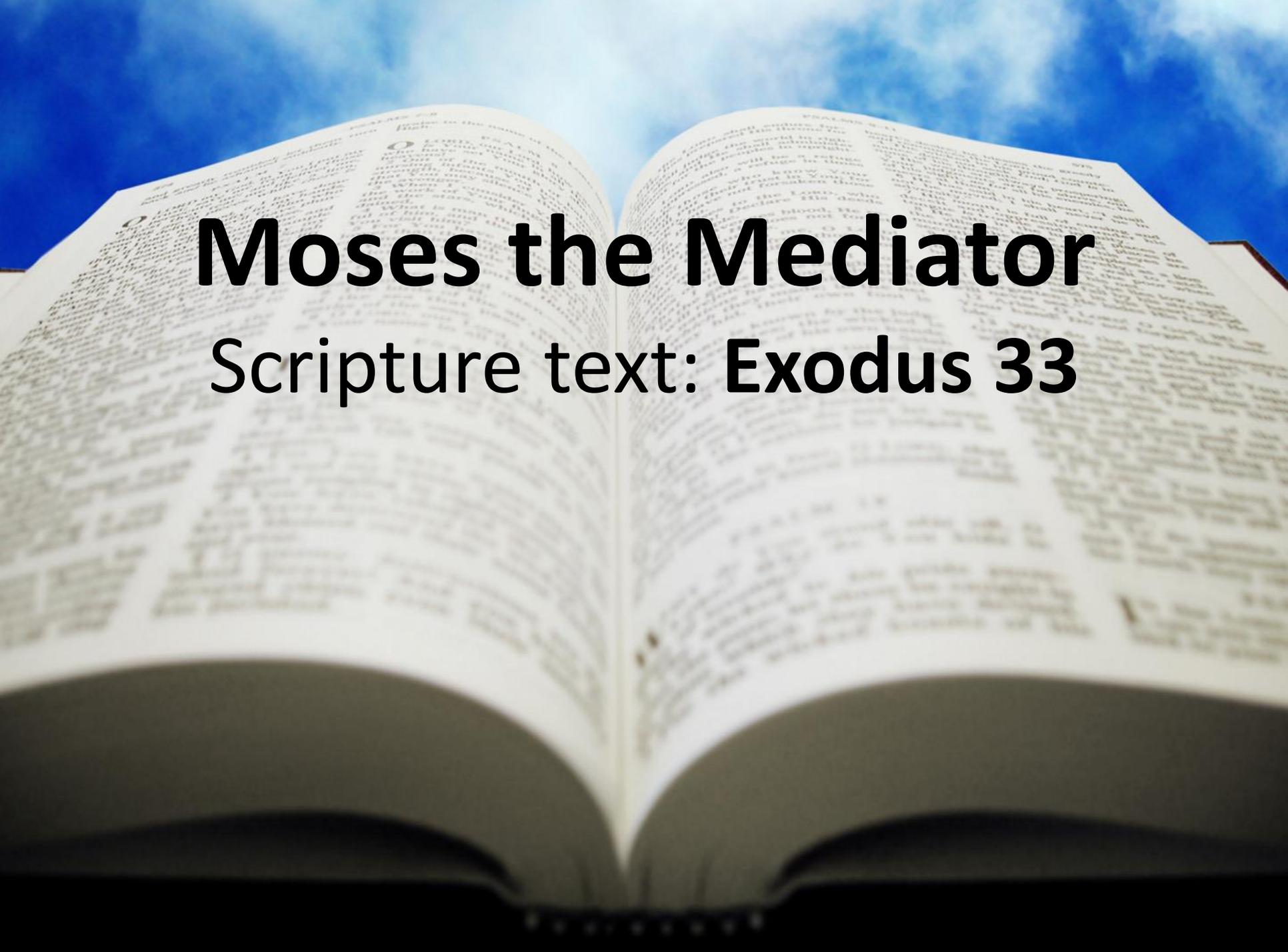


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Moses the Mediator

Scripture text: Exodus 33

Exodus 33:1-4 The LORD said to Moses, "Depart; go up from here, **you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt**, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.' **I will send an angel before you**, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." **When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.**

Exodus 33:5-6 For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. **So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.**'" Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

Psalm 78:8 and that **they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

Hosea 7:13-15 Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for **they have rebelled against me!** I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. **They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds;** for grain and wine they gash themselves; **they rebel against me.** Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me.

Jonah 3:5-6 And the people of Nineveh believed God. **They called for a fast and put on sackcloth,** from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the **king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.**

The humiliation of the people (Exodus 33:1–6)

God then told Moses that he and the people should go on toward the Promised Land. This was in response to Moses' prayer (Ex 32:13). By an angel God would defeat their enemies and they would proceed to the land flowing with milk and honey. The people were distressed that God had said, I will not go with you. **They were promised His protection and guidance by an angel, but not His personal presence.** Otherwise, God said, **He would be inclined to destroy them.** However, based on Moses' prayer in Ex. 33:12–16, God did agree to go with them (v. 17). **In remorse the people did not wear their ornaments (rings, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, etc.).**

As intercessor, Moses stood between the nation and their past sins. **As mediator, he stood between the nation and their future blessings.** Moses was not content just to have the nation forgiven; **he wanted to be sure that God would go with them** as they continued their march to the Promised Land. When the people heard that God would not go with them, **they humbled themselves and mourned.** It is one thing to mourn because of God's discipline of our sins and quite something else **to mourn because of God's distance resulting from our pride.** "An afflicted people is an object of grace," wrote C. H. Macintosh, "but a stiff-necked people must be humbled."

