

#1

Tabernacle, Part 3: I Want to Meet With You!

After the fall of Adam and Eve, meetings with God became very rare.

There were times when God would come down and visit His people.

These visitations were the exception and not the rule.

God did not openly dwell with men.

When God would come down, He rarely spoke to the congregation.

#2

1 Samuel 3:1 The boy Samuel was serving the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

This had become normal.

#3

Throughout the history of the Old Testament only a small number of people had a visitation or message from God.

God came to **Abraham** and told him to "Get out of his home country" Genesis 12:1

He was to change his position.

It was a total change of life.

He looked for a city whose builder was God.

Jacob was alone at Bethel when he saw Jehovah.

Moses was alone when he heard the call of God from the burning bush.

Elijah was alone on Mt. Horeb when he heard the still small voice of God speaking.

God came to **Isaiah** and required him to change his focus from Uzziah's earthly kingdom, to a heavenly kingdom.

He said: "I saw the Lord, High and lifted up" (Isaiah 6:1).

That changed Isaiah's position and focus.

Ezekiel was alone when he saw the "likeness of the glory of the Lord" by the river Chebar.

Daniel was alone when he saw the "Ancient of Days."

#4

Once his spirit was stirred, Isaiah said:

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NIV) Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

#5

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

#6

You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

#7

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

#8

No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father.

#9

We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

#10

Isaiah had seen the Lord seated on a throne, High and exalted.

That heavenly vision had a transforming effect on Isaiah. Once He had witnessed the Lord in His glory, and the holy angels, and heard the sounds of worship in heaven, he could not have enough.

*Isaiah needed more.
He was terrified and He was changed.
He knew he was undone and unclean.*

Isaiah knew that Israel truly needed God.

#11

God told Moses:

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NIV) But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

#12

Solomon spoke the heart of God:

(Proverbs 8:17 KJV) "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

#13

Jeremiah gave the promise:

(Jeremiah 29:13 KJV) "And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart."

Yet, the people consistently lived without that fellowship with God Almighty.

God wanted more than that for them.

God wanted to have an encounter with them.

He wanted more than an encounter with God.

#14

It is difficult for us to understand how far away sinful man is from God.

Because God's Love is so great, and His mercy, grace, and forgiveness are so complete, we may underestimate the mighty gulf God did span to bring us in.

We are all somewhat familiar with the path of the sinner.

#15

Each of us knows the downward pull away from God.

We are familiar with the power of sin and the pull away from righteousness.

God Almighty wants to draw us aside into a place of fellowship with Him.

The Presence of the Lord God Jehovah is awesome and terrible.

In the Old Testament there were very few that were able to come into His Holiness.

The Presence of God and the Person were not easily accessible.

Who could ascend into the presence of God?

Because of sin, man had been driven from the place of meeting.

God no longer met with them in the cool of the day.

It is at that point of need that God steps in and provides a way for man and access to His most Holy presence.

God provided a place of meeting.

This is the whole concept of the tabernacle.

It is a place of meeting.

אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד (’ō·hēl mō·’ēḏ) worship tent, Tent of Meeting, a tabernacle

אֹהֶל (ôhel) a tent covering, (dwelling) (place), home, tabernacle, tent.

מוֹעֵד (mō·’ēḏ) used only by appointment, located in a certain place, and authorized persons.

God set aside a place and a time to call us aside.

Within was the veil of the tabernacle, which demonstrated access to God.

By the tabernacle, God revealed particular steps on how to enter and fully enjoy the presence of the Lord.

God's recognized presence dwells outside the realm of the natural man.

God is not base and common.

God is Pure and Undeclared.

He is separate and lofty.

He alone is holy.

He is high and lifted up.

To enter and enjoy His holy presence men must come aside and apart from the world.

From the Tabernacle God provided a way they may know of Him.

This was a place where God would come and meet with them.

From this place they could find forgiveness and atonement for their sins.

God is calling them to come aside from their old lives and find Him.

#17

God is calling people to come to Him.

In Acts 7:3 Stephen said that: The God of Glory appeared unto Abraham and said... "Get out of your country and from your relatives."

The God of Glory called out to Abram, above all the god's of the Chaldees.

Abraham heard the Voice of God and responded.

#18

Moses was out on the backside of the wilderness..

He had been there 40 years.

Moses was in silent desolation in the wilderness.

Then one day, the "Burning" bush appeared.

The Fire that never came to an end appeared.

Moses said *"I will draw near; I will turn aside and see this great wonder."*

#19

From the bush he heard the Voice: "**Moses, Moses**" "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

He was already on holy ground...

His shoes were off of his feet in the presence of God.

#20

Samuel was asleep in Eli's house when the Lord came calling to him in the night.

He had trimmed the lamps in the tabernacle, but he did not know God.

Now God is coming to him in the night season.

Three times God called before Samuel was able to respond.

#21

David was tending his father's sheep.

David was far away from the city, away from the world, living a secret life with God.

Out in the field, He found the living God.

God delivered him from the lion and the bear.

David said: "The Lord, called me from following the sheep"

His heart was captured by God.

#22

Isaiah saw the Lord:

Isaiah 6:1 "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."

Isaiah said: at His presence, the foundations of the temple shook.

He was overwhelmed with his own uncleanness

Isaiah said: "Woe is me! Woe is me! I am undone..."

Nothing he had known of royalty or the King's palace could compare with the Glory of the Lord God Almighty. That day all the glory of the world faded.

Isaiah said: "I saw the Lord, high and lifted up."

God had a time to meet with them.

The Almighty God pursued them.

He wanted to draw them unto Himself.

He wanted to set them aside from the things that had preoccupied their lives.

He was ready to tabernacle with them.

#23

God wants to dwell among us.

Not in the abstract distance...

Not in powerless in the shadows...

Not unknown and unfeeling...

God is intimating vital, powerful, anointed, emotional, and real fellowship with you.

He is calling us aside to meet with Him.