

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Have you ever had an xray taken? There is the assistant who puts you in perfect position, which is usually most uncomfortable, and then at the very last moment, shouts, "Hold it! Don't move!" and disappears. Suddenly you hear, "It is all right; you can breathe again." Why are they doing that? It is because they have to run off to a place which is protecting them from the deadly rays as they could well be over-exposed, if they kept seeing one patient after another and dealt with all the radiation. So they have to go a place of protection.

In the Old Testament, *the glory cloud* is an old phrase, which was used by the old rabbinical order. *The Shekinah*, in other words, serves as a veil to protect the viewer, you and me, from being overcome by the actual presence of God Himself. Have you ever thought about that? The glory cloud, literally the Shekinah, was a protection of actually coming up to the presence of God Almighty. It is like a lead shield of protection around a radium capsule. Do we ever think about this in the sense that of God Almighty is a consuming fire? In **Exodus 13:21**, we read - **And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way . . . - interesting - the link of the cloud with the way - . . . and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light.**

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That is why we read in **John 1:14** **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** Our Lord Jesus Christ is identified with the Eternal One, Who revealed Himself to Israel in the pillar of fire or the blazing cloud, which rested upon the tabernacle of witness. The word *dwelt* literally means *God pitched His tent*. Could you imagine? Here is the Almighty God coming down to man to deal with man and He has this covering, but through this covering, He is there relating Himself to us. We met Jesus, but we do not realize what was in Jesus. We think of Him as perfect God, perfect Man, but somehow we do reduce Him in our thinking to our level. We think, “Now what would Jesus do? I better do this this way, because, after all, Jesus would want me to.” Do we know we are dealing with an holy, consuming fire - a holy Almighty God?

Jesus said to His disciples in **Matthew 18:20** - **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.** Do you understand what they means? When we come in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have this awesome presence and power in our midst. Our Lord Jesus Christ declared Himself to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and, in the **Book of Exodus**, the Shekinah glory. Some of you might remember, if you heard messages about understanding the tabernacle, the Shekinah glory speaks of the

One Who indwelt the pillar of fire, which rested, interestingly, on the tabernacle in the midst of the camp and the way which led them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This is a very amazing thought, but here is the holy powerful presence of God in the very midst. Many of them did not understand this. They were getting up in the morning and thinking, “Oh, are we eating manna again today? How are we looking after our family? How much more of this living in the desert? If only we could get this and do the other thing!” They missed Who was in their midst! Are you missing Who is in the midst of your life? Do you understand Who it is Who said He came to indwell us and live within us when we received Him as our personal Saviour? Do we count upon Who He is and realize this awesome presence? As we look upon the One Who is described as being full of grace and truth, we, too, can behold the glory of Him Who is full of grace and truth.

The eternal Son of God called the Word put on humanity. In other words, He was made flesh. He dwelt in that portable tabernacle of flesh just as He once dwelt in the midst of Israel in a portable tent in the tabernacle. As He led them in the way, He also walked in the light of the divine presence. It is an amazing thought to me that He who is known to be *the Sign* - what is the Sign? What is the Sign they are looking for? When we speak about those people from the Old Testament looking for a sign, they are looking for the eternal Son of

God, who came in that Shekinah glory as their Messiah. That is what is being looked for. Interestingly, that is why the shepherds in the field recognized that Shekinah glory. When they heard that voice, they followed where they were told to go, because this was depicted as they looked back to how God was in their midst when He was there in that tabernacle in His Shekinah glory.

The same glory of God is He who today wants to inhabit your life. Will you say, *Yes, Lord Jesus.*

Amen.