Exodus 33:7-11 Now Moses used to take the tent and **pitch it outside the camp**, far off from the camp, and he called it the **tent of meeting**. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was **outside the camp**. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. **Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend**. When Moses turned again into the camp, **his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent**.

The tent described in vv. 7–11 is not the tabernacle, for the tabernacle had not yet been constructed.

This was the tent where God met with Moses and shared His plans with him (Num. 12:6–8; Deut. 34:10). As a symbolic gesture to show Israel how wicked they had been, **Moses moved the tent outside the camp.** Some of the people went out to meet with God while others merely watched as Moses went out. **Joshua was one who stayed with Moses and kept vigil at the tent of meeting.**

“Every one of us is as close to God as he has chosen to be,” said J. Oswald Sanders; and this is true.

Numbers 12:5-9 And the LORD came down in a **pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent** and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. And he said, "**Hear my words:** If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. **Not so with my servant Moses.** He is faithful in all my house. **With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly,** and not in riddles, and **he beholds the form of the LORD.** Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" And **the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.**

Numbers 12:10-14 When the cloud removed from over the tent, **behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow.** And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb." And **Moses cried to the LORD, "O God, please heal her--please."** But the LORD said to Moses, "**If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.**"

Mark 4:9-13 And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "**To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.**" And he said to them, "**Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?**"

Deuteronomy 34:9-12 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel **like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face**, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror **that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.**

Moses asked for God's grace to bless the people and God's presence to go with the people, **and the Lord granted his request.** After all, it was the glorious presence of God **that distinguished Israel from all the other nations.** Other nations had laws, priests, and sacrifices. **Only Israel had the presence of God among them.**

Imagine what that would have looked like.

To see a tent with a cloud or a pillar of fire?





Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Ephesians 5:3-8 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness **must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, **which are out of place,** but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.** Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

The renewal of the Covenant by God

The privileged position of Moses

Moses was intimate with God in the tent he erected outside the camp. There people could go to inquire of the Lord, **apparently for spiritual guidance**. This tent, though it was not the tabernacle, was also called the tent of meeting. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud hovered at its entrance. The size and contents of this tent are not known, **but it reminded the people that their sin was an alienating force in their relationship with God**. They could worship God but from a distance; **He was outside their community**.

Exodus 33:7-10 Now Moses used to **take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp**, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was **outside the camp**. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when **all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door**.

Moses also evidenced an **intimate fellowship with God through His spiritual concerns.**

These verses may be divided into three sections each introduced by the words Moses said (vv. 12, 15, 18). Moses first **wanted to know the Lord's intentions** for His people. God had told Moses to lead the people, but without God's presence Moses was concerned. God knew Moses by name, that is, **Moses belonged to God**. So Moses wanted to continue to learn God's ways and enjoy God's grace (favor). Moses **interceded on behalf of the nation by reminding God that they were His people** (cf. vv. 13, 16; 32:11). **In response the Lord reversed His threat not to go with them** (cf. 33:3, 5) and to give them rest (v. 14).

Matthew 1:21-25 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people from their sins.**" All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 28:16-20 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And **behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

Hebrews 13:3-8 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, **since you also are in the body**. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, **for God will judge** the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" So we can confidently say, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?**" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Isaiah 63:8-11 For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And **he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.** Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

Moses' second request was for confirmation that the Lord would indeed go with His people (vv. 15–17).

Absence of God's presence with them in their journey to the Promised Land **would pose serious problems for their and God's reputations.** So again God agreed to Moses' request, assuring Moses that He was pleased with him (v. 17; cf. v. 16).

Exodus 33:16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? **Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or **what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "**I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**" Therefore go out from their midst, and **be separate from them**, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and **I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."**

2 Samuel 7:22-25 Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And **who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem** to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, **whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?** And you established for yourself your people Israel **to be your people forever.** And you, O LORD, **became their God.** And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken.

Exodus 33:18-23 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "**I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.'** And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "**you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.**" And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Third, Moses asked to see the glory of God (v. 18). This request was fulfilled as God allowed Moses to have a deeper vision of His glory (33:19–23).

Proclaiming God's name (v. 19, **His revealed character**) to Moses, God allowed him to see His goodness (v. 19) and His back, but not His face.

This passage demonstrates that while people truly can know God, they can never know Him exhaustively.

1Timothy 6:12-16 Fight the good fight of the faith.

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **I charge you in the presence of God**, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time--he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, **who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.** To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Revelation 1:12-18 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands **one like a son of man**, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and **his face was like the sun shining in full strength**. When I saw him, **I fell at his feet as though dead**. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "**Fear not**, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.