not the world*. Remember the admonition in Rom 12:2: *Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Thus, as we study God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to shine brighter in our heart, this too will reflect in our eyes and the cloudiness goes away, leaving our eyes nearly sparkling at times. Therefore, the eyes of a person (among other things) are a good tool to use for discernment.

Exodus 34

34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

God's glory (His Light) was shining out of Moses. Moses was simply reflecting God's Light (glory). What these ending verses to the chapter reveal to us is that: the children of Israel simply could not handle God's glory, which is His Light. Remember: *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved* (John 3:20). This is also why people do not accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and King for, as Jesus explained of Himself: *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life* (John 8:12). So, Moses put the vail on to keep Israel from seeing God's full glory because they were too scare of it, which means... they couldn't face themselves – they didn't want to see their sins. It's not easy to be in God's presence; you must be willing to be *humble* and *honest* for His very nature reveals who we truly are. And, if you're not willing to humble yourself and repent (time and time again) then you will have trouble with getting close to God Almighty. Truly, the only way we can get close to God in this flesh body is through Jesus Christ. It'll be that way even in the Millennium (Ezek 44) and stay that way till the eternity (Rev 22:4). Being close to God means we must be spiritually cleansed... something we're supposed to be working on while here on earth in a flesh body. Herein is the key to the spiritual application of the vail covering Moses' face. The vail also symbolizes *spiritual blindness* (sin), which is what separates us from God. Paul explains this in his second letter to the Corinthians...

7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:
2 Cor 3:7

Paul refers to the law God gave Moses to give Israel as the '*ministration of death*'. Why was it death? Because it was only '*written and engraven in stones*' - it wasn't written *in their heart* (Ps 51:6). Paul explains this well in Romans 7. The law only condemns us for our sins; it does not save us from our sins. While that does not make the law bad (Rom 7:7) it simply means the law is inadequate to save God's children, as the Scriptures in the Bible clearly tell us. So, although Moses gave Israel God's Law, it didn't save them because they didn't 'take it to heart'. Yet still, the giving of the Law was still a 'glorious' ministry. Why? Because the Law is light. *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life* (Prov 6:23). *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path* (Ps 119:105). And God Himself gave the Law to Moses and that's what made Moses's countenance shine. However, even though Moses gave the Law to the children of Israel, that 'glory' was not shared with them. Why? Because, the same Light that shined in Moses' soul (and heart) did not shine through to Israel because *they didn't accept it – they didn't allow it to change their heart*. Why? They were afraid of it; they did not want to face their sins. Twice they asked **not** to see God's glory. First at

the Mount Sinai when God gave the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:19) and then again in the account we've been reading of, here in Ex 34. Paul goes on to explain why the ministration of Jesus Christ (through His Holy Spirit) is so much more glorious than the giving of the Law was...

8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

2 Cor 3:8-11

Indeed, the 'ministration of the spirit' is much more glorious than the giving of the Law because *the Holy Spirit is what helps us to understand and obey God's Laws from our heart*. God's Holy Spirit helps us to truly 'write' His Laws in our heart and in our mind. That's why it's so much more of a glorious ministration (service, aid to us, #1248). But that doesn't take away from the 'glory' of the Law because, again, the Law is Light (Prov 6:23, Ps 119:105). But having the Law of God 'written in our hearts' is much more glorious than simply reading it because, without truly having God's Word in our heart... *we don't obey it*. And without actually obeying God's Law from our heart, it does us no good. We are still stuck in our sins, which leads us to spiritual death. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 6:23). Let's continue to look at 2 Corinthians 3 where Paul will continue on to explain the spiritual meaning of the vail that was upon Moses' face...

12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

2 Cor 3:12-13

Paul is telling us that he is trying to explain how the God's Laws are to be kept from our heart. He is not mincing words; Paul is trying to be as clear and blunt as he possibly can and uses the vail as an analogy to say that Moses didn't let all the glory of the Law shine through his face because Israel didn't want to see it. But the Christians in Corinth were ready for the truth because they had already accepted Jesus Christ. So, Paul is simply saying he wasn't trying to cover any aspect of the teaching of the Law; he was trying to help them understand how the law should be kept *from our heart*. He will now go on to explain why the giving of the Law (by Moses) did them, who lived in that day, no good...

