

# **“And Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was” (Exodus 20:16).**

During much of the wilderness wanderings found throughout the Books of Exodus and Numbers, the children of Israel were looking for their own personal image of God to follow. This image was based on an ideal they had of Who God should be and how He should act based on their un-enlightened minds and darkened understandings. They held an “ideal-idol” of God in their hearts. When God appeared in ways that seemed confusing and harsh, they withdrew in fear clinging fast to an ideal that “God could not be there”. Such a situation occurred when the Lord appeared on Mount Sinai. His appearance was in darkness with terror that caused the Israelites to pull away from Him. But Moses had the hunger and humility of heart to approach God in the veil of His true Self, to press into the “unknown God” Who could only be revealed by the Holy Spirit. While all the other people were terrified and drew back, Moses alone “drew near to the thick darkness where God was”.

A similar picture would occur thousands of years later at another mountain called Calvary. On that mountain God Himself would be veiled in the thick darkness of the Cross, misunderstood and a terror to His own people who either drew back from Him in fear, or crucified Him. Only a few drew near to behold God in the eyes of a slaughtered Lamb on a tree, rejected as a criminal and forsaken. The foolishness of the Cross confounded the wise of this world and hid God’s wisdom in this mystery.

It is possible to be repulsed and repelled by that which is God in His deepest essence. We might fearfully draw back and hold on to our idols for security because of their familiarity. But Moses was in tune with the Spirit and sensed God Himself veiled within the thick darkness. He pressed past the knowledge of good and evil, the lies of the Serpent, and the reactions of men into God Himself. He ascended the mount by a heart turned towards the Lord Himself.

We can blind our own eyes by choosing our darkness rather than His darkness. Moses was not deterred by even “thick darkness”. How many of us would miss the hidden wisdom of God veiled in the mystery of a crucified Christ? Do we so easily determine the true state of a person or thing based on the shallow trappings of outward presentation? Should we not rather approach things with humility, open to the Holy Spirit revealing Christ in even the things we do not yet understand?

Moses led this way from the beginning, following the Lamb while the people kept holding onto their idols. The wilderness wanderers needed to die to their own view before they could enter into the beauty and fullness of the God Who had delivered and redeemed them; a Lamb that was slain.