

This week's Audio, Video, and Teaching Notes are posted here.

Cloud, Fire, and Glory – Theophany 2 (Summary of Theophany – Part 1; Man Cannot See God and Live vs. They Saw the God of Israel and Lived; YHVH's Future Deliverance from All the Nations; A Survey of the Sightings of YHVH; A Pillar of Cloud and Fire; YHVH's Manifestation on Mt. Sinai; The Tent of Meeting; The Cloud of YHVH; YHVH's Visible Manifestation in the Cloud is Coming Again; A Day of Darkness and Gloom; The Manifestation of the Glory of YHVH)

April 6, 2019 – Ross Nichols
Cloud, Fire, and Glory – Theophany 2

Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/cloud-fire-and-glory-theophany-2/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulWEpA-59H8>

TEACHING NOTES

-Our 76th UIWU Annual Meeting and Conference, April 26-28, 2019, Charlotte, NC is coming up in a few weeks. People continue to register and plan to join us in Charlotte, NC. Hopefully many of you can make it. I am really looking forward to it. Please join us if you can. <https://uiwu.unitedisrael.org/conference-2019/>

-We are currently entering into what Josephus calls the Holy Month. Exodus 12 talks about how this will be the beginning of months, the first month for you. We are two week's from Passover, the Festival of Freedom. Most people will be doing a Passover Seder on Friday night, April 19th on the Jewish calendar. Here at UIWU South we will be doing a teaching, a meal, and a discussion regarding the Passover on Saturday, April 20th.

-In today's class I plan to tie in elements of the great deliverance that God did on behalf of the Children of Israel. I will also be working on the subject that we began last week called Theophany. This word comes from the Greek and basically means an appearance / manifestation of God to mankind. Last week's teaching included...

-Theophany (Know YHVH; The Secret Things Belong to God; Theophany – Appearances of God; No One has Ever Seen God; Theophanies Between Man and God; In the Garden of Eden; The Oaks of Mamre; Sodom; Bethel; Peniel; The Mountain of God; The Tent of Meeting; The Cleft of the Rock; In the Throne Room; YHVH Comes Down in the Cloud; Moses Speaks Face to Face; Are These Literal Theophanies or Visions and Dreams)

-Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/theophany/>

-There is a prevalent view that is for both Jews and Christians, that one cannot see God and live. Exo 33:20 But, "he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." We also covered some text that say clearly that God is seen.

-Exo 24:9-11 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

-Isa 6:1-12 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw Adonai sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with

two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is YHVH of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, YHVH of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of Adonai saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Adonai?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, and Adonai removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

-Eze 1:25-28; Eze 10:1-10, Eze 10:18-22, Dan 7:9-10, Dan 7:13-14, and Amo 9:1 also have these visions where a prophet or a seer would look into perhaps in a visionary state and somehow see the king in all his glory. The bottom line is that we have to deal with both. We have this view that no one can see the face of God and live and when they meet with these theophanies, there is a concern they will die. In other text we read that they saw the God of Israel and lived.

-The point of the biblical writers according to the text, visible manifestations of YHVH take place in the Hebrew Bible through these various narratives that we have. These weren't just a historical point, they are going to happen again. People argue and debate as to what they were seeing, was it a vision or did they literally see something? I will argue today from the Hebrew text that anciently people saw something. There will also be this visionary experience again in the future. Some of these theophanies we read about last week appeared to individuals, prophets, select groups, and the elders of Israel and so forth. Today we will talk about something more widespread.

-There is an incredible description provided within the Hebrew Bible of a visible manifestation of YHVH that was to an entire generation, the whole camp of Israel. Today we will talk about, what did they see? They saw a manifestation of YHVH and we will look at how this was described. There is relevance to this today as well as we will cover prophetic text. Similar language is used to describe a future deliverance in which future manifestations take place. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel, the one who is hiding his face at the present, will manifest himself again, and deliver his people again in the real plane of our existence according to these text. This future manifestation of God will be so great that the Passover deliverance in Exodus will be surpassed.

-Jer 16:14-16 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares YHVH, when it shall no longer be said, 'As YHVH lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As YHVH lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers. "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares

YHVH, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.

-Jer 23:5-8 "Behold, the days are coming, declares YHVH, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'YHVH is our righteousness.' "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares YHVH, when they shall no longer say, 'As YHVH lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As YHVH lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

-It will be so big that that event called "That Great Thing" by Moses will be something that pales in comparison to what will happen in the future and is yet to come. Many people believe that God no longer manifests himself in that way anymore. We are currently in a phase where he has hidden his face from mankind.

-Amo 3:4 Then they will cry to YHVH, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have made their deeds evil.

-Deu 32:19-21 "YHVH saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. And he said, 'I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness. They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.'

-Eze 39:21-29 "And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. The house of Israel shall know that I am YHVH their God, from that day forward. And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them. "Therefore thus says the Adonai YHVH: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. Then they shall know that I am YHVH their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares Adonai YHVH."

