

THE VOICE OF GOD

By Keith Greer

"And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. " (Exodus 19:9)

Moses and the children of Israel had been out of the land of Egypt for three months. Soon they came to the wilderness of Sinai. As they camped near the mountain, God was preparing to give Moses the law, to govern and rule His people. God had great plans for the nation of Israel and in exchange, God commanded and expected total obedience. Nothing less would be acceptable to Him!

God, in His infinite wisdom, decided to speak before the children of Israel, hoping it would impress upon them His great power and majesty. Think about what effect it would have had on you, if you were to hear the "**voice of God**"? Surely the children of Israel would be obedient to His word! But, did it work?

"And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish." (Exodus 19:19-21) We are also told that His voice was accompanied by thundering's, lightning's, a loud trumpet, and a thick cloud on the mountain! Who would not be moved to tremble at such a sight!

"Then they said to Moses, You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." (Exodus 20: 19,20) Think they got the message? Now surely they will follow Moses in all that God has instructed them to do, right? Not so!

What did they do when they came upon the border of the Promised Land? Twelve spies went out, two reports came back. Which did they accept? "And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?. (Numbers 14:2-3)

How could these be the same people that had heard the, "**voice of God**"? Oh, how soon they forget! We look at these people and are amazed at their lack of faith. Yet, before you point the finger of shame at them, we better consider ourselves. Do we do any better today? Some will say, "We can't hear the voice of God today." Do they really believe that?

"Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." (Hebrews 1:2) Christ speaks to us thru His Word, given to us by the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Do you read and study that word each day to place it deep

into our hearts? Does His word live and abide in your heart and burn within you each day? Do we seek to mold our lives around each of His teachings and precepts? Do we seek to put His kingdom and work ahead of our own agenda? Do we fear Him and seek to lead others to His church? Do we live each day in keeping ourselves ready for His return? If not, are we any different from those people of old? **Could it be that God needs to speak a little louder?** ***