



## Pillar of Cloud and Fire

April 28, 2018

Numbers 9:15-23 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the **cloud** covered the tabernacle, the **tent of the Testimony**; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of **fire**.

<sup>16</sup> So it was always: the **cloud** covered it *by day*, and the appearance of **fire** by night. <sup>17</sup> Whenever the **cloud** was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the **cloud** settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. <sup>18</sup> At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the **cloud** stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. <sup>19</sup> Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey. <sup>20</sup> So it was, when the **cloud** was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey. <sup>21</sup> So it was, when the **cloud** remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; **whether by day or by night**, whenever the **cloud** was taken up, they would journey.

<sup>22</sup> Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the **cloud** remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey. <sup>23</sup> At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

**This evening starts the 29<sup>th</sup> day of counting the omer.**

Leviticus 23:15-16 (NKJV) – <sup>15</sup> ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

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Notes

<sup>16</sup> Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

❖ This evening is the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of Counting the Omer.

**This evening is also *Pesach Sheni* (2<sup>nd</sup> Passover); Num. 9:1-14.**  
First mention of the fire-cloud in Numbers is after Second Passover.

### I. When was the first time the fire-cloud appeared?

Exodus 13:21-22 (NKJV) – <sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them by day in a **pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them light, so as to go by day and night. <sup>22</sup> He did not take away the **pillar of cloud by day** or the **pillar of fire by night** from before the people.

❖ God wants all His people to experience the fire-cloud (Acts 2:1-4).

### II. What is this fire-cloud?

Exodus 14:19-20 (NKJV) – <sup>19</sup> And **the Angel of God**, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the **pillar of cloud** went from before them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup> So it came between the camp of the **Egyptians** and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a **cloud and darkness to the one**, and it gave **light by night to the other**, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

**Who is the Angel of the God?** (He seems to be one with the fire-cloud.)

Exodus 3:2 (NKJV) – And the **Angel of the LORD** appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, **the bush was burning with fire**, but the bush was not consumed.

Exodus 23:20-23 (NKJV) – <sup>20</sup> “Behold, I send **an Angel** before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. <sup>21</sup> Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not **pardon your transgressions**; for **My name is in Him**. <sup>22</sup> But if you indeed **obey His voice** and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. <sup>23</sup> For My Angel will go before you....

Exodus 24:1 (NKJV) – Now **He** said to Moses, “Come up to the **LORD**, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.

Who is “He”? Who is the “**LORD**”? Different people?

Matthew 22:43-45 (NKJV) [Quoting Psalm 110:1] –

<sup>43</sup> He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: <sup>44</sup> ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’? <sup>45</sup> If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”

*Binitarianism?* Metatron, Logos, Memra, Sophia.

- Border Lines by Daniel Boyarin
- Also, Two Powers in Heaven by Alan Segal.

**The fire-cloud has 2 appearances.**

**A. The fire:**

Exodus 24:17 (NKJV) – The sight of the **glory** of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

So, the fire is called the **glory** – קְבוֹד (*kabowd*) –

“**To the Jew First**” – Romans 1:16 (NKJV) – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans 9:4-5 (NKJV) – <sup>4</sup>Who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the **glory**, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

**B. The cloud:**

**5 Things the Cloud Did for Israel.**

**1. The cloud showed communion (God’s presence).**

**2. The cloud communicated.**

Exodus 33:7-11 (NKJV) – <sup>7</sup> Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass *that* everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. <sup>8</sup> So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, *that* all the people rose, and each man stood *at* his tent door and

watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. <sup>9</sup> And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the **pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.** <sup>10</sup> All the people saw the **pillar of cloud** standing *at* the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man *in* his tent door. <sup>11</sup> So the **LORD spoke to Moses face to face**, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

~The fire-cloud **expanded** when it **descended** on the Tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34 (NKJV) – <sup>33</sup> So Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the **glory** of the LORD **filled** the tabernacle.

~The fire-cloud **expanded** when it **departed** the Tabernacle.

Ezekiel 10:4 (NKJV) – Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, *and paused* over the threshold of the temple; and the **house was filled with the cloud**, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's **glory**.

