



“Meeting with God”

Into His Presence
Exodus 19:16-25

God’s presence comes with:

I. Power– “there were thunders and lightnings” (vs. 16-19)

Providing an experience that is:

- A. Sobering** – “all the people...in the camp trembled”
- B. Sensory** – “the Lord descended upon it in fire”
- C. Significant** – “the whole mount quaked greatly”

II. Permission - “the people cannot come up” (vs. 20-23)

Providing us with an:

- A. Intermediary** – “Go down and charge the people”
- B. Invitation** - “the Lord called Moses up to the top”
- C. Intimacy** – “lest they break through...to gaze”

III. Privilege - “to come up unto the Lord” (vs. 24-25)

Providing us:

- A. Access** – “but let not the priests and people break through”
- B. Acceptance** - “lest He break forth upon them”

Sentence Sermon:

“The enjoyment of God’s presence is revival to our soul.”

Additional Verses

- *Isaiah 57:15*
- *Exodus 33:14*
- *Matthew 18:20*
- *Exodus 3:12*
- *Ephesians 1:6*
- *Exodus 33:11, 20*
- *Deuteronomy 34:10*
- *James 4:8*
- *Hebrews 4:15-16*
- *Ephesians 3:12*
- *Psalms 66:18*
- *Romans 5:1-2*
- *Philippians 4:13*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who is the central character of the passage?
3. Why is the presence of God introduced by the weather?
4. What was the main reason the people trembled?
5. How would you describe what is going on in vs. 16-20?
6. What excuses for trespassing does God anticipate in v. 21?
7. How would you explain the meaning of “break forth?”
8. What was Moses attitude or reason for saying v. 23?
9. Why could Moses and Aaron go up and not the people?
10. How do you think the people felt about the restriction?

11. When is it easy for you to sense God's presence?
12. Where is it hard for you to acknowledge His presence?

Introduction:

What was the most important thing God told Moses when Moses was doubting whether he could confront Pharaoh?

Hint. Exodus 3:12.....**YES!** God said He would be with Moses....It is God's presence that was Moses' assurance of victory.

V. 16

- **On the third day = day of completion...day appointed**
- **In the morning = just like the discovery of the risen Christ**
- **Thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount = a clear display of God's Power and that the people were at God's mercycould well remind them of the story of Noah and God's destruction of mankind by the storm resulting in flood.**
 - **This may well be a "classic storm theophany" or God's presence arriving by storm....the wording in Genesis 3:8 could be rendered "wind of the storm" rather than in the cool of the day.**
- **The voice of the trumpet exceedingly loud = voice = "thunder"**
- **All the people that was in the camp trembled = were impressed...depressed...powerless to protest. A small glimpse of our meeting with God in the hereafter....No one will be disrespectful or belligerent or glib or**

sacrilegious but simply silent with much trembling.

V. 17

- **Moses brought forth the people =** He leads the way....believing they are ready
 - **Probably took hours to accomplish**
 - **Imagine the sight of all 2 million people around the base of the mountain with all the thunder and lightning and the trumpet sounding louder and louder**
- **To meet with God = entering into God's presence....even if it were slightly muted**
- **The nether part of the mount = always a distance between the regular folk and God....until Jesus....now we go boldly...the least of us.**

V. 18

- **Altogether on a smoke =** indicates the whole mountain was not visible for the smoke covering it
- **The Lord descended upon it in fire =** God presence was in the form of fire....like the burning bush
- **The smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace =** it when up into the air....possibly also giving off the smell smoke of a burning fire

- **The whole mount quaked greatly =** They felt the movement of the ground underneath them...no wonder they were trembling

V. 19

- **The voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder =** It was very noisy and lasted for some time
- **God answered him by a voice =** “literally by thunder”....same word as in Genesis 3:8....voice of God walking in the garden

V. 20

- **The Lord called Moses up to the top =** God's invitation....would you have gone? He is calling you up today....

V. 21

- **Charge the people =**
- **Lest they break through =**
- **To gaze =** interested in knowing what others don't know or to be “like god” as in the garden
- **Many of them perish =** not all but Many....implying that in spite of all the warning there is a large number that would trespass

V. 22

- **Let the priests sanctify themselves =** no one excluded from needing to prepare for the meeting
- **Lest the Lord break forth upon them =** death penalty

V. 23

- **Moses said unto the Lord =** Was he reminding the Lord....????

- **For thou charest us = He was naïve to think that just because God says something does not mean that people obey**

V. 24

- Away, get thee down = Moses...I said go down and tell them....NOW
- Aaron with thee but let not the priests and the people break through = select group with privilege
- Lest he break forth upon them = 3 times a warning of how dangerous the trespass would be

V. 25

- **So Moses went down = He got the point**
- **Spake unto them = warned them again....God's mercy to a stubborn and forgetful people**