

THE SIGN OF HIS PRESENCE- Ex.33:14

Moses' disappointing experience with Aaron and the Golden calf.

His immortal prayer of substitution when he offers his life for the life and forgiveness of his people, transcends his day and finds a counterpart only in the heart and sacrifice of the man who died on Calvary.

He is standing on the threshold of a new dispensation. With the responsibility of leading a host of people into their promised Land.

He aware of the terrible consequence of their sins and in an effort to avert the judgment of God he offers that magnificent prayer.

God said I will only cut off the offender. But I will withdraw my presence from them. I will not go with them.

I will send my angel.

This was a Judgment because of the blessings of his presence but underneath this act of withdrawal was the undertone of his love and grace.

He withdrew to save them. God's presence cannot and will not abide upon the ungodly.

This announcement made a profound impression upon the Israelites, they ~~xxx~~ mourned and did not put on any ornaments. Signifying they had lost their joy. They stripped themselves of everything gay looking and went in mourning.

Moses could not abide this situation. He must plea with God. He dare not invite God among the people lest they be consumed. He takes a tent and erects it without the Camp, and goes in and prays. God comes down in a pillar of fire and talks with Moses face to face.

The people stood afar off in their tent door and beheld the pillar of fire and worshipped.

Moses reasoned with God. You have given me this task. To bring this people to Canaan.

Now you tell me you will not go up but will send an angel.
You have not told me who is this angel that you will send with me.

Yet you tell me you know me by name, and you promise to be with me. You tell me that I have found grace in Thy sight, yet you withdraw your presence.

Now Lord if I have really found grace in thy sight Show me thy ways. I dont understand your ways.

Remember they did the wrong. Not me. And remember these are thy people. I am just doing this job for you.

Then the L rd said :

MY PRESENCE WILL GO WITH THEE AND I WILL GIVE THEE REST..

MOSES said If thy presence go not up with us send us not up hence.

MOSES LISTS THE BENEFITS OF HIS PRESENCE:

1- By Gods presence the other peoples of warth will know they are a separate people. Gods people.

Moses inspired with the success of his prayer and communion with God asks to see the Glory of God

God says I cannot do that. I will make my goodness to pass before thee but no man can see my face and live.

Then to accomodate and honor this sainted prophet God says.

Here is a rock, stand on it.

Here is a cleft in a rock, get in it and I will put my hand over it and pass by and then I will take my hand off and let you see my back parts But my face thou cannot see.

No man has ever had such an experience.

This places Moses in a class to himself.

Here is expresses the most sanctified desire of the human heart. To see the face of God.

Human desire at the zenith of perfection.

Moses like others was not satisfied with the promise of His presence or the feel of his presence, but He wanted to see God face to face.
(That is one of the basic longings of man).

To satisfy Moses and the people God Took the form of a Cloud by day and a fire by night.

Tradition has it that the cloud did not maintain one form but accommodated itself to the needs of the people.

We do know that it moved, stopped, and guided the Israelites across the wilderness.

It took the form of a wall between their enemies.

A fire at night to warm the children and aged.

A shadow of cloud by day to protect from the Sun.

It was the sign of God's presence and it was there to meet their need, thus it is probably that it took different forms and positions and for the varied needs of the people.

From the very beginning God has appeared to me by signs. He had addressed himself to man by a thousand different signs.

- 1- The sign of the curse-on the Serpent. The woman
The man. The physical universe.
All this a sign of God's presence in Judgment.
- 2- The sign of the Rainbow after the flood was given to show God's providential care of this world.
To show his ultimate objective for the earth.
- 3- His sign unto Moses in Midian.
The Bush of fire- The staff- The Leperous hand.
- 4- The sign of the Blood on the Door was a sign of God's presence in the house.
(It was in the form of the Cross)
- 5- Balaam standing among the lonely peaks of Mt Moab looked down and beheld the black tents of Jacob in the distance. Then he saw the cloud reaching up to heaven. He saw the blazing pillow of fire by night.
He heard the shouts of praise of Israel and He

Told Ballak that there was no need to oppose this people. They were on the march. Nothing could stop them. They were on a mission, a journey. A destiny was in the making, for said he: The Lord His God is with him and the Shout of a king is among them.

The center around which all worship revolved in the congregation was the Ark of the Covenant.

This little ark was a sign of God's presence.

THE MOST REMARKABLE THING AT ALL IS THAT THE FOOT STEPS OF GOD ACROSS TIME HAS BEEN MARKED BY SIGNS OF HIS PRESENCE.

