

- I think this text is going to show us that: **MPS** You can trust that God is able and willing to save you.
 - o And I'm going to show you three reasons you can trust that God is able and willing to save you.

- Context:
 - o Moses writing to remind Israel of the most salvific event in the Old Testament.
 - o This interesting junction where 32 and 33 have happened.
 - Moses has attempted to make atonement for the people
 - He has pleaded for the presence of God
 - Now in chapter 34 we are going to see if this works out for Moses, if this works out for Israel, and how God is going to make a way for them.

- Observation
 - o V.1-3 We see new tablets cut for a reestablishment of the covenant. God reminds Moses that he broke the tablets. Moses needed to be ready to go up the mountain, and everything around the mountain needed to be ready as well—clean and holy. Even the animals needed to be ready.
 - o V.4 We see direct obedience from Moses.
 - o V.5 God's presence falls on Sinai again. Moses and all the people the base of the mountain are well aware of what happened last time God's presence was on the mountain in the last ceremony they messed up.
 - o V.6-7 These are two of the most important verses in Exodus and in the Old Testament. It's here that God declares his nature.
 - Yahweh, Yahweh – Covenant making and covenant keeping.
 - Merciful or Compassionate – deeply emotional word used to convey the bond between a parent and a child. Emotional and active reality.
 - Gracious – delight, favor, charm, beauty. Act of generous favor.
 - Slow to anger – long of nose (long time before his nose gets hot)
 - Steadfast love – unconditional love, generosity, and enduring commitment.
 - Faithfulness
 - o These verses are the verses that are quoted when prophets remind Israel who God is. There are lots of Old Testament examples, but two stand out.
 - Joel 2:13
 - He is this way toward his people
 - Jonah 4:2
 - He is this way to those who are not his people
 - o V.7 Notice the tension here. He will be this way to thousands of generations, but he will also punish sin. God is steadfast in his love and he is also just.
 - There is a pointed contrast to the number of generations to which he will be faithful and the generations which he will punish.
 - This does not mean that the next generation is doomed because of their parent's sin.
 - It does mean that if the next generation walks in the way of their sinful parents, punishment will follow.

- V.8-9 Moses bows in worship, which is a proper response to the revelation of God and his nature. Again, Moses asks for the presence of God to go with this sinful people. He asks for continued forgiveness. And he asks for an act of grace for Israel to be taken as God's inheritance.
 - Why? Because Moses is aware of who God is. He understands who it is that he worships.
- This brings us to our first reason you can trust that God is able and willing to save you

1. God is faithful to his nature

- **Interpretation**

- God as God cannot be anything other than he is. His compassion, mercy, slow anger, steadfast love, and faithfulness are characteristics that belong to him and emanate from him.
- This has been part of the drama of these three chapters is the fact that Moses has come to terms with God in and of himself. This God, this Yahweh, is a God who is consistent and cannot be anything other than he is. This reality should have given Israel much hope and trust that he not only is able (they know that from what they have seen) but that he is also willing (consistent with his nature) to forgive their sin and continue in a salvific relationship with them.
- And this should cause you in this room to trust that God is able and willing to save you.
- As we respond to the fact that God is faithful we must:
 - Remember God's work in the past
 - If it is the case that you are here this morning and sin is causing you to turn to other idols, run from the presence of God, or doubt the fact that God loves you, remember God's work in the past.
 - This is what the authors of Scripture do:
 - Joel 2:13
 - Jonah 4:2
 - What do you know to be true about what God is like?
 - How have you seen him work?
 - Reflect on God's work in the present
 - What is God doing in your life right now?
 - Do you trust that the same God who has worked in the past is actively working in you right now?
 - The work of God causes us to know the nature of God.
 - Do you believe that God is compassionate with you, gracious, slow to anger, steadfast in his love?
 - Is the God worship and confess on Sunday the same God you trust on Monday through Friday?
 - Do you believe he is gracious here this morning but somehow is less than that to you in your work place?
 - Do you believe that has been compassionate with you and your sin in the past but he somehow is going to be different this time?

