

GOD CAME DOWN

INTRODUCTION

- A. How do you go about reading a book?
 - 1. Authors write books to be read from front to back.
 - 2. How often do you go to the back of the book first, and then to the front?
- B. How about when you read the Bible?
 - 1. Most of us probably more comfortable with the New Testament than with the Old.
 - 2. We've read about Christ and how God deals with man's sin.
 - 3. We understand a great deal about God's nature and personality.
 - 4. We know how everything turns out in the end.
- C. Imagine a time when God's people were in the dark about many things we take for granted.
 - 1. They didn't know much about a relationship with God.
 - 2. They didn't know about the coming "Messiah".
 - 3. They didn't know God's name!
- D. Exodus is the "chapter" in the Bible that begins to educate people about God.
 - 1. God reveals fundamental facts about Himself:
 - a. His name.
 - b. His attributes.
 - c. His concern for "His" people.
 - d. And how He is to be worshiped.
 - 2. God comes down in this book to reveal Himself to man.

I. GOD WANTS MAN TO KNOW HIM.

- A. You Will Know That I Am the Lord Your God.
 - 1. God does a number of things to prove to Israel that He is truly God and that He can do what He promises.
 - a. Sends the plagues to the Egyptians.
 - b. Leads the Israelites out of Egypt.
 - c. Gives food to the Israelites in the wilderness.
 - d. Orders the Tabernacle to be built.
 - 2. God does similar things to the Egyptians to prove to them that they are dealing with a God far different than their idols.
 - a. Sends the plagues.
 - b. Destroys the armies of the Egyptians in the Red Sea.
- B. Visual Symbols of God.
 - 1. In Exodus, for the first time God gives visual representation of Himself.
 - a. In Genesis, God is just a voice speaking from the darkness or in a dream.
 - b. There are times when God's angel takes the form of a man in Genesis. (I.e., the three men telling Abraham of Sodom's destruction.
 - c. But mostly, God is invisible in Genesis.
 - 2. In Exodus, God gives His people something to look at. Not only to show His presence, but to share something about His character – fire and smoke.
 - a. The Burning Bush – God appears in flames of fire.
 - b. The pillar of Cloud and Fire, Ex. 13:20-22.
 - c. Smoke and Fire on Mt. Sinai, Ex. 19:18.
- C. The Tent of Meeting.
 - 1. 12 out of 40 chapters deal with the Tabernacle.
 - a. Chapters 25-31 tell of the instruction of building.
 - b. Chapters 35-40 tell of the construction.

2. The Tabernacle is important, because it is here that God reveals Himself to His people, Ex. 29:42-46.
 3. With the Tabernacle, God reaches out to His people, providing a place where they can meet with Him and learn about Him.
- D. And God Came Down.

II. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF.

- A. The Burning Bush.
1. God comes down in the burning bush, Ex. 3:5-15 (vs. 8).
 2. What we learn about God:
 - a. God is holy and should be revered, vss. 5-6.
 - b. God is compassionate, concerned about His people, vss. 7-10.
 - c. God has a name – “I am who I am” (vs. 14).
 - i. Had revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – no name, Ex. 6:2-3.
 - ii. “I am” – *“the one who was, and is, and is to come”* (Rev. 1:8).
- B. Mount Sinai.
1. God comes down at Mount Sinai, Ex. 19:14-25 (vs. 20).
 - a. Three months after leaving Egypt – camped at Sinai.
 - b. Moses climbs the mountain.
 - c. People are told to be prepared in three days.
 2. What we learn about God:
 - a. God is holy and should be revered, vss. 10-17.
 - b. God requires a holy people to serve Him.
 - i. The Ten Commandments.
 - ii. God telling the people what they should be, while learning who God is.
- C. Moses.
1. God comes down to Moses, Ex. 33:18-23; 34:5-8 (vs. 5).
 - a. This is just after the Golden Calf incident.
 - b. Moses has broken the stones, in anger.
 - c. God has threatened not to go with the Israelites – Moses intervenes.
 2. What we learn about God.
 - a. God is holy and should be revered.
 - b. God longs to be known.
 - c. The attributes of God. “The Lord” is (34:6-7).

CLOSING – The Invisible God.

- A. All that God tried to do for the Israelites then, He has done for us now through Jesus Christ.
1. He revealed Himself to man.
 2. He proved by His actions that He is Lord.
 3. God wants people to know Him.
- B. God is no longer invisible.
1. In Exodus, God is still invisible.
 - a. We can see some of God.
 - b. But we cannot see the face of God.
 2. But with Jesus Christ, we see the very face of God.
 1. “...and the Word was God”, Jn. 1:1.
 2. Jesus and the Father are one, Jn. 14:11a.
 3. “...the glory of God in the face of Christ”, 2 Cor. 4:6.