

## Preparation for the Promised Land *(part 3 – they saw God!)*

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**Purpose:** to show that God loves us as much as He loves them and wants to commune with us, just as He did with them. Also to encourage us to trust Him and to warn us not to slip as they would eventually do.

The children of Israel are still at the foot of the mountain, but quite a distance away because they are afraid of the presence of God on the mountain. Now they are about to experience an amazing manifestation of the presence of God. In the previous chapter He tells them 3 things:

- That His Angel (Messenger) would go before them
- That they should not provoke Him
- That He would bless them, give them victory over their enemies, and bring them into the promised land.

What happened in chapter 24? (read)

- God tells Moses to come nearer to the LORD, along with the chief priests, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (Aaron's sons), and with seventy of the elders of Israel to worship.
- Moses tells the people all the words of the LORD (10 commandments) and the judgments (everything afterwards, written in chapters 20 – 23) and the people agree to obey the LORD.
- Next, he builds an altar for sacrifice. Why? Because they cannot approach the LORD without sacrifice. They offered:
  - Burnt offerings – to acknowledge their sin and to renew their relationship with God
  - Peace offerings – a way of saying thanks to God for His forgiveness and renewed fellowship
- Moses sprinkles the altar – to make it ready for use; to sanctify it. It was an ordinary object until it was sanctified by blood.
- Then Moses read the Book of the Covenant in their hearing, and they agreed to be obedient.
- Afterwards he sprinkled the people – to make them ready for use. They were ordinary sinful people until they were sanctified by blood.
- Then Moses went partially up the mountain with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel. They could only approach God this way when all of the preparations for the covenant had been completed.
- Then they saw the God of Israel, and dined with Him!

- Afterwards, Moses went to the top of the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights while leaving Aaron and Hur in charge of the people.

I would like to answer 3 questions:

- Who did they see?
- How were they able to see Him and live?
- Why did this happen?

**Who did they actually see, because:**

**1Jn 4:12** - No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

**Joh 1:18** - No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**1Ti 6:14** - that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

**1Ti 6:15** - which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

**1Ti 6:16** - who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

They saw Jesus:

**Col 1:15** - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Notice the description given in verse 10:

**Exo 24:10** - and they saw the God of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity.

Compare this with:

- The Transfiguration
  - **Mat 17:1** - Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;
  - **Mat 17:2** - and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
- John's vision:
  - **Rev 1:13** - and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.
  - **Rev 1:14** - His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
  - **Rev 1:15** - His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
  - **Rev 1:16** - He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

**How were they able to see Him?**

- They built an altar, because they could not approach the LORD without sacrifice!
  - They offered burnt offerings –  
to acknowledge their sin and to renew their relationship with God
  - They offered peace offerings –  
a way of saying thanks to God for His forgiveness and renewed fellowship
- Moses sprinkles the altar –  
to make it ready for use; to sanctify it. It was an ordinary object until it was sanctified by blood.
- Then Moses read the Book of the Covenant in their hearing, and they agreed to be obedient.
- Afterwards he sprinkled the people – to make them ready for use. They were ordinary sinful people until they were sanctified by blood.

The God of heaven can be approached and communed with – through sacrifice!

They approached Him – v. 9

**Heb 10:19** - Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Heb 10:20** - by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

**Heb 10:21** - and *having* a High Priest over the house of God,

**Heb 10:22** - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

They saw Him – v. 10

**Mat 5:8** - Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

They dined with Him – v.11

**Rev 3:20** - Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

**Luk 12:37** - Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.

Even then, God wanted to commune with His people!

### Why did this happen?

1. So that they would know that God loves them and wants to commune with them
2. So that their faith would be assured.
  - a. By this they would know that He is the King of kings and the LORD of lords
  - b. By this they would know that they would have victory over their enemies
  - c. By this they would know that they would have provision
  - d. By this they would fear
3. So that they would be careful to stick to the covenant that they had entered.
4. So that they would not slip into idolatry.

**So remember:**

- God loves us as much as He loves them
- He wants to commune with us, just as He did with them
- He wants us to have faith in Him, just as he wanted them to have faith
- He wants us to obey Him and not slip into idolatry