- Have you seen him be steadfast in loving you in the past but somehow think he is subject to change tomorrow?
 - That's not what God is like. And if God is faithful to his nature then you can believe and trust that the same God who saved you is the very same God who is saving you today.
 - Rely on God's work in the future.
 - With that confidence we are able to look toward the days ahead with great trust.
 - God told Moses what he was like and Moses responded in worship, looking forward to the forgiveness he would provide, the presence he would provide, and the work he would do making them his inheritance.
 - So, as you look to the days ahead, what is it that you are afraid of?
 - Do you think the God who was and is will somehow be something other than the God who will always be?
 - God is faithful to his nature.
- That brings us to verses 10-28.
 - V.10. God reestablishes the covenant. Notice what God says here: He will do amazing things that have not yet been done. After all of Israel's sin, God will remain faithful to do even greater things. Greater than the Exodus. Greater than the Red Sea. Greater than Mount Sinai. A greater thing is coming for them. Moreover, through what God is doing with Israel, all the people will see the work of the LORD. We'll come back to this idea.
 - V.11-16 God tells them what he will do for them as they go to the promised land. He gives a stern warning for them not to intermarry and take on false idols.
 - V.17 This is an interesting verse because it comes with no commentary. It is certainly a natural Segway between 16 and 18. But this is the reason Israel is in their current situation. God simply tells them not to do that again.
 - V18-20 This is a recapitulation of the festival laws.
 - V21-24 Emphasis on rest in the land with the protection God will provide.
 - V25-26 Religious ceremonial laws.
 - V27-28 We see the covenant is reestablished. Ultimately the Ten Commandments are given again as a summation of the law with other laws interspersed in this particular section. But notice that Moses is there 40 days and 40 nights. A time of testing. Israel failed the first test. Will they be successful the second time? We see that Moses is completely devoted to this God on behalf of this people.
- This leads us to our second reason we can trust that God is able and willing to save
 - **2. Your faithfulness is a sign of God's faithfulness**
 - **Interpretation:**
 - Because God is consistent to his nature, he is able and willing to reestablish his covenant with Israel.

- Notice, however, the flow of this passage. God just told Moses what type of God he is. However, something is still expected and required of Israel.
- God did not go through all this simply to drop the requirements of holiness because Israel knew they messed up and couldn't do it.
- God expected holiness. And as we have looked at, the law was never given so that anyone in Israel could earn their salvation or obtain favor with God. The law was given to show how holy God is and how sinful they were and how much they needed help. So any time someone in Israel found themselves walking in accordance with God's law, it was because he was being faithful to them. Their holiness was an outpouring of his presence among them. Their faithfulness was a sign of his faithfulness.
- In a similar way, the same is true of us today. Any time you find yourself being faithful to God in the ways that you think, act, feel, etc., that is a sign and seal of God being faithful to you. That is a sign of God at work in your life. It should be the case that if God has saved you, there should be evidence of the Spirit's work in your life. Any time you express the fruit of the Spirit, choose good, share the gospel, etc., that should let you know that you can trust God because he is at work in you.
- There is a delicate balance between the call to work out your salvation with fear and trembling and understanding that, at the same time, God is faithful to work out salvation within you. As you continue to walk in holiness, you have a greater understanding of God's work in your life, which, in turn, causes you to trust God and live in worshipful obedience to him.
- In order to understand our faithfulness and God's faithfulness, you must:
 - Examine your life
 - Moses had a lot of time on the mountain to reflect on his life, the life of the people of Israel, and he came to the conclusion that they were a stiff-necked people.
 - However, just because the people are stiff-necked does not mean that Moses, and more importantly God, don't expect them to walk in holiness.
 - You and I are stiff-necked. We are stubborn, hardheaded, prone to sin and prone to wonder. And unfortunately, we don't often live up to our confession of faith.
 - Does your life reflect the God you worship?
 - Compassion?
 - Husbands and wives, people at work, people in this church
 - Graciousness?
 - Military families, college students, young pros
 - Steadfast love?
 - Men, grandparents, parents, singles
 - Slow to Anger?
 - Dads, siblings,
 - Devote yourself to God
 - Moses was devoted to God.
 - You and I need to be devoted to God. As we examine our lives, we realize we fall way short of God's standard and desire for us.

