

Glory

in the Highest

***** Christmas Presence *****

The most common responses to the presence of God:

+ Fear + Death + Awe + Silence + Repentance +
+ Joy + Wonder + Transformation +

*The reckless use of empty words and ignorance
of God's attributes can rob worship of its power.*

The Presence

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'"¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

Exodus 33:12-15

One Year Earlier

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

¹³ But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

¹⁴ Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses...

Exodus 3:1-2; 4:12-14a

Friend of God

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

Exodus 33:11

The Back of God

How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock."²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by."²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Exodus 33:16-23

The Face of God

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Matthew 17:1-3

Next Steps

For Further Study:

+ The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer

+ The Advent Conspiracy by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, & Greg Holder

Places to LOVE ALL:

+ INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION – adventconspiracy.org

+ Teamwork Africa – teamworkafrica.com

+ B-Side Church (local) – www.bsidecommunity.com

+ Compassion International – www.compassion.com

+ Christmas Eve offering – Jacob's Well Benevolence Fund

+ Just help someone – No website needed

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