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

2 Cor 3:14-16

The Israelites who were freed from bondage in Egypt were still *enslaved in their heart*. Though they had been set at liberty in the flesh, *they still wanted to be slaves to sin in their heart*. This is why Paul said that, even in his day there were many people who had a ‘vail’ (covering) on their heart, *which is what blinded their mind to the truth*. We have a vail upon our heart when we keep a stubborn and rebellious heart (1 Sam 15:23). As God said to Israel in Isa 1:19-20: *If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it*. He also said in Ezek 12:2: *Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house*. Although they had physical eyes and ears, their spiritual eyes and ears were not able to see nor hear. The spiritual eyes and ears are thus likened to our heart and mind, for when we don’t receive truth into our heart (our carnal mind where our emotions, intentions and desires are) and mind (thought process) then we are indeed blind to the truth. This is why Paul said in the next chapter to the Corinthians...

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2 Cor 4:3-4

What blinds our mind (carnal heart) to the Light? Paul answers this in Heb 3:13 when he admonishes us to *exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness of sin***. Being deceived into sinning (keeping sin in our heart) is what hardens our heart. When we don’t want to face our sinful nature (carnal mind, our heart) then we are blind to our own sins. This is what leads to self-righteousness and hypocrisy (Lk 12:1). But, if we want to be truly free (spiritually free inside our heart) from the carnal nature (carnal mind, Rom 8:7, our heart) that blinds us (keeps us enslaved to sin) then we must allow the Holy Spirit of God *into our heart* to help us clean out the sin. Repentance is thus the first step circumcising our heart (Deut 10:16, 30:6, Jer 4:4) and removing the blinders of that ‘vail’ that keeps us from seeing truth. It is **the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ** (Col 2:11). This then is why Paul goes on to say to the Corinthians...

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass 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 3:7-18

When we allow (invite) the Holy Spirit into our heart, by accepting Jesus Christ’s death and repenting of the sins we do see, then we begin to experience the spiritual freedom in our heart that comes with circumcising our stubborn and rebellious heart and allowing truth into our ‘inward parts’ (Ps 51:6). When the Holy Spirit dwells in our heart, He frees us from our sins by

showing us our sins and helping us to clean them out (although we must strive daily to do our part to cut them off, clean them out and keep them out). In short, we must be willing to cooperate with the Holy Spirit of God. We must sincerely try to hear His Voice (Holy Spirit) and obey Him (the guiding of His Holy Spirit) when He is teaching us to obey His Law in our heart. We also must study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) to learn what is right versus wrong. Jesus said to come to Him and He will give us spiritual rest (Mth 11:28). He then explains what this is: taking His yoke upon us (Mth 11:29). This means, allowing His Holy Spirit in our heart to help us learn how to keep His Laws in our heart. But, in order to take His yoke (Holy Spirit) upon us, we must also learn of Him (Mth 11:30) which means studying His Word. And when we do learn of Him, we'll find rest for our souls by learning to truly kick the sin out of our heart and, in doing so, we'll find true peace of mind.

But we cannot harden our heart to the Holy Spirit or else we put that cover (vail) back upon our heart and it's harder to get off each time we harden our heart. The more we harden our heart, the thicker it becomes and, while it's not impossible to get off (the rebellious heart), it's a lot harder the longer we harden our heart. That's why Jesus told us *each day* we must take up our cross [<https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/11>] to deny our self (crucify our carnal nature) and follow Him (the Word of God) (Lk 9:23). That's also why Paul said that he 'died daily' (1 Cor 15:31). We must strive to kill our carnal nature *each and every day* we're in a flesh body because it is the carnal nature (mind, heart) in us that blinds us to the truth and *keeps us separated from communicating with our Heavenly Father*. And it is only through being spiritually connected to God (through Jesus Christ) that we can obtain eternal life...

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

John 14:6-7

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:1-6

AMEN.