

SHOWING CONCERN FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

TEXT:

Exodus 33:14-16:

14 And He [the Lord] said, "My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

15 And he [Moses] said unto Him, "If Thy Presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and Thy people have found grace in Thy sight? is it not in that Thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and Thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth."

CONTEXT

And it came to pass at that time, that Abimeleck and Phichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying:

Genesis 21:22b: God is with thee in all that thou doest:

INTRODUCTION

It's a wonderful thing even sinners can recognize that GOD'S PRESENCE is amongst us for good.

Also, that we are living close enough to HIM that HIS smile and favor is upon us all.

GOD IS SELECTIVE AS TO WHOM HE WILL MANIFEST HIS PRESENCE.

NOTE: God desires to be around HAPPY and THANKFUL and REJOICING PEOPLE.

Isaiah 64:5: Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember Thee in Thy ways: behold, Thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

Leviticus 23:40: And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your

God seven days.

NOTICE THIS — God's people **REJOICING BEFORE THE LORD FOR SEVEN CONTINUOUS DAYS**. I am just wondering how many people would feel quite disoriented and out of their natural environment to do nothing other than PRAISE THE LORD for seven days in a row.

Those who are so used to murmuring, complaining, bellyaching, or fussing and arguing most of the time would hardly know what to do with themselves. They would run out of gas, run out of PRAISES before the first hour expired, and be at a loss as to how to fill up the rest of the day.

Deuteronomy 12:12: And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.



Psalms 95:2: Let us come before His Presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

Psalms 100:1-5:

¹ Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.



² Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His Presence with singing.

³ Know ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name.

⁵ For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

1 Chronicles 16:27: Glory and honour are in His Presence; strength and gladness are in His place.

1 Chronicles 16:33: Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the

the Presence of the LORD, because He cometh to judge the earth.

Zephaniah 1:7: Hold thy peace at the Presence of the Lord GOD: for the Day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid His guests.

Psalms 16:11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy Presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right Hand there are pleasures for evermore.

THOSE WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

➡ **Adam and his wife hid themselves from THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.**

Genesis 3:8: And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the Presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.



➡ **And Cain went out FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.**

Genesis 4:16: And Cain went out from the Presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

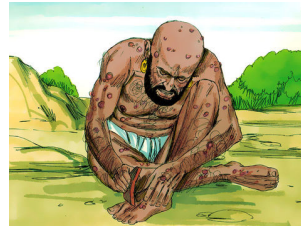
➡ **SAY UNTO THEM**

Leviticus 22:3: Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the Children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from My Presence: I am the LORD.

➡ **So satan went forth FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.**

Job 1:12: And the LORD said unto satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So satan went forth from the Presence of the LORD.

Job 2:7: So went satan forth from the Presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.



➡ **Therefore, am I TROUBLED AT HIS PRESENCE:**

Job 23:15: Therefore am I troubled at His Presence: when I consider, I am afraid of Him.

➡ **Whither shall I go from THY SPIRIT?**

Psalms 139:7: Whither shall I go from THY SPIRIT? Or whither shall I FLEE FROM THY PRESENCE?

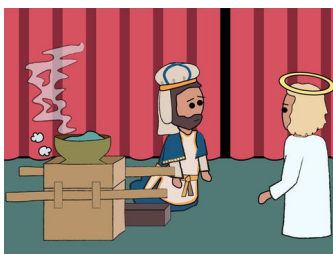
➡ **But Jonah rose up to FLEE UNTO Tarshish.**

Jonah 1:3: But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the Presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the Presence of the LORD.

THOSE WHO YEARN FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD and BEG NOT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM

Psalms 51:11: Cast me not away from Thy Presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 140:13: Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy Name: the upright shall dwell in Thy Presence.



Luke 1:19: And the angel answering said unto him [Zacharias], I am Gabriel, that stand in the Presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Jude 24: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,

Genesis 28:15: And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I

will not leave thee, until I have don't that which I have spoken to thee of.

Joshua 7:10: And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?



Isaiah 41:10: Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right Hand of My Righteousness.

Genesis 35:3: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, Who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

A STRANGE CONCERN FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

TEXT: IS THE LORD AMONG US, or NOT?

Exodus 17:7: And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the Children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

The children of Israel's water supply ran out and instead of praying and trusting God to supply their needs, they went to complaining and bellyaching. They didn't realize that God was only taking them through the **SCHOOL OF OBEDIENCE** and was teaching them to PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. If we never had a need, we'd never know if God could meet it. They had no need to QUESTION whether the Lord was with them, for:

- He had brought them out of slavery and the burdens of Egypt after 430 years of serving under the heavy yoke of the taskmasters.
- They saw the miracle of the waters of Egypt turned into blood, thus striking a defeat to the so-called god of the Nile, the Egyptian deity.
- They saw the frogs, lice, murrain, hot lightning bolts, flies, boils and blains, hail, darkness, and the death of the first born of those families which did not have the BLOOD OF THE LAMB applied to their



houses.



