

MSB245

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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GOD'S FACE

By David R. Hetteema

The unseen God applies to Himself many figures of the human body to convey His thoughts. God speaks of His face in the terms that men use to express their pleasure or displeasure so that men might understand His feelings and His attitude in a matter. In the Bible God uses the words *my face* in a metaphoric way such as in turning His face away in displeasure, or in His pleasure speaking face to face with His people the children of Israel. Face to face is quite descriptive of a very close communication between God and those He is speaking to. He has met with Israel as a nation at Mount Sinai and as He has promised; He will meet with them again in the future.

As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD (Ezek 20:33-36).

At the time the Children of Israel came out of Egypt, Moses was their leader and as such, all of God's instructions for the nation were given through the man Moses: **And the LORD spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks unto his friend (Exod 33:11).**

In Israel's wilderness travels these face-to-face conversations usually took place when Moses entered into the Tabernacle. The cloud, the manifestation of God's presence among Israel, descended from above the Tabernacle and

stood at the door. Moses heard God's voice as they spoke together but he did not see the face of God. Later, Moses asks God to let him see His glory. God responded, and said; **you cannot see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live** (Exod 33:18-20).

This truth is reiterated in John's gospel where Jesus Christ is proclaimed to be the only visible expression of the invisible God: **No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him** (John 1:18).

The Spirit of God uses other descriptive phrases concerning His face which express his pleasure and blessing: to have *His face to shine upon* someone, or to *set His face against* and to *hide His face, or turn His face away* describes His displeasure toward an individual or a nation. In Psalm 67 the psalmist is asking that God, who has hidden His face from His people, would again in His mercy shine upon them and favor Israel. This is a prophetic prayer for when this prayer is answered, God will be governing this earth. **God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations** (Ps 67:1-2).

We are told in the first chapter of John's gospel that every man that comes into the world is responsibly equipped with the light of conscience, a guiding light that every individual must give an accounting for. A man's response to that light can bring him the blessing of God's face or turn it away. The future will make known that many individuals from every nation or generation will be accepted of God for responding to that light, revering Him and working righteousness. In our time, to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we are guaranteed life, and our sins, past, present and future, have been erased from our record.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth (Ps 34:15-16).

King David was always careful as to whether God's face was turned away from him or was shining upon him during the highs and lows of his life. In his communion with God he opened his heart and sought the face of God continually. **Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake** (Ps 31: 16) **Hear, O LORD when I cry with my voice: have**

mercy also upon me, and answer me. When you said, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation (Ps 27:7-9).

David acknowledges the grace of God Who has safely kept him and his throne even in his failures. David was a man after God's own heart and the promise was given to him that through his dynasty the King of Kings, Jesus Christ would come. **LORD, by thy favor you have made my mountain (government) to stand strong: you did hide your face, and I was troubled (Ps 30:7).**

In considering the past history of Israel and the nation's failure to keep God's covenant, it becomes apparent that even in the times when God turned His face away from that nation, there were righteous men in Israel who still enjoyed the blessing that flowed from God's face. There were kings that sought and enjoyed His blessing, also prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and many others. That nation's sad record of persistent idolatry, unfaithfulness and disobedience goes back to their coming out of Egypt and their refusal to enter the promised land. After the forty years of wandering in the wilderness, and the deaths of the disobedient generation, God through Moses again sets before the new generation all the facts concerning their choice of the blessing and the curse. **See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that you will not hear, but shall be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: (Deut 30:15-19).**

After that statement, God, who can know the future and see into the hearts of men, looked ahead in time and told Moses what would happen in Israel after his death. **Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people**

will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods (Deut 31: 16-18). Later, when His words were being fulfilled, God said: I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early (Hosea 5:15).

Today, His face is still turned away, history has confirmed that the words of God are true; the record is painfully displayed in detail by the Old Testament Prophets. At the present they are a divided people without a Priesthood or a Temple worship. Wherever the scattered Jews dwell there are still the ongoing results of the broken Covenant displaying that ancient peoples' need for a timely reconciliation with their God. They are, with some exceptions, a people that for hundreds of years have hardened themselves against the idea of Jesus being the Messiah, going out of their way to avoid even speaking His name.

The conditions for Israel's reconciliation have long been set by God: **Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations . . . with all your heart and with all your soul; that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you (Deut 30: 1-3).**

How can 15 million ideologically divided Jews, scattered throughout the world meet God's conditions unless God undertakes the task Himself? It seems an impossible thing from man's point of view, but with God all things are possible. This is how God brings about the reunion of estranged Israel and Himself: His next move for this earth is to intervene and assume sovereignty, establishing His righteous government over all nations. He will begin **The Day of Jesus Christ** by pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh bringing a great renewal of physical and earthly life. It is accomplished by the irresistible flow of light and power that enlightens every living man as to

who Jesus Christ is and what Jesus Christ is in the sight of God. The *epiphaneia*, the “blazing forth” presentation of Jesus Christ, will be God's final and fulfilling act of Grace that closes out the dispensation of the grace. Jesus Christ assumes His rightful place as the judge of all the earth, fulfilling the words of Isaiah 42:1-4, and reemphasized in the New Testament, Matt. 12: 18-21. Just as Joel prophesied, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh" so the words of Jesus Christ speak of this universal enlightenment by God's Spirit touching all the living:

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged (John 16:7-11).

Keeping in mind that all flesh includes Israel's fifteen million living people, this gracious act makes possible the reconciliation of every living Israelite to their Messiah, (Christ) Jesus, restoring them to His love and their land.

Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD. (Ezek 39:28-29).

Restored in fellowship with God, resurrected, judged and redeemed the reunited nation of Israel and their God appointed king David, will play a very important role among nations in the earth when God rules the world.

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