- 1- For Joshua it was the sun and moon standing still
- 2- For Gideon it was dew on the fleece
- 3- For David it was a going in the Mulberry trees.
- 4- For Hezekiah it was the sun dial of Ahaz
- 5- For Abraham it was a black smoke.
- 6- For Elijah a still small voice.
- 7- For Elisha it was the parting of the water of Jordan.

In a thousand different signs to a thousand different people God showed himself by a sign.

We speak of God as having hands, eyes and feet as we have but these are only anthropomorphic expressions of God.

God can take any form at any time. But God is a Spirit.

Every revelation of God, every expression of his presence for four thousand years by a sign, was only pointing to the full revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Every sign of the old Testament pointed to the sign of the Cross of Jesus.

Among all of the accomplishments of Calvary was the clothing of divinity in mortal flesh to accommodate man's finite conception of God.

FOR GOD WAS IN CHRIST. RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF.

In Him dwelleth the Godhead bodily.

If any man hath seen me he hath seen the Father also
If you would desire a glimpse of God, you must
BEHOLD HIS GLORY IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST.

SIGNS OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Old testament opens with a sign, in Gen 3:15
I that promis is the outline of the Cross.
The sign of the coming Cross.

The New testament opens with these words:
THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU. MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS
TO THE SHEPHERDS.

What sign. I know the sign by which they would know
Him. A MANGER. Yet over that manger bed hung the
shadow of the cross.

The privations and pathos of that cruel surroundings
in a stable stall foretold the anguish and painted
above his crib the sign of the Cross.

(The ensign to the gentiles)

THERE WERE SIGN SEEKERS IN CHRIST'S DAY AS THEY ARE
TODAY. SHOW US A SIGN THEY SAY THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE

THERE SHALL NO SIGN BE GIVEN YOU BUT THE SIGN OF
JONAH. (THERE IS ONLY ONE SIGN) THE SIGN OF THE
CROSS.

IF YOU HAVE NOT READ THE SIGNS OF THE PRESENCE OF
GOD AS POINTING TO THE CROSS YOU WILL NEVER SEE
AND YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE. THERE WILL NONE OTHER
BE GIVEN.

Men of faith saw the sign of the cross in Gods
work and word in by gone years.

All men from Abel were saved because they saw the
sign of the cross and believed.

That sign has always hung above this world.

In Abels altar.

In ~~xxx~~ Abrahams sacrifice.

In the passover lamb in Egypt.

In Jonahs three days in the fish.

In Jobs triumphant accladm.

They say the sign of the cross and believed and
were saved.

The sign of the cross. The center of civilization

All dates are marked from that hour.
Time turns on the hub of the cross. All dates and events before calvary are marked B.C. all that shall ever follow will be A.D.

Its Cross piece reaches from one side of this world to the other.
The top piece to the throne of God and the foot piece to the door of hell.

Sign in the New testament.

It is significant that Signs and miracles were to accompany the preaching of the Gospel in Apostolic times.

These Signs shall follow them that believe.
Cast out devils.
Speak with new tongues.
Take up serpents.
Drink any deadly thing.
Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

(My little girl and the poison milk)

God never performs a miracle, or shows a sign to satisfy anybodies curiosity or doubt. Everything is done in answer to Faith.

THE DEPARTURE OF JESUS.

The disciples feared this above all others.
I am going away he said. But in the same breath he said I will send you another comforter who shall abide with you forever.

The Presence of God in the person of the Holy Ghost

He came with signs.

Wind- Addressed to ears

Fire- Addressed to eyes

Tongues- Addressed to emotions.

The tongues are the initial evidence it was ~~it~~ is and will always be
Tongues are for a sign says the bible. A sign of

Gods presence upon the church.

WE are called upon to be a separate people. A different people. A people with the sign and seal of Gods presence upon us.

The sign of the cross is upon us.
 We cannot be different by being peculiar,
 We cannot be different by our dress.

We cannot be different by the way we eat.

I bet in any body the monkey
 WE cannot be different when we have separated ourselves from this world by holiness and then have the seal of the Holy Ghost upon us. *or sign of the L.G.*

FINALLY WE ARE TOLD THAT THE THINGS WE MUST LOOK FOR IS THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.

When hell has closed in. When the night of sin has grown unbearably dark. When the horror of the tribulation ~~maxis~~ is rolling down upon this world. When the last flickering light of hope is going out. And we can go no farther. Look for the SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN COMING.

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