-Zec 14:1-4 Behold, a day is coming for YHVH, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then YHVH will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and

the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

-Many people look to this as a messianic prophecy and believe that it talks about the coming of the Messiah. In context, in Zechariah 14, this is a return to the earth of YHVH the living God. Theology is keeping people from making this connection as people have read the bible through the lens of their traditions and theology. Today we are looking for God to manifest himself here on earth again. Next we will go through a survey of the sightings of YHVH from the Hebrew Bible in with the people of Israel saw the God of Israel.

-Exo 13:21-22 And YHVH went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

-The words cloud, fire, and glory are associated with the manifestation of YHVH on the earth. This cloud by day, fire by night, and glory of YHVH was with them 24/7 the entire 40 years. This starts after the Pharaoh of Egypt let them go. The presence of YHVH in the pillar of cloud was there from the beginning in the midst of the people of Israel.

-Exo 13:17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."

-Exo 13:20-21 And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. And YHVH went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

-Exo 14:19-21 Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and YHVH drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

-Notice that the cloud and fiery presence of YHVH is at the spot where all of this happens during the Exodus and can be seen. It provides a reassurance if you will that God's presence is among the people. YHVH is within in the pillar of fire and of cloud and looking out through it. In our story we are leading up to the giving of the Torah.

-Exo 14:24-26 And in the morning watch YHVH in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for YHVH fights for them against the Egyptians." Then YHVH said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."

-Exo 16:10 And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of YHVH appeared in the cloud.

-Exo 19:16-21 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they

took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because YHVH had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. YHVH came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And YHVH said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to YHVH to look and many of them perish.

-It's easy to read this text and not grasp the shocking nature of it. The people are looking at the mountain and there is thunder and lightning, an ominous dark cloud and the sound of a trumpet getting louder and louder, a fire comes down as well and there are earthquakes, this is scary. Here we are talking about quaking in your sandals type of fear. They literally saw this manifestation of God as described in these passages. These are amazing text in which we are getting a little more detail.

-Exo 24:15-18 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of YHVH dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of YHVH was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

-Exo 3:1-6 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of YHVH appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When YHVH saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

-Exo 33:7-11 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought YHVH would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and YHVH would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. Thus YHVH used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

-This sounds pretty literal, Moses takes a tent, he sets it up the tent of meeting, an appointment tent, then this cloudy pillar you can see it. People from all over the camp, when they would see the cloudy pillar descend down to Moses tent of meeting where he speaks to him face to face as a man speaks to his friend.

-Exo 34:4-7 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as YHVH had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. YHVH descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and

proclaimed the name of YHVH. YHVH passed before him and proclaimed, "YHVH, YHVH, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

-Exo 40:34-38 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of YHVH filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of YHVH filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of YHVH was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

-Num 10:34 And the cloud of YHVH was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp.

-This was not only seen by Moses. This was witnessed and visualized in the eyes of all of Israel, the entire generation saw this manifestation. In this passage it's called the cloud of YHVH. Whenever you see this pillar of cloud or the pillar of fire or even the glory you are witnessing these manifestations of YHVH historically and prophetically it's coming back. Even if the hiding of the face is somehow beginning to break, this is the ultimate turning point. When this manifestation happens again, the hiding of the face is over in its fullness. The goal is that God is dwelling in the midst of his people.

-Lev 16:2 and YHVH said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

-Lev 16:12-13 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before YHVH, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil and put the incense on the fire before YHVH, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die.

-Exo 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

-Num 9:15-23 On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. At the command of YHVH the people of Israel set out, and at the command of YHVH they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. Even when the cloud continued over the tabernacle many days, the people of Israel kept the charge of YHVH and did not set out. Sometimes the cloud was a few days over the tabernacle, and according to the command of YHVH they remained in camp; then according to the command of YHVH they set out. And sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning. And when the cloud lifted in the morning, they set out, or if it continued for a day and a night, when the cloud lifted they set out. Whether it was two days, or a month, or a longer time, that the cloud continued over the tabernacle, abiding there, the people of Israel remained in camp and

did not set out, but when it lifted they set out. At the command of YHVH they camped, and at the command of YHVH they set out. They kept the charge of YHVH, at the command of YHVH by Moses.

-The people were all in the camp and when they saw the cloud withdraw, they packed up, pulled up the tent stakes and continued the journey in the direction that the cloud went until it stopped. When the cloud stopped they set up camp again. For all the problems in the wilderness if YHVH wasn't with them they didn't move. They only moved with YHVH in their presence. According to the text YHVH is there in the cloud looking out at the people.

-Num 10:11-13 In the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony, and the people of Israel set out by stages from the wilderness of Sinai. And the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran. They set out for the first time at the command of YHVH by Moses.

-Num 11:17 And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

-Num 11:25 Then YHVH came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

-Jer 1:9 Then YHVH put out his hand and touched my mouth. And YHVH said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

-Num 12:4-10 And suddenly YHVH said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. And YHVH came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I YHVH make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of YHVH. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" And the anger of YHVH was kindled against them, and he departed. When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

-Num 14:11-16 And YHVH said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." But Moses said to YHVH, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O YHVH, are in the midst of this people. For you, O YHVH, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 'It is because YHVH was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.'

