

Series: Exodus

Title: The Cloud and the Glory

Text: Ex 40: 34-38

Date: Feb 21, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

Exodus 40: 34: Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35: And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36: And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: 37: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. 38: For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Proposition: The cloud is the presence of God in Spirit—the cloud is a visual emblem of the Spirit of God. He abode on the tabernacle and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

One, Christ is the tabernacle. The Spirit abode on him without measure for Christ is the glory God. Two, the whole church of God's elect, collectively, is his tabernacle. On the day of Pentecost, the Lord Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit upon his church and the Spirit abides on his church—protecting us, preserving us, keeping us. Three, when born again Christ makes each believer his tabernacle—the Spirit of God enters in and abides upon us, Christ's glory fills the new man, sanctifying us by his presence.

THEN

Exodus 40: 33:...so Moses finished the work. 40: Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

It was after Moses finished the work—after Moses built the tabernacle—THEN the cloud covered it and the glory filled it. Christ is the Tabernacle and the builder—

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

What Christ did, his people did in him. When Christ cried, “It is finished”—Christ finished the work—the tabernacle was pitched, the temple was built, his people were: justified/righteous, holy, redeemed, reconciled to God, accepted, eternally saved. The only thing that remains is to assemble each redeemed child experimentally into the building. But make no mistake the tabernacle was pitched. The work was finished.

Then on the day of Pentecost, by our Lord Jesus Christ, *the cloud covered the tent of the congregation*. The Holy Spirit came upon the church. Like never before, the Spirit abode on his church after Christ had finished the work of redemption on the cross.

From his throne in glory, Christ poured out the Holy Spirit upon the church. That was a onetime act. It is how men preached in languages they had never learned. The Holy Spirit came upon the church for the rest of her days on this earth.

Not only that the Spirit and glory of God entered his redeemed people that day. For those already born of the Spirit, the Spirit gave the ability to preach in languages they had never known as the prophet Joel declared he would. For the elect dead in sins, the Spirit regenerated them, gave them life, made them hear the gospel, pricked them in their hearts, gave them faith and made them willing to believe on Christ.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the church, and when the Holy Spirit filled individual redeemed people the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. *The glory of the Lord that filled the tabernacle* was representative of Christ, the Light of Life, the Brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person, the Shechinah, the divine majesty embodied in Christ's humanity.

Colossians 2: 9: For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Our Lord Jesus is himself typified in the tabernacle. When our Lord came to John to be baptized, he said "Thus it behooves US to fulfill all righteousness." His baptism pictured the whole work of Christ on the cross finished—his death, burial and resurrection with his people in him by which Christ fulfilled all righteousness and his people in him. So after his baptism—like as when Moses finished building the tabernacle and the cloud came upon the tabernacle—the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ and God the Father spoke from heaven declaring this one is my GLORY—"Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."

This is also what happens when we are born-again of the Spirit of God. THIS IS SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT. Paul spoke to the Galatians of "travailing until Christ be formed in you." That is the picture here in the tabernacle. That was what took place on the day of Pentecost for the whole church when the glory of Christ entered into those redeemed elect sinners. That is what took place when you and I were born-again of the Spirit of God—the glory of God, the presence of Jehovah Jesus, filled our tabernacle.

When the Holy Spirit of Christ enters a dead sinner, that is when we behold his glory as the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth. This is why those born-again on the day of Pentecost were pricked in their hearts. What did they behold?

Acts 2: 33: Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34: For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35: Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36: Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37: Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? 38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for [because of, confessing that Christ has] the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost 39: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

What does it mean when we read "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?" Hadn't the Holy Spirit already quickened them to life? What is it to "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"? It is to be sealed, preserved, given the blessings of Abraham in assurance through faith.

Ephesians 2: 13: In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that

holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

From the first hour we are born again and brought to believe on Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit is that he continually guides the believer into all truth. He continually gives us more and more assurance by making us behold the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus and the blessings of God given freely to us in Christ more and more.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;...

Ephesians 1: 7: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19: And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*... 2: 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6: And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

So the cloud and the glory are emblematic of the Spirit and glory of Christ upon Christ's church and within his people after that Christ finished the work of saving us from our sins on the cross.

