

POWER HOUR

6/14/2026

Lesson Text:
Exodus 34:1-14

Related Scriptures:
Exodus 32:1-6, 15-35;
Nehemiah 9:1-25;
Deuteronomy 5:1-10; 7:1-11 &
Judges 1:27-2:5

“GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. Exodus 34:6 NLT

Time: about 1445 B.C.

Place: Mount Sinai

Exodus 34:1-14 NLT

¹ Then the Lord told Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones. I will write on them the same words that were on the tablets you smashed. ² Be ready in the morning to climb up Mount Sinai and present yourself to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one else may come with you. In fact, no one is to appear anywhere on the mountain. Do not even let the flocks or herds graze near the mountain.” ⁴ So Moses chiseled out two tablets of stone like the first ones. Early in the morning he climbed Mount Sinai as the Lord had commanded him, and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. ⁵ Then the Lord came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶ The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.” ⁸ Moses immediately threw himself to the ground and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, “O Lord, if it is true that I have found favor with you, then please travel with us. Yes, this is a stubborn and rebellious people, but please

forgive our iniquity and our sins. Claim us as your own special possession.”

¹⁰ The Lord replied, “Listen, I am making a covenant with you in the presence of all your people. I will perform miracles that have never been performed anywhere in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people around you will see the power of the Lord—the awesome power I will display for you. ¹¹ But listen carefully to everything I command you today. Then I will go ahead of you and drive out the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. ¹² “Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped. ¹³ Instead, you must break down their pagan altars, smash their sacred pillars, and cut down their Asherah poles. ¹⁴ You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

INTRODUCTION

While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the commandments of God, the Israelites were rebelling against God. Even though they had heard God's voice speaking the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-21), they quickly broke His commandments by creating an idol to worship. Instead of destroying the entire nation, God revealed His character of perfect justice and perfect mercy by showing Moses His glory and making a covenant with His people.

Additional Scripture Readings

God's Covenant with Israel. Deuteronomy 5:1-10.

Why God Chose Israel. Deuteronomy 7:1-11.

Israel's Failure to Take the Promised Land. Judges 1:27—2:5.

God's Goodness to an Unfaithful People. Nehemiah 9:1-25.

God's Slow but Overpowering Anger. Nahum 1:2-8.

How God Responds to Repentance. Jonah 3:6—4:2.

God Reveals His Character to Moses. Exodus 34:1-14.

1. The mercy of God (Exodus 34:1-3). The Israelites deserved God's wrath. While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving words from God to teach the people how to live before the holy God, the Israelites were already rejecting God. What is

incredible is not that God would judge this rebellious people but that He would show mercy. He listened to Moses' intercession (33:12-23) and invited Moses back on the mountain to renew the covenant. Even in Israel's earliest days, when His people rebelled, God was faithful and merciful.

2. The name of God (Exodus 34:4-7). Moses not only received God's commandments again but also witnessed God's glory. He manifested His character to Moses, and Moses wrote down His words for us so that we too might know who God is. Our God is the great I AM. He is the only God, and He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loving, and faithful. At the same time, He is holy and will not forgive those who continue to rebel against Him in sin. These aspects of His character are not contradictory. God's mercy is not a new development in the New Testament. His love and mercy are clear in this passage and throughout the Old Testament. Conversely, God's judgment on the guilty is just as clear throughout the New Testament.

3. The covenant of God (Exodus 34:8-14). Moses responded to God's revelation of His character in the same way we ought to respond—he worshipped. But he went further than that and asked for God's mercy. Our loving God responded to Moses by strengthening His covenant with His people. God promised that He would do wonders among the Israelites and that He would be with them in the conquest. They, however, needed to obey Him and not profane His name. The Israelites failed to follow God, yet God showed them mercy. He proclaimed His name and His glory before Moses. He forgave His people by not wiping out the entire nation, yet He also judged those who had sinned. He is a God of perfect justice and perfect mercy.

PRACTICAL POINTS

God gives second chances, even though sinners die in His presence apart from His mercy (Exodus 34:1-3).

A true servant of God follows all His instructions precisely (Exodus 34:4 & Hebrews 3:5).

To imitate God's character, we must prioritize compassion over judgment (Exodus 34:5-7).

Our prayers should stem from worship and be rooted in God's promises (vss. 8-9). We have no power in ourselves to gain victory over spiritual enemies; God alone defeats them on our behalf (vss. 10-11).

God expects His people to be fully committed to Him, actively ridding themselves of anything that competes for our worship (vss. 12-14).

CONCLUSION

The Israelites failed to follow God, yet God showed them mercy. He proclaimed His name and His glory before Moses. He forgave His people by not wiping out the entire nation, yet He also judged those who had sinned. He is a God of perfect justice and perfect mercy. The Israelites followed God when it was easy, yet they were quick to forget His character in difficult circumstances. They were looking after themselves instead of recognizing God's perfect plan for them. Do you face a similar temptation? It can be as subtle as ignoring God's desire for us to be generous out of a fear He will not provide, or as blatant as walking in continual sin because we enjoy it or it makes us comfortable. Ask God to remind you of His patience and His judgment and to uncover these temptations from your heart. As long as we are alive, it is not too late to submit to Him!

Next week, we will read of God's faithfulness to the Israelites as He brought them to the land that He had promised to the patriarchs and their children.

“God's Mercy in History” Joshua 24:2-13.

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