-Moses appeals to YHVH and intercedes on behalf of the Israelites based on the character description that he received back in Exodus 34. You have been seen eye to eye and you are walking before them. The imagery is very powerful. What's this going to look like if

you kill them? Scripture says that man is created in the image and likeness of God, but our image is not biblical.

-Num 16:42-45 And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of YHVH appeared. And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, and YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

-Deu 1:32-33 Yet in spite of this word you did not believe YHVH your God, who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

-Deu 5:22-29 "These words YHVH spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. And you said, 'Behold, YHVH our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of YHVH our God any more, we shall die. For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? Go near and hear all that YHVH our God will say, and speak to us all that YHVH our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.' "And YHVH heard your words, when you spoke to me. And YHVH said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

-Deu 31:15 And YHVH appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent.

-Neh 9:12-14 By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go. You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.

-Neh 9:19-20 you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.

-Psa 78:14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.

-Psa 99:7 In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.

-This is not just historical in nature, it's not the end of the appearance of the cloud, the visible manifestation of YHVH is coming again.

-Isa 4:2-6 In that day the branch of YHVH shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in

Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then YHVH will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

-In the days to come this manifestation of the cloud and pillar will take place again but this time over Jerusalem, over Zion. It's the same description.

-Eze 30:3 For the day is near, the day of YHVH is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of the nations.

-Eze 34:11-12 "For thus says Adonai YHVH: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

-This is redemptive language that fits the model that we saw in the Exodus.

-Joe 2:1-2 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of YHVH is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of cloud and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

-Amo 4:11-13 "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares YHVH. "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—YHVH, the God of hosts, is his name!

-Zep 1:14-16 The great day of YHVH is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of YHVH is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of cloud and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

-These text speak of a time yet here, a time to come in which there is another entrance of YHVH into our world poetically described in Psalms 97:2.

-Psa 97:2 Cloud and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

-Amo 5:16-20 Therefore thus says YHVH, the God of hosts, the Lord: "In all the squares there shall be wailing, and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmers to mourning and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation, and in all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through your midst," says YHVH. Woe to you who desire the day of YHVH! Why would you have the day of YHVH? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of YHVH darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

-Let us also make a connection from the ancient with the modern. If you read Deuteronomy 4:1-24 in its entirety, I believe this is what we are going to see again.

-Deu 4:11-13 And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. Then YHVH spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

-Deu 4:24 For YHVH your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

-A visible manifestation of YHVH is described in scripture. Cloud, fire and glory accompanied the children of Israel and was seen by all. That is returning and Ezekiel describes it.

-Eze 1:4-6 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

-Eze 1:26-28 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of YHVH. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking. (This is the manifestation of the glory of YHVH.)

-Num 14:20-23 Then YHVH said, "I have pardoned, according to your word. But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of YHVH, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

-He's saying that the whole earth is going to see the manifestation of the glory of God, those who saw that and rebelled against my word will not be allowed to enter into the Promised Land. The idea is, you were allowed to see the manifestation of YHVH and you were not faithful, you're not going in. Here, he is saying that the glory of YHVH will be seen by all.

-Isa 35:2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of YHVH, the majesty of our God.

-Isa 40:5 And the glory of YHVH shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of YHVH has spoken."

-Isa 58:8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of YHVH shall be your rear guard.

-The imagery is like we read in the Torah, how the glory moved around the camp of Israel.

-Isa 60:1-3 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of YHVH has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but

YHVH will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

-This image is one that ultimately this entire world will envision the glory of the creator.

-Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.

-This idea is not just a manifestation of God, a theophany that was given to the children of Israel according to the Torah in ancient times. It was the fact that they saw the manifestation, the appearance, the theophany, the entire nation for a generation in the wilderness had the manifestation of God, the pillar of cloud and fire with them, the glory of YHVH was in their midst and because they rebelled they were not allowed to go into the promised land. Now that manifestation, according to the prophets, is coming back and the entire world will see it. All flesh will see the manifestation of the glory of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavua Tov; See you next week!

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

APRIL 6, 2019

This week's Torah Portion Tazria: "She Conceived" (Leviticus 12:1 – 13:59) The laws of human contamination, Purification after childbirth, Laws about leprosy, Basic Tzaraas and the procedure for verification, Baheres, S'eis, Inflammations, Burns, Tzaraas of the head or face, Baldness at the front and back of the head, The Metzora's Isolation, Afflictions of garments.

"This Week in Torah" FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/571648826269105/>

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-UIWU Facebook Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitedisraelworldunion/>

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-UIWU President, Tabor Blog, Religion Matters from the Bible to the Modern World:

<https://jamestabor.com/>

-UIWU Executive Vice-President, Ralph Buntyn, "Remembering David Horowitz":

<https://unitedisrael.org/category/remembering-david-horowitz/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

-UIWU 76th Annual Meeting and Conference, April 26-28, 2019, Charlotte, NC:

<https://uiwu.unitedisrael.org/conference-2019/>

-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2019):

<https://digmountzion.uncc.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/digmountzion/>

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