- The only way we can combat that is by devoting ourselves to him.
 - What does devotion look like in your life?
 - Moses was up on the mountain fasting.
 - When is the last time you fasted? (Matt. 6:16-18)
 - Would your kids be able to tell us who or what you are devoted to?
- We have to be devoted to God, but we realize in this life, because of sin, we are going to fall short of God's standard for us, which leads us to verse 25.
- V.29-30 Moses came down the mountain and his face was shining. He was radiating the very glory of God. Last time he came down the mountain he burned hot with a righteous anger, but this time he comes down reflecting the very nature of God that he witnessed on the mountain. Last time he came down the mountain, he came down to chaos and disorder. This time he comes down to fear and awe. We don't know exactly how his face was shining and radiating God's glory, but we do know that he had been with God and was reflecting his glory in a real and tangible way.
- V.31-33 As Moses' face was shining, he was serving as a prophet. The glory of God radiating from his face gave credence to what he had seen and heard on the mountain. And the people listened. Whenever he wasn't speaking on behalf of God, he would cover his face.
- V.34-35 Similar ideas here. Unveiled face meant he was speaking the words of God. Veiled face means he was speaking on his own behalf.
- This leads us to the third reason you can trust that God is able and willing to save you.
- **3. Jesus is faithful when you are not**
- As we have been tracking through Exodus, Moses is presented as a prophet, priest, king, and mediator. He is the most Christ-like figure in the Old Testament.
- Moses is the one who was offered the promises of God. Moses is the one who attempts to atone for the sin of the people. Moses is the one who offers to have his name blotted out of God's book. However, what we know to be true about Moses is that he was not able or worthy to be the one to do this work. And just like Israel, just like you and me, Moses was a sinner. Although Moses serves as this pivotal figure in salvation history, it's Moses' sin that bars him from entering the promised land.
- Remember what Moses writes in verse 10. A greater thing was coming for Israel and a greater thing has come for you and me.
- Moses points us to the true and greater Moses. The one who the New Testament authors identify as the one who doesn't simply reflect the presence and glory of God, but who is the very glory of God. Jesus Christ is the one to whom the promises were given. Jesus Christ is the one in whom the promises find their yes and amen. Jesus Christ is the one who was worthy to atone for sin, stand in our place, be our mediator. It is through Jesus Christ and him alone that makes any of this possible.
- And it is because of Jesus and him alone that we can trust that God is able and willing to save us.

- He took on our humanity. He walked down the mountain into our chaos. He lived the life you and I could not live. He died the death we deserve at the cross. He was buried. And he rose again so that you and I could have life. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father and has promised to come back and make all this new.
- On the days when you know you are caught in your sin, it is Jesus standing in your place that allows you to know that whatever it is you know to be true about God, you can trust that he will be like that to you.
- Gospel call.

- Because of that reality, we have been called to:
 - Imitate his faithfulness
 - When people look at you what do they see?
 - Do they see the glory of God radiating from you?
 - Have you ever seen someone and it is obvious they have encountered God, spent time with him, and devoted themselves to him?
 - You become like the people you are around.
 - Is it obvious that you have been around God?
 - Invite people into his presence
 - Moses comes off the mountain reflecting the glory and nature of God. Because of the work of Christ, we have been brought into the presence of God.
 - If we really believe that being in God's presence is good and if we really believe that others should experience the goodness of God, we must invite people into his presence.
 - Who in your life needs to be invited into the presence of God?
 - Final illustration of the church plant (fears and trust).