

GOSPEL GLASS



May 09 Issue 7

<http://gospelglass.com>

The Mountain of God

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE

Where was Moses leading the children of Israel?

He was headed for Mt. Sinai not the promised land.

EX 7:16 "And you shall say to him, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness", but indeed, until now you would not hear!

EX 8:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, "go to pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says the Lord, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me."

EX 8:20 And the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, "Thus says the Lord; "Let my people go that they may serve Me."

EX 9:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him, "Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews; "Let My people go, that they may serve Me."

Why would Moses want to take the people into the Promised Land without first meeting the Promiser? If they had gone in without revelation of God they would make it into a place of idolatry. We can only take what we know with us, and the children of Israel knew much of what They had learned from the Egyptians. Each of us knows of some of our heritage. I'm Irish, and The Irish music, tales, and traditions seem to follow me, and it brings something up within me. When I hear them...God takes the "bad parts" out.

For so long we have been communicating God's PROMISES AND PROVISIONS rather than His CHARACTER AND NATURE, to draw people to Him.

Let's see what happens when the children of Israel meet God!

EX 20:18 (please turn to this and began to read and you will see)

You will find they were afraid of God's presence. Not a healthy "fear of the Lord", it was because they did not want to get close enough for their hearts to be exposed. They wanted someone else to speak to God for them. Aren't we just like that today? We want someone else to pray for us. We ask "Will you

GOSPEL GLASS

please pray for me?" When the truth is we aren't even praying for ourselves. Then they said; "Lest we die." Indeed for when God speaks to us if we are truly obedient, flesh dies!

EX 9: 20 Here Moses says to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin. God does not test us so that He can know what's in us...He already knows! He shows us what's in us, so we will obediently let Him take it out, "those bad parts."

PROV 1:7 says: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

LET'S FOCUS ON THE "**STATIONS**" OF THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD
I call them "stations" because we seem to sit and park there awhile.

Station I: THE CAMP

In the camp, we have the (church) God's people, delivered from Egypt (the world) at the Foot of God's mountain, but far enough from His presence to keep their hearts from being exposed. This place is familiar. It's not back in Egypt (the world). It has all the forms of serving and moving with God, but in reality many are far from His heart.

At this time Aaron (the priest) was originally asked to go up the mountain with Moses! Why did he not go? Because he found it more comfortable in the presence of the people than in the presence of God. How do we know this? **EX 19:24** "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you." However Aaron did not end up near God's presence. He instead ended up with the people, withdrawing (**EX 20:21**). So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

EX 24: 1-2 Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar V.2 "And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."

Station II: WORSHIP FROM AFAR

This time Aaron was not asked up the summit..He had already withdrawn once and was only able to Worship from afar.

GOSPEL GLASS

EXODUS 24:9-11 (please read)

Here is a place above "The Camp", yet not completely on the summit in the presence of God. Here they avoid sanctifying their hearts, but they satisfy their inner need to worship the Lord. In the men's worship they saw the God of Israel: "And they were under His feet" (V 10)

They saw some glimpse of His glory in light and fire. They saw the place where God stood, something near, but not actually...yet, it was enough to satisfy them that God was with them. This isn't high enough!! Not close enough to His presence! Don't park Here!! ALL these men ended up back in "The Camp" worshipping a golden calf. And these were the LEADERS!

Station III: THE POINT OF NO RETURN!

God had invited Aaron, his sons and the elders of Israel, all of whom, except Joshua, ended up back at "The Camp".

EX 24:14 We can see again that Joshua went further up with Moses...Moses tells the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you." Joshua went higher up the mountain than the elders...Joshua DID NOT end up back at "The Camp"

Station IV: THE SUMMIT, HIS PRESENCE

Moses' fear of God was the key to being asked into His presence!

EXODUS 24:12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there." This is "the secret place" "the Holy of Holies" "the Throne Room" "The presence of God" The very place where God reveals His inner most thoughts. It's the place where His treasures are found.

ISAIAH 33:5,6 The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation; The fear of the Lord is His treasure.

PSALM 103:7 tells us that "He revealed His character to Moses, and His deeds to the children of Israel". Moses knew God's ways; He learned them on the mountain. The rest of the people knew God only by the miracles He did in their lives. How many today only know Him by the miracles He does in their lives? The provisions and answered petitions? People have not gone to the mountain to learn His ways, because they still desire what the world can give them. God is calling us to His mountain to

GOSPEL GLASS

know Him intimately!! The pass to that mountain is holiness..birthed out of a heart that fears God!

"The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."

Which station on the mountain are you in today? Are you in the Camp? Do you want to go higher up that mountain...desire to be in His presence..to know His ways?

Continue to climb! When we stop climbing....we start sliding back.

Rev. Nikki Cuya



Stained glass patterns made from Nikki's design of Joshua's climb with Moses

My prayer,
his prayer,
your prayer,
in prayer.

May 2009,

"my prayer" is for those who have lost their jobs in this recession-- that they find help in many ways with those close to them, extended family, parents, children, and their companions. These trying times, with jobs lost, and scarce money, bring us back to family, and make us aware of what we have, compared to the rest of the world, and learning that happiness is not found in HAVING, but in BEING.

mm

dail @ bread

"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" MAY's calendar is about the WORD.



thy WORD is
a light unto
my path