Proverbs 20:12 (NIV) – **Ears that hear** and **eyes that see**—the LORD has made them both.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV) – And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

### 3. The cloud counsels (guides).

Exodus 13:21-22 (NKJV) – <sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them **by day in a pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and **by night in a pillar of fire to give them light**, so as to go by day and night. <sup>22</sup> **He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night** from before the people.

The Counselor: John 14:15-17 & 26; 15:26; 16:7-11. (See NIV)

### 4. The cloud guards.

**KEPT:** Exodus 14:19-20 (NKJV) – <sup>19</sup> And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the **pillar** of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

<sup>20</sup> So it **came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel**. Thus it was a cloud and darkness *to the one*, and it gave light by night *to the other*, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

**FOUGHT:** Exodus 14:24-25 (NKJV) – <sup>24</sup> Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the **pillar** of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. <sup>25</sup> And He **took off their chariot wheels**, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

**DISCIPLINED:** Numbers 12:1, 5, 10 (NKJV) – <sup>1</sup> Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.... <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward.... <sup>10</sup> And **when the cloud departed** from above the tabernacle, suddenly **Miriam became leprous**, as *white as snow*. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

### 5. The cloud superintended the change in leadership from Moses to Joshua.

Deuteronomy 31:14-16 & 23 (NKJV) – <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, the days approach when you must die; **call Joshua, and present yourselves** in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him.” So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>15</sup> Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a **pillar** of cloud, and the **pillar** of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD said to Moses: “Behold, you will rest with your fathers... <sup>23</sup> Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun....

### III. Three times the fire-cloud expelled everyone.

#### A. When Moses Tabernacle was erected and the Ark of the Covenant was installed.

Exodus 40:21-35 (NKJV) – <sup>21</sup> Then he brought **the ark into the tabernacle** and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the **ark of the Testimony**, as the LORD commanded him. <sup>22</sup> Moses placed the table in the Tent of Meeting... <sup>24</sup> He placed the **lampstand**.... <sup>26</sup> Moses placed the **gold altar**.... <sup>29</sup> He set the **altar of burnt offering**... <sup>30</sup> He placed the **basin**.... <sup>33</sup> Then Moses set up the courtyard.... And so Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup> Then the **cloud covered the Tent of Meeting**, and the **glory** of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because

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the cloud had settled upon it, and the **glory** of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

**What is “The Testimony”? It is The Ten Commandments:**

- “Tablets of the Testimony” (Exo. 31:18; 32:15; 34:29)
- “Ark of the Testimony” (Exo. 25:16, 21, 22, 33, 34; 30:6, 26; 31:7; 39:35; 40:3, 5, 20, 21; Num. 4:5; 7:89)
- “The Testimony” (Exo. 16:34; 27:21; 30:36; 38:21; Lev. 16:13 & 24:3)

**B. When Solomon’s Temple was erected and the Ark of the Covenant was installed.**

1 Kings 8:9-11 (NKJV) – <sup>9</sup>There was **nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets** that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup>When the **priests withdrew** from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>And the **priests could not perform their service because of the cloud**, for the **glory** of the LORD filled his temple.

**C. Just before the 7 Bowl Judgments in the Book of Revelation.**

Revelation 15:5-8 (NKJV) – <sup>5</sup>After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the **Testimony**, was opened. <sup>6</sup>Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. <sup>7</sup>Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup>And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

**Mark your calendar for Havdalah.**

- May 5 – Ps Greg; The Silver Shofars, Num. 10.
- May 12 – Aharon Mendez; Aaron’s Rod & The Tithe, Num. 17-18.
- **May 19, 26 & Jun 2 – No Havdalah.**
- Jun 9 – Ps Greg; The Humblest Man on Earth, Num. 12.
- Jun 16 – Ellen Lipscomb; Complainers!; Num. 11; Ps Greg on vacation.
- Jun 23 – Ps Greg; Grain & Drink Offerings, Jewish Communion, Num. 15.
- Jun 30 – Greg Rosenberg; Bronze Serpent, Num. 21; Ps Greg in Mexico City.
- Jul 7 – Ps Greg; Unintentional vs Presumptuous Sin, Num. 15.
- Jul 14 – Ps Greg; The Saddest Day, Tisha B’Av, Num. 13 & 14.
- **Jul 22–Sep 8 – No Havdalah.**
- Sep 15 – Havdalah starts up again; Turning to God on the Sabbath; It’s Shabbat Shuvah, Num. 15:32-36.