

The Shining Face of Moses

Purpose: to encourage believers to respect godly leaders and to show that even though the old covenant was glorious, the new covenant is even better.

Today I want to look at another one of those amazing things that happened in the wilderness and try to answer the question: Why?

Here is a bit of a review:

- Moses goes up the mountain to receive the 10 commandments from God
- When he returns after 40 days, the children of Israel are worshipping a golden calf!
- Moses intercedes on their behalf and has an amazing encounter, when God shows him part of his glory.
- Moses continues with God for 40 days and nights and receives the 10 commandments and laws once again.
- When he returns this time, something is different:

What happened?

Exo 34:29 - Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

Exo 34:30 - So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

Exo 34:31 - Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them.

Exo 34:32 - Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

Exo 34:33 - And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.

Exo 34:34 - But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded.

Exo 34:35 - And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone!

What was his face actually like?

- Hebrew “qaran” A primitive root; to *push* or *gore*; used only as denominative from [H7161](#), to *shoot out horns*; figuratively *rays*: - have horns, shine.
- This was not just a good sun-tan! Rays of light came from his face. He was reflecting the glory of God!
- Paul described this as “...the glory of his countenance...”
- This is similar to the way that the moon reflects the light of the sun.

- This “glory” was the result of his request: “Show me your glory”, and was a reflection of the glory of God.
- When we draw near to God, His glory is seen in us!

Why did this happen?

To exalt the leadership of Moses:

- This was further evidence that God spoke through Moses. This will be significant later on when some challenge Moses’ leadership.
- This showed that Moses was a man of character and of God’s favour.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

- This made them fear Moses, which would encourage them to listen to him.
- Once again, God gave a sign to exalt His word and encourage His people to obey.

To compare the glory of the old covenant to the new covenant

2Co 3:7 - But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away,

2Co 3:8 - how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

2Co 3:9 - For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

2Co 3:10 - For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

2Co 3:11 - For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious.

The old covenant is called the ministry of death and the ministry of condemnation.

Why?

- Because the law (old covenant) makes us aware of our sinfulness and condemns us.

Romans 7:7-11 (New Living Translation)

Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, “You must not covet.” But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.

The new covenant is called the ministry of the Spirit and the ministry of righteousness.

Why?

- Because the law of the Spirit frees me from my sin and makes me righteous before God!

Rom 8:1 - *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Rom 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Rom 8:3 - For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:4 - that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Rom 8:5 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 - For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 - Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 - So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Rom 8:10 - And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

What is God saying to us?

1. Moses' shining face helped them to know that God was with this godly man and highlighted the things that he would teach them.
 - a. Be sure to respect godly leaders and listen to the word that they are teaching
2. The shining face of Moses was through the old covenant. We are not under the ministry of death or condemnation. We are under the ministry of the Spirit and the ministry of righteousness!
 - a. We are no longer condemned
 - b. The righteous requirement of the law can be fulfilled in us
 - c. One day the Holy Spirit will raise our mortal bodies to glory!
 - d. When we draw near to God, His glory will be seen in us!