

Distinctive

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 6th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***Then God said, “Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.
~Exodus 34:10 (NASB)***

1) Distinctive Purpose

- A) From the time of Abraham, God had purposed that He would bless all the people of the earth through Abraham’s descendents (Genesis 12:1-3).
- B) At first, it seems that God frees His people from slavery in Egypt because of their affliction (Exodus 3:7-8), and in order to provide them with a new home.
- C) However, it soon becomes more clear that God has bigger plans for Israel than simply the comfort of a new home (Promised Land) and the satisfaction of a powerful God (culture and worship) (19:4-6).

- D) Oftentimes, when one is saved by God, we perceive our salvation as simply being for our own benefit, the “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life” kind of stuff. While all these things are true (Security of Heaven (not Hell), Adoption as Children of God, Loved by God, etc.), there is more to salvation than these things. Much more!
- E) Like Israel in the desert, God wants to make us a distinctive people, easy to recognize, distinct in both belief and action. God’s people, from the beginning, are distinguished by BOTH what they believe and how they behave.

2) Shining In The Desert

- A) As God establishes His presence in the midst of God’s people with festivals and significant events (Exodus 34:18-28), the effect on Moses (closest to God) is a glowing shining (34:29-35). The presence of God in our lives should show in an outward manner -- God’s people shine.
- B) As God establishes the actual building of His tent (tabernacle) amongst His people, all of Israel contributes everything which was needed for its completion (35:1-36:4). The people “shine” in their giving so brightly, Moses has to command them to STOP GIVING (36:5-7)!
- C) The construction of the tabernacle was very complex, but also done with great enthusiasm (36:8-38:20). In a very short time, the tabernacle is completed, despite extraordinary costs in money, time, and labor (38:21-31).
- D) The people who attended to all the details of the worship of God in the tabernacle (the priests) are clothed in spectacular fashion (39:1-43), expressing the holiness and spectacular nature of God’s relationship with Israel.
- E) As the tabernacle is raised up (Exodus 40:1-33), God’s glory (in a cloud by day, in fire by night; 40:34-38) shines amongst the people, shining for the whole world to see.
- F) Like shining stars (xref. Daniel 12:3), we are to shine in a distinctive manner for all the world to see (Romans 12:1-2).