

## **Digging Deeper Exodus 33v21 to 34v7 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Religious Beliefs and Experiences Discussed**

The team engaged in a full-fledged discussion about religious beliefs and experiences and shared positive experiences with people who are curious about the Biblical perspective. The conversation then shifted to the concept of standing on the rock. The participants also referenced a story about a man who stood in a lentil patch and wouldn't leave it. They explored biblical narratives, specifically focusing on the story of David and the Philistines. The conversation also touched upon the concept of God's love and mercy, with references to Paul's road to Damascus and Isaiah's vision.

### **Debating God's Manifestations and Intimacy**

We debated various interpretations of the verses, including the colloquial expression of intimacy, the concept of one-on-one communication, and the presence of God's face. The discussion concluded with a reflection on the mystery and secrecy surrounding God's manifestations and encounters.

### **Character, Appearance, and Portrayal**

The meeting discussed the significance of character and appearance, with an emphasis on the character of Jesus Christ. We stressed the importance of developing a mature character that continues to grow and highlighted the beauty of Christ. The group also talked about God's holiness and the inability of humans to see His face. There was a mention of the connection between God's presence and the geographical direction of east. Towards the end, the conversation shifted to the potential challenges of portraying Christ in a film, with concerns about idolization if Jesus were to be seen in person.

### **Religious Practices and Traditions Debate**

The group had a lively discussion about religious practices and traditions, with a focus on the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. They expressed concern over the practice of kissing religious objects and places of worship, with some suggesting it was akin to idolatry. The conversation then shifted to the idea of human responsibility in relation to divine grace, with an emphasis on Moses' role in carving the tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written. The group also debated the physical dimensions of the ark of the covenant and the tablets.

### **Biblical Interpretation of Jesus's Writing**

The group had a detailed discussion about a biblical passage where Jesus writes in the sand. They explored various interpretations of Jesus's action, with suggestions ranging from him writing the commandments to writing the names of accusers. There was also a debate about whether God wrote on one or two tablets, in line with the tradition of the 10 Commandments. The conversation also touched upon the origin of the judicial system, with one participant suggesting it was based on these biblical commands.

### **Hebrew Language and Bible Significance**

The meeting primarily revolved around the topic of the Hebrew language and its significance in the context of the Bible. The participants discussed the development of the Hebrew language, its origins, and its use in the Old Testament. They also touched upon the concept of covenants and how they were traditionally made or cut in Hebrew. The conversation also included a discussion on the significance of the words used in the book of Exodus and their linguistic implications.

### **Interpreting Moses' Ten Commandments**

The group discussed different interpretations of the biblical story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. They debated the specifics of how Moses might have broken the rocks to form the tablets, and what God's expectations might have been. They also talked about the time frame of the event, suggesting it happened shortly after the Exodus, and that the Israelites stayed in the region of Mount Sinai for two years.

### **Exodus 17:14 and Durability of Writing Materials**

The group discussed the significance of God's communication on stone in Exodus 17:14, as opposed to writing in a book. The conversation revolved around the concept of permanence, suggesting that stone is more durable than parchment. The group also referenced the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found in 1947, and the importance of durable writing materials in preserving historical knowledge.

### **Biblical Significance of Morning: Abrahamic Covenant and Exodus**

The meeting focused on the biblical significance of mornings, especially in relation to the Abrahamic covenant and the Exodus. The participants discussed the symbolism of morning and its association with priority and significance, as well as its holiness and power, as exemplified by Moses' ascent of Mount Sinai. The conversation also touched on the concept of being uniquely set apart as a nation and the importance of receiving and upholding God's word. The group then debated the type of rock Moses could have used to carve the tablets and the time they could have carved them. The discussion concluded with a brief discussion on contemporary context and the meaning of certain Hebrew words.

### **Simplicity, Love, and Transformation**

The group discussed God's preference for simplicity over extravagance, attributing more importance to the individual's heart rather than appearance. The group also discussed the concept of God's unconditional love and the transformation of believers from one degree of glory to another.