- They saw the Red Sea open, and that ten mile-wide path that allowed the Children of Israel to pass through on dry ground. Then they saw it close in on the Egyptians who were behind them in fast pursuit.

- Then they saw God's pillar of Cloud and Fire which led them as God's compass, and also His covering for them from the blazing sun.

- Their shoes did not wear out nor their clothes either for forty years.
- Their feet did not swell while treading the hot desert sands.
- They witnessed the miracle of the Manna falling daily within their camp for food.
- Till now, their water supply for 2 ½ million people had been well and amply supplied.



It seems that so long as God was supplying all their needs, they were satisfied as though He was like a SUGAR DADDY to them. When a need arose, they began to question if GOD'S PRESENCE WERE WITH THEM or NOT. It's as if they were saying '*WE ONLY WANT YOU, GOD, FOR WHAT WE CAN GET OUT OF YOU, for the benefits we are receiving.*'

CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO BE MET FOR GOD TO MANIFEST AND MAINTAIN HIS PRESENCE

When sin is committed and condoned by God's people, God lifts His Presence or Removes it. This is evident in the account given in **Exodus 33** when God ordered Moses to pitch the Tabernacle without the camp because the Children of Israel had made a golden calf while and fallen into sin while he was receiving the commandments of the Lord on Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 33:1-7:

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:

2 And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the

Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

³ Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

⁴ And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments.

⁵ For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the Children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

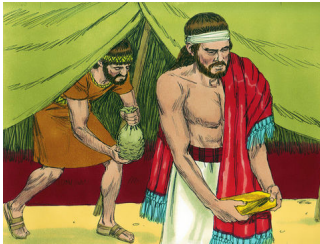
⁶ And the Children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

⁷ And Moses took the Tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

Sin Within the Camp caused the Children of Israel to be defeated by their enemies.

○ **Joshua 7:11-12:**

¹¹ Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My Covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.



¹² Therefore the Children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

- **Isaiah 64:5: Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember Thee in Thy ways: behold, Thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.**
- **John 14:21: He that hath My Commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.**
- **James 4:8: Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.**

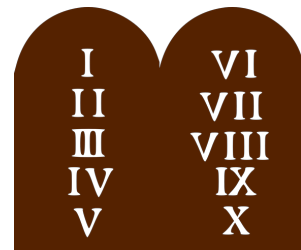
Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

- ***Matthew 18:20: For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.***
- ***Psalms 140:13: Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy Name: the upright shall dwell in Thy Presence.***

THESE SCRIPTURES ARE A SOURCE OF COMFORT TO CHRISTIANS WHO ARE GOING THROUGH TROUBLING TIMES.

Lo, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD.

Matthew 28:20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen



NOTE: It is of greater comfort to those who are doing what is said before this part of the verse. Go ye therefore, and TEACH all nations, baptizing them in TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

“I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.” - Jesus

Hebrews 13:5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

TO MOSES :

Exodus 3:12: And He said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

TO ISAAC:

Genesis 26:24: And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed

for My servant Abraham's sake.

Abimelech & Phichol chief captain of his army said to Isaac:

Genesis 26:28: And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee;

God speaking to Jacob:

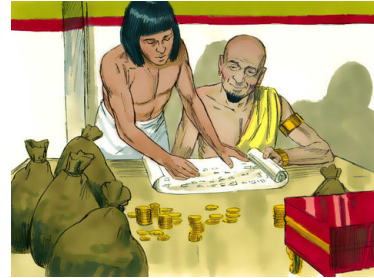
Genesis 46:4: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

TO JOSEPH:

Genesis 39:2-3:

² And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.



TO JOSHUA

Joshua 3:7: And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

CONCLUSION:

Acts 17:22-27:

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you.

²⁴ God that made the world and all



things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us:

The tragedy of our day is that to many wicked and unsaved people, God is not in all their thoughts.

Psalms 10:4: The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

It is heartbreaking to think that GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD . . .

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.

. . . and yet you sinners do not consider Him to be of sufficient worth or importance to even look into His Word to learn or believe in Him or not. I know of many churches which never preach ON HELLFIRE. They have gotten rid of Hell by skipping over the subject. They may skip over it here, but will never be able to skip over it hereafter. It has too wide a gulf, and no one has ever spanned it yet, or ever will, for that matter. These same churches preach an easy morality also, which in reality is giving open license to sinning. But this is one preacher who is not going to coddle sin, nor bypass the Bible message on HELLFIRE. We're here to warn sinners to FLEE THE WRATH TO COME.

Psalms 9:17: The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost [those who are lost].

THE PROPHET ISAIAH DECLARED:

Isaiah 55:6-7:

⁶ Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 59:1-2:

¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.

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