THE GOOD NEWS

Exodus 40: 35: And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

When the Spirit of God enters his elect and Christ's glory enters, the blood of Christ purges our consciences from dead works by making us know that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to you who believe on him. This is the good news of the gospel. This is the peace of God. Christ has answered justice for each of God's elect so that we are now reconciled to God and the law has no more condemnation for us.

Moses represents the law because it was through him that God gave the law. Moses could not enter the tabernacle because the cloud abode on it and the glory of the LORD filled it. When Christ enters into a sinner the glory the believer beholds is the glory of Christ in accomplishing our redemption from the curse of the law. The law (Moses) cannot enter the house with him so as to declare us guilty. The law has fulfilled its work in shutting our mouth in guilt. Now the law must step aside.

Hebrews 10:2: For then [all the dead works we once were engaged in] have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged...have no more conscience of sins.

Hebrews 10: 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15 *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for [as the Lord promised], 16 This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my

laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; [I will put my words into their hearts, my gospel making them know] 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.

Free from the law, O happy condition
The Lord Jesus has made one offering and there is remission
We were ruined by the fall
Christ hath redeemed us once for all [time]

When we are sanctified of the Spirit and given a pure, holy heart to rest in Christ then the law can no longer enter to condemn us. The Spirit of God, Christ in you, continually purges our conscious revealing Christ alone is our Righteousness so that the law can no longer condemn us. What good news!

GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION

Exodus 40: 36: And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: 37: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. 38: For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

The Spirit of God, Christ's very presence, leads us and protects us all our days. They beheld the cloud by day and at night it was a pillar of fire in their sight. Throughout all their journeys it guided them. We behold Christ by faith, we know his presence, by night and by day in all our journeys he guides the believer. He promises his church and all his disciples individually, "*Lo, I am with you always.*"

Brethren let us not live in this world covetous like the rest of the world but content in whatever state we are in. Our contentment is not our circumstance but Christ himself. He says,

Hebrews 13:5: *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

The cloud led them to the promised land. Wo when born of the Spirit, we are in Christ. We are in the way of holiness. He leads us to the heavenly promised land which God has promised his people—"*when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up*"

How often do we desire something to happen now? Christ makes his child know when to move and when to wait. Christ makes it clear. When we do not know what to do then we do nothing. We wait on the Lord. But you shall know when Christ will have his child to move,

Psalms 23: 1: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Isaiah 48:17: Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

We want the nearest way, fastest. But in his good providence God does not lead us the way we think we should go.

Exodus 13: 17:...God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt. 18: But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea...

They murmured at the way God led them. It was a waste howling wilderness. But God was protecting them from something far worse though they did not know it. So it is with us always. Brethren do not become discouraged when he takes you the long way. He is keeping you sanctified from the evil. But by the presence of Christ we have constant protection

Isaiah 4: 5: And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. 6: And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

As the cloud protected them from the burning heat—Christ shadows us; the tabernacle was a place of refuge. So Christ is our refuge from storm and rain. In the dark night, the cloud was a pillar of fire to give them light. So Christ is our Light and warmth in every dark and cold night of trial, he protects us from all our enemies.

Exodus 14:19: And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness *to them*, but it gave light by night *to these*: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Psalms 121: 3: He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4: Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5: The LORD *is* thy keeper: the LORD *is* thy shade upon thy right hand. 6: The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. 7: The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8: The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

What he does he does for his elect alone. And he does it effectually. So Christ keeps us sanctified by teaching us to fear him and not anything or anyone else.

Deuteronomy 1: 29: Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. 30: The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; 31: And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place...

As God promised the Cloud and Fire led them into the promised land—so Christ shall bring us safely to heaven's glory as God promised.

Colossians 3:4: When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Job 19: 25: For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: 26: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

Psalm 17:15: As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

In that day when the journey is over we will say as the Psalmist said of Israel,

Psalm 107:7: And he led [us] forth by the right way, that [we] might go to a city of habitation.

Amen!