

A Clearer Vision

Description

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Exodus 34:1-14

Moses would meet God in a tent outside Israel's camp. Here "The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11a). Yet, Moses wanted more. Moses wanted to see God's glory. There was one problem. God explained, "You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live" (v. 20).

God safely granted Moses' request from the cleft of a rock. Moses caught a glimpse of God from behind. Later, God revealed insight into His nature, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God," adding "Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished" (34:6, 7). It may be difficult for us to reconcile a God who is "slow to anger" with One who would allow the inevitable suffering following sin to fall on "the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

God is compassionate and gracious, but He will not become complicit in our sin. No generation is so far from His holiness that it cannot be redeemed by His love.

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