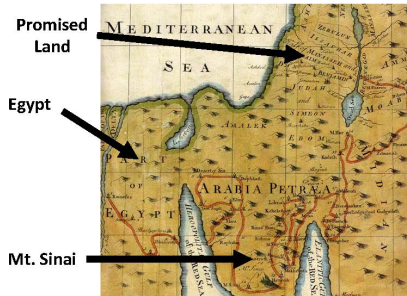


## THE VOCABULARY OF THE FREE

EXODUS 33 | ERIC SIMPSON | MARCH 28, 2021



*Exodus 33:1-3*

*<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' <sup>2</sup>I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>3</sup>Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."*

- The offer = presents without Presence

"...it's harder to enjoy God than His blessings. Offer a young child the choice of having Daddy present Christmas morning with no gifts or having Daddy absent and a stack of gifts piled high beneath the tree, and the child might choose the gifts. Only the mature value the blessing of Presence over the blessing of presents. Until we develop a taste for God, we prefer a better life of blessing from God over a better hope of intimacy with Him. And because we prefer control over trust, we return to a more acceptable kind of linearity, a version of our own making – one that we can handle – to see to it life works as we want." – Larry Crabb

*Exodus 33:4*

*When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments...*

*Exodus 33:15*

*Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."*

- Their response = progress without Presence is not an option

*Exodus 33:12-13*

*<sup>12</sup>Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' <sup>13</sup>If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

*Exodus 33:14*

*The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

*Exodus 33:15-16*

*<sup>15</sup>Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup>How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*

- Moses knew that if the surrounding nations couldn't distinguish their people from all the other people then there was a good chance they wouldn't be able to distinguish their God from all the other gods.

*Exodus 33:17*

*And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."*

What did he ask?

- "teach me your ways" (v. 13)
- "guarantee to me your Presence" (v. 15)
- "show me your glory" (v. 18)