

# Exodus 32:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

## Analysis

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Moses descended (שָׁבֵן וַיָּמֵן, shavon vayyifan) carrying the two tablets of the testimony (לְחֹתֶן הַעֲדָה, shnei luchot ha'edut). The testimony (edut, witness) emphasizes these were witness to God's covenant. Written on both sides (mishney evreihem, on both sides), they were completely filled with God's law. The detail on one side and on the other (mizeh umizeh, on one side and on the other) stresses the tablets' comprehensive divine revelation, wholly God's work with no human contribution.

## Historical Context

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Moses spent 40 days on Sinai receiving the law (Ex 24:18). The tablets were written by God's finger (v16), making them utterly unique in biblical history. Their destruction (v19) would necessitate a second set (Ex 34:1).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the care given to preserving God's Word reflect its value?
2. What does the complete divine authorship of Scripture mean for its authority today?

## Interlinear Text

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לְחַתֵּת מִשְׁנֵן וְרַבְבָּן  
turned and went down And Moses from the mount and the two tables  
H6437 H3381 H4872 H4480 H2022 H8147 H3871

לְחַתֵּת בְּעֵד תְּבִידֵן  
of the testimony were in his hand tables  
H5715 H3027 H3871

מִן הַעֲבָרִית מִשְׁנֵן וְכַתְבִּים  
on the one side and on the other were they written and the two their sides  
H3789 H8147 H5676 H2088

מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִשְׁנֵן וְכַתְבִּים  
on the one side and on the other were they written  
H2088 H1992 H3789

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:15** (Parallel theme): So I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands.