

## God Reveals God

John 1.14-18

Can we *know* God? A Creator cannot be part of the universe He created, so we can never find Him. He must reveal Himself to us. Biblical history exhibits God's disclosure of Himself, culminating in Jesus, the pinnacle of His self-revelation!

- Jesus, the new and greater Moses
  - *Echoes of Exodus 33: Tabernacle, glory, seeing God!*
  - *Why do we want to exchange 'the new' with 'the old'?*
- Jesus' Inexhaustible Resources for us
  - *Full of grace and truth*
  - *Grace upon grace: In the OT, the NT, and the future*
- Jesus reveals God's essential nature to us
  - *What was seen, what could never be seen*
  - *'Up close and personal': Jesus' full disclosure*



1. In the concluding verses of the introductory prologue of his gospel, John's portrait of Jesus intentionally contrasts Him with Moses (17). The Old Testament passage John has in mind is Exodus 33-34. Read these chapters. What is the context (see Exod. 32)? What parallels do you see between Moses and Christ? What did Moses give? Who did Moses deliver? What does Christ give (John 13.34-35)? Who does Christ deliver (see John 1.29)?
2. John says that the Word became flesh, and "we beheld His glory" (v14). When did John behold Jesus' glory? After you have come up with a few ideas, see Luke 9.28-36; John 2.11; John 12.23. Which of these is the most surprising to you?
3. A 'side-story' to God revealing Himself to Israel and "tabernacling" with them is their response. God desires fellowship with His people even after they build a Golden Calf! He didn't come into the camp near because of their sin, but met with Moses outside the camp and promised His presence (Exod. 33.14)! Later, Israel tried to return to slavery in Egypt (Num. 14.1-4)! Do you see grace in God's dealings with Israel? Are we any different? God revealed Himself in Christ: How do Christians exchange freedom in Christ for the old slavery?
4. In v16, the phrase "grace upon grace" can be confusing. Your Bible translation may say "grace in place of grace already given" (NIV) or "one gracious blessing after another" (NLT). What does this tell us about the extent of God's grace? Do you see this awareness reflected in Moses' prayer in Exod. 33.13?
5. John 1.18 says that "no one has seen God at any time." How would you understand this, in light of Exod. 33.18-23? What did Moses and Isaiah (Isaiah 6.1-5) see? What can we 'see' about God, and what can we never see (see 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16)? In what ways is God seen? How does Jesus exhibit the work the nature of the invisible God? See John 6.46; 14.8-9.