

Exegetical Notes, Exodus 34:29-35

“He Shone”

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Exodus 34:29-35

Verse 29

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with YHWH.

- Moses' second encounter with God on Mount Sinai was different from the first in that Moses was physically altered by it. His face shone after he was with God on the mountain the second time.
- Undoubtedly, this change was caused by the experience Moses had and which is described in Exodus 34:4-7. Moses was permitted to see the “glory” of the Lord and this sight altered him forever.

Verse 30

When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

- While Moses was unaware of this change, others could clearly see it and it made them afraid to approach him.

Verse 31-32

But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands YHWH had given him on Mount Sinai.

- Despite their fear, the leaders of the community responded to Moses' summons and he delivered all the stipulations of the covenant as they had been given to him by God.

Verse 33-35

When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered YHWH's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what

he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with YHWH.

- Because Israel was disturbed by and afraid of Moses' glowing face, a symbol of the glory of YHWH, Moses chose to cover his face except when he was in the presence of God or speaking to the people for God.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *He Shone*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)