

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Many Are Called; Few Are Chosen.

There have been those all through history who have dared to seek and experience the powerful presence of God, to see His glory. They have longed for an intimate relationship with God and are willing to die to self and submit totally to the Lord.

I think of Moses who asked to see God's glory (Ex 33.18). While Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel were allowed on Mount Sinai, the Mount of God, Moses **alone** was called to come to the top of the mountain, stand in God's presence, and see God's glory (Ex 24.1, 2, 12; 34.2, 3).

Notice that the priests and elders of Israel who accompanied Moses part way up the mountain were also God's people, as were the Israelites who remained at the foot of the mountain; but they did not experience an intimate relationship with God.

Know that if you have an insatiable hunger for the Lord and you determine that you are going to the "top of the mountain" to dwell in Christ and see His glory, you will have to climb that mountain **alone** (Ex 34.3). No one can go with you; it is a personal walk with the Lord; and you may find that, as you spend more and more time with the Lord in His Word and in prayer, you no longer have the close relationship with some of your friends and family that you once had.

Not every Christian will want to be sold out to the Lord; it requires surrendering one's will and walking in obedience to Jesus Christ – come what may. Not everyone is willing to go to the mountain of the Lord, into the presence of the Lord, Holy God; in fact, few will ever go. Matthew 22.14 says that many are called, but few are chosen – to go into the presence of the Lord, to go to the mountain of the Lord, to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8.29).

Saints, God will have a remnant among His Church who will come apart in obedience to His call. He is calling, is choosing a people who will come to the "top of the mountain" of God though no one go with them. They will be totally submitted to His will and abide in Him and He in them (Jn 15.1-7). They will dwell in His presence, learn of Him, submit to His training, to His discipline, and be molded and prepared for His use. These will stand and face the enemy, Satan, when it seems no one will be able to stand.

Their calling is crucial to the body of Christ as they use the "weapons of our warfare" that are "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (II Cor 10.3-5). As they abide in Christ and are used by the Lord, they will become an underlying strength and power to gird up the Church when the power of God is so needed in these last days.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

When the Israelites came to Mt. Horeb (Sinai), the mountain of God, three months after leaving Egypt, the manifestation of God's presence on top of the mountain was such that the people feared and would not go near.

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *[it]*, they removed, and stood afar off.

And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die (Ex 20.18, 19).

We see in Hebrews 12.21 that Moses also feared, but that did not deter him. His desire to be in God's presence was greater than the fear of the physical manifestation.

Let us look at Moses, his call to lead the children of Israel out of bondage.

He had been keeping the sheep of his father-in-law in a wilderness land,

"...and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *[even]* to Horeb"

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *[was]* not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt (Ex 3.1-3).

There on Mount Horeb (Sinai) where Moses turned aside to see the burning bush, he met God! God revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush; and it was there Moses received his call from the Lord that came after 40 years of what must have been rigorous training in the wilderness with the sheep. He would now be sent to bring the Israelites out of bondage by the same path he trod those long and arduous 40 years.

Moses realized he was standing on holy ground when the Lord spoke to him.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *[am]* I.

And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *[is]* holy ground (Ex 3.4, 5).

It was as he took off his shoes, as he was standing on holy ground, standing in the presence of the glory of the Lord God, that he realized who he was not as did Isaiah when the glory of the Lord God came down as he stood before the Mercy-seat and the angels sang, "...Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts..." (Isa 6.3). Isaiah knew who he was not as his sinfulness was revealed standing at the Mercy-seat. When the glory of the Lord God comes down, darkness, sinfulness, is revealed.

Moses was but a humble servant of the Lord. Moses would need to remember his humble position before Almighty God – as he would be bringing the Israelites through this same desert to worship God on this mountain (Ex 3.12).

The call of God upon Moses' life would be a work accomplished by the hand of the Lord God, His power and His power alone, working in and through one submitted totally to God. Moses must always keep his reverence for Holy God and realize his complete dependence upon Him.

Now, let us look at Moses, his journey into the presence and glory of the Lord.

Exodus, Chapters 19-34, gives an account of the experiences of Moses and the Israelites while they encamped at Mt. Sinai.

God called Moses onto the mountain where He gave him what he needed to fulfill his calling to lead His people (Ex 24.12-18): laws and ordinances and plans for the tabernacle and their worship.

After 40 days, Moses came down to find the Israelites worshipping a golden calf (Ex 32). After Moses dealt with this sin and called the people to accountability (Ex 32.26), we find Moses interceding fervently for the people (Ex 32.30-33.17). God spoke to Moses face to face during this time of intercession (Ex 33.11), but Moses longed for more of the Lord. He wanted to see God's glory (Ex 33.18-23; 34.2, 3):

And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

And the LORD said, Behold, *[there is]* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and **present thyself there to me in the top of the mount**.

And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

Moses could not carry comforts with him as he climbed the mountain. No doubt he had only the clothes he wore and his staff. He struggled **alone** over the rocks, through the narrow passages, near the sheer cliffs where he easily could have fallen; no one gave him a helping hand – but onward he climbed. Moses' desire to see God was strong; he must know God in a greater measure, must see Him and experience His glory!