



WE APPROACH GOD AS HE APPROACHES US

EXODUS 20:18-26

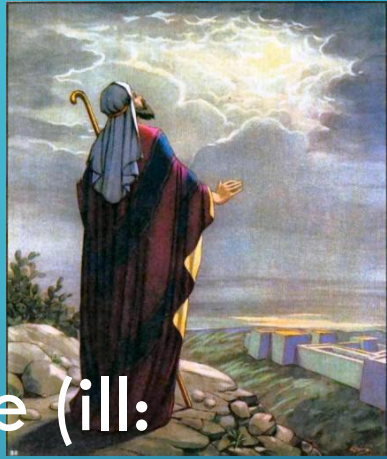
GOD SPOKE TO THEM



- God not only gave them the commandments on a tablet, there was **audible** voice accompanied by an **awesome sight**
- Interestingly, God told them **NOT** to be afraid, and yet He came so “the **fear** of Him may be before you” (v.20) Is there a contradiction here? Or is there more than one kind of fear? And what does God mean by “testing”?
- Of course God was not trying to **terrify** them, but why did He appear to them like that? What is the reason for that?

1. GOD'S APPROACH TO HIS PEOPLE

- God chooses different **approaches** for different people (ill: giving sight). Here He had chosen to appear in **strength**.
- Often God chooses to use “wonders” to draw our **attention** and to declare His attributes to us (Dan. 4:1-3; Psa. 96:1-4)
- More importantly, God wants to be with His people and to be known by them (v.22). The “how” of God's approach to us is determined by the “why”. (e.g. Moses, Isaiah, Peter)



- How did God approach you in the past? Why do you think He has chosen those "wonders" specifically? What have you learned about God as you now look back?
- Note: God communicates with us with the Scripture, events allow us to experience God and His word, not to **add** onto it
- Beside declaring Himself to them through wonders, allowing them to understand God better, the wonders was a **test** too
- Why test? To see how they would respond. How would you respond? Will you draw closer to God (like Moses) seeing the wonders, or step back away from God?

2. PEOPLE'S APPROACH TO GOD



- Why did most of them choose to step back from God? Why were they **terrified** of God and His power?
- Such fear is mainly from their **sins** (John 1:5, Adam & Eve)

Fear + Sin = Terror

- For Moses, his fear of God led to his **awe** of God, because of his **experience** of God

Fear + Understanding = Awe

3. JESUS IS THE WAY

- The reason the fear of the Lord did not become "terror" for Moses was His burning bush experience, and all the experiences of God afterward. Moses knew who God is and who God is not. (1 John 4:18 i.e. love)
- We can approach God because God first reveals Himself to us and made a way for us—Jesus is the Way (John 14:6) and we need to receive Him (John 1:12)
- The more we know Jesus the more we are in awe of Him

CONCLUSION--WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN

- In life we do encounter the wonders of God, clearly God is still working today, in both big and small ways
- At such times He is demonstrating something about Himself to us (not as tea leaf) and for us to fear Him (v.22-24)
- In order for us not to hide from God, we need to first realize who God is and what He has done for us. And as we grow in our understanding of God, we will also grow in our awe of Him.
- And we shall be blessed with our awe of God (v.24)