

#1

The Tabernacle, Part 8: God desires to draw you near

There are rare times when God has called individuals aside and revealed His glory and shown Himself.

Usually when God has revealed Himself, He calls one person aside.

Here in Exodus God is establishing a new order of fellowship.

God is preparing a group people for His presence.

The fellowship that God is establishing with Israel is the initiation of what He is doing with the ecclesia.

The ecclesia is the church, or called out ones.

Israel was the First Ecclesia.

Here God is demonstrating what He really wants to do with the people He calls out.

What God does with them is a demonstration of His heart's desire for pulling them into close fellowship.

This is above and beyond the general revelation given in the cloud and pillar of fire.

#2

Exodus 24:1-17 (NASB95) Then He (God) said to Moses, ***"Come up to the Lord,*** you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and ***you shall worship at a distance.*** *"Moses alone, however, shall come near to the Lord, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him."*

#3

Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!" Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.

#4	Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and <i>they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord.</i>
#5	<i>Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.</i> Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"
#6	So <i>Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people</i> , and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."
#7	Then Moses <i>went up</i> with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and <i>they saw the God of Israel</i> ; and <i>under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.</i>
#8	Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.
#9	Now the Lord said to Moses, " <u><i>Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there</i></u> , and <u><i>I will give you</i></u> the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction."
#10	So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. But to the elders he said, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them."
#11	<i>Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on</i>

the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of *the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.*

God is initiating a design (blueprint) for all that He intends to do with this people.

God has stepped out of the realm of invisibility to have fellowship with them.

#12

The language here is clear.

Moses knew that preparation had to be taken for this fellowship to occur.

The sacrifices had to be made.

The people had to be cleansed by the blood.

Then they were able to draw close to God.

Then God came down and they saw Him and ate and drank.

The concept and revelation of this is more than we can take in.

God prepared them for His presence and for worship.

They were to wash themselves and their garments.

They were to sanctify themselves and be clean.

They were to be separate from the world.

Then God came close and did not consume them.

God's ultimate goal is to bring to them into His Presence.

They were being brought close to God.

This is holy ground.

God is present with His people.

#13

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

#14

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

#15

James 4:8 (NKJV) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

When God called Moses and the elders up into His presence, He was very specific about their approach to Him.

They were to come aside from the remainder of the congregation.

They came close enough to God that they saw the God of Israel.

#16

God wants to bring you closer.

Under His feet, they saw what looked like a paved work of sapphire stone, which looked like the very heavens in clarity.

They saw God and then they ate and drank in His presence.

Then God called Moses on up into His presence.

God spoke face-to-face with Moses.

Moses was exceedingly afraid and trembled.

God was preparing all of them for worship and His presence.

If we are going to come into God's presence we must be pulled aside.

We cannot be a kingdom of Priest unto God until we are close to Him.

There must be a separation unto God.

If you are going to come into the presence of God you must be willing to come aside from some things.

Are you willing to step aside to find more of Him?

After that experience, God began to make some specific demands on the congregation.

Listen to this:

#17

Exodus 25:1-9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.

#18

And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

#19

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

#20

God told them to give willingly.

Then God required specific things from them.

They had to willing give.

They had to give specifically.

God has a purpose in their giving.

They could not decide on their own what they would bring God.

When you come into the House of God, you must bring something that has purpose and significance.

Don't bring your leftovers to God.

These people are giving their wealth to God.

What you give God must have meaning.

They are willing to commit their wealth to the work of God. They were ready to make a place for God to dwell among them.

Their elders have been with and saw God and ate and drank in His presence.

They were told to wait there as Moses stepped higher into the glory of God.

They are willing to commit their possessions to provide for the vision.

They want to know this God.

They want to walk in the glory cloud.

God is not going to dwell with them unless the people are willing to commit to it.

God did not need their gifts to build a tabernacle.

He established the earth without help.

He is far greater than anything they can provide Him.

He is the God who made all of the gold and silver.

Everything is His.

It is going to cost us to have the presence of God in glory and power.

If you are going to meet with God, it will cost you something.

God is ready to give you the riches of heaven.

He is ready to pour out blessings that you will not be able to receive.

He is ready to give you double for all your trouble.

He has provided a place to have fellowship with you.

He is ready to pull us up into His presence.

He wants to dwell with you.

He wants to show you His glory and reveal Himself to you.

Are you ready to come aside and meet with Him?