

## **The Glory of God in the Clouds**

Everyone loves a bright sunny day. We don't like it when the sky is cloudy. We often associate cloudy days with negativity and depression. However, the Bible encourages us to look up at the clouds and think about the glory God.

The Bible has a lot of good lessons to teach us by taking time to look at the clouds.

When God spoke to Moses on Mt Sini, He did it through a cloud. Exodus 19:9, "And the LORD said to Moses, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you."

In Exodus 14, God struck the Egyptians with 9 great plagues followed by the death of the firstborn. Verse 8 says, "And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel."

As they left that land do you remember how God made His presence visible? The Lord went out before them as a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:21).

Isaiah 19:1, "Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and comes into Egypt. And the idols of Egypt shall tremble at His presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in its midst."

When Elijah predicted that it would rain, his servant saw a cloud the size of a man's hand (1 Kings 18:44).

When we think about the power of God, Psm 104:3 says, "Jehovah makes the clouds His chariot."

Nahum 1:3 says, "The clouds are the dust of His feet."

In the N.T. when Jesus was transfigured, God spoke in a cloud saying, "This my beloved Son, listen to Him" (Luke 9:35).

When Jesus ascended back to heaven, He ascended in a cloud. When Jesus comes back, the scripture says, we will meet Him in the clouds (1 Thes 4:16).

When I think about the heroes of faith who pleased God, Heb 12:1 says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin that easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

### **I. Clouds remind us about the promises of God:**

Gen 9:13, "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud;

When you are troubled, look beyond the dark sky and see the rainbow in the clouds. In Rev 4:3, the Apostle John says, “there is a rainbow around the throne of Christ.”

You can't have a rainbow without clouds. Trouble will come but beyond the dark clouds is the rainbow of God's presence.

Psalm 23:4, “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

## **II. Clouds remind us of God's Guidance:**

In Exodus 13:21-22, we read about God manifesting His presence into a cloud to lead the Israelites away from Egypt towards the promised land. God did this for 40 years.

Today, we don't have a cloud to guide us through the wilderness of life, but we do have something. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus and the words of Jesus, we will never get lost.

Heb 12:2, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

In John 10:27, Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish.”

In John 11:25 Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the Life, He who believes in me will live even though he dies.”

## **III. Clouds remind us to spend time with God:**

In Exodus 24:18, “Moses entered the cloud as he went into the mountain and stayed there for 40 days and 40 nights.”

## **IV. Clouds remind us that Jesus is Coming back:**

Acts 1:9 says, “while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. The Apostles were looking intently at the sky, then behold, two men stood by them in white clothing. They said, “why do you stand gazing up into the heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven.”

### **Close:**

The next time you look up into the sky and feel tempted to complain that it's a cloudy day, pause and reflect on how the Lord uses clouds to make known His glory.