



Dearly Beloved in Messiah,

November 2010

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR 2010
MERCY MISSION TO ISRAEL:

6 AM-8 AM. A,B,C	4 P.M.-6 P.M. P,Q,R
8 AM-10 A.M. D,E,F	6 P.M.-8 P.M. S,T,U
10 AM-12 P.M. G,H,I	8 P.M.-10 P.M. V,W,X,Y,Z
12 P.M.-2 P.M. J,K,L	10 P.M.- 6 AM. Those whom our Father wakes up to pray!
2 P.M.-4 P.M. M,N,O	



(FIRST
LETTER OF
LAST NAME) NOV. 29-DEC. 11

ISRAEL IS 6 HRS. AHEAD OF EST.

All About Clouds

The word for cloud in Hebrew, *anan* (pronounced ah-NAHN) comes from a root meaning to cover. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob identifies Himself, particularly His Presence, with a Cloud throughout the Tenach. Following their exodus from Egypt, the children of Israel journeyed from Ramses to Succoth, from massive pyramids to flimsy booths. Nevertheless, they were guided and protected—by a CLOUD: "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..." (Ex. 13:21). When the Egyptian army pursued the Israelites, this same CLOUD protected them from danger: "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. 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..." (Ex. 14:19-20).

This *Anan* was God's visible presence to His children. Traditional rabbis considered this Cloud to be God's sheltering sukkah in their wilderness wanderings. For this reason, the Feast of Sukkot has also been called "The Feast of the Clouds."

Pilgrims and the Cloud

As we celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving this month, we remember our Pilgrim forefathers (actually some of Jamie's ancestors!), who saw a parallel between themselves and the ancient Israelites. They were a spiritually oppressed people. Under English law, all British citizens were required to attend services and follow the traditions of the Church of England. The Pilgrims were "Separatists" who wanted religious freedom. They saw themselves as children of Abraham, chosen by God, who were fleeing Egypt (England) and the rule of Pharaoh (King James). They set sail in 1620 to cross the Red Sea (The Atlantic Ocean) en route to the Promised Land of Canaan (America).

The Pilgrims trusted that the Cloud would be with them in their journey and wanderings. There was murmuring and dissension along the way, just like the Israelites of old, with the Pilgrims actually dividing themselves into two groups on the Mayflower: the Saints and the Strangers. When the New World was reached on November 10, 1609, the Saints and Strangers agreed to work together, making an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. The Compact, often described as a forerunner to the US Constitution, was styled as a covenant, "in the presence of God and one another."

Was the Cloud with them? God's presence may not have been seen, but He is the reason the Pilgrims survived that first winter. Considering the harsh weather, scarcity of food, and rampant sickness, the Pilgrims had little chance of survival. But God was with them! He provided Squanto, a native American Indian who "just happened" to speak perfect English. He taught the Pilgrims how to survive in Plymouth, instructing them concerning fishing, hunting and growing native crops. Without Squanto, there quite possibly would never have been that first Thanksgiving celebration, modeled, by the way, on the biblical feast of Sukkot, the Feast of Clouds, the Festival of Harvest. [We highly recommend Squanto's story to you.]

The Cloud on Mt. Sinai

In the third month after leaving Egypt, the children of Israel arrived at the wilderness of Sinai. *"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'."* (Ex. 19:9) God affirmed the covenant He was making with Israel by calling not only Moses, but Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel to come up to the Mount, where they saw the God of Israel, and even ate and drank (Ex. 24:9-11)! Then the Lord asked to meet privately with Moses: *"Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a **cloud** covered the mountain. Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the **cloud** covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the **cloud**"* (Ex. 24:15-16). The cloud is now associated with the glory of God, and is known as the *Anan HaKavod*, the "Glory Cloud." Please take note of this: The God of Israel spoke out of the midst of a cloud. The next time He spoke from a cloud, God revealed His nature, *"Then the LORD descended in the **cloud** and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...'"* (Ex. 34:5-6). God was present in the Cloud.

The Cloud in the Mishkan

When the Israelites set up the tabernacle (*mishkan*) in the wilderness, as the Lord commanded, and the work was finished, *"...the **cloud** covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory (kavod) of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the **cloud** rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle...For the **cloud** of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys"* (Ex. 40:34-35, 38). Wow. The Israelites experienced the manifest Presence of God, the Glory of God on a daily basis.

The Cloud was also inside the Tabernacle, resting in the *Kodesh HaKodashim*, the Holy of Holies. But only the Cohen Gadol, the High Priest, saw this Cloud, once a year, on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. God said to Moses: *"Tell Aaron your brother not to come at simply any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the **cloud** above the mercy seat"* (Lev. 16:2). God's Presence manifested once more in a cloud.

The Cloud in the Temple

When King Solomon built a permanent "house" for the God of Israel, he chose to dedicate this Temple at the Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of the Clouds) in the seventh month (1 Kings 8:2). At this time, the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim (1 Kings 8:6). *"And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the **cloud** filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the **cloud**; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD."* (1 Kings 8:10-11) That's what we need today! May the *Anan Hakavod* fill our congregations once again!

When Solomon dedicated the Temple (2 Chronicles 5), the house of the LORD was filled with a cloud, the glory of the Lord, after the singers and musicians praised the Lord in unity proclaiming: *"For He is good, for His mercy endures forever."* May we all lift up our voices with thanksgiving and praise the Lord in one accord this month. In Hebrew that would be: *"Hodu l'Adonai kitov ki leolam hasdo."*

The Departure of the Cloud

Unfortunately, the Glory Cloud, the *Anan HaKavod*, did not remain in the Temple permanently. In 591 BC, the prophet Ezekiel had a prophetic vision of the future departure of the Cloud. He saw the

Glory leave the Temple and go to the Mount of Olives. *"Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight...and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them."* (Ezek. 10:18-19) *"And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain [Olivet], which is on the east side of the city."* (Ezek. 11:23)

When did the Cloud depart from the Temple? We know from Scripture that the Divine Presence was in the Temple in Jerusalem during Yeshua's lifetime. (See Matt. 23:21.) The Talmud states that forty years before the Temple was destroyed (approximately 30 AD!), strange signs in the Temple seemed to indicate the departure of the Cloud (also called Shechinah or the Divine Presence). One of these signs was the mysterious opening of the East Temple Gate on its own—a gate that needed at least twenty men to close it.

It turns out that Ezekiel was not the only person to witness (albeit in a vision) the departure of the Divine Presence from His earthly dwelling. Josephus records that the departure was "publicly declared" by the Jewish "men of learning." Accounts of the event are also found in the Midrash Lamentations, the Babylonian Talmud tractate Rosh Hashanah and works by Eusebius, a highly regarded church historian. The withdrawal of the "Cloud" began at about 3 AM on the 8th day of Nissan in 66 AD as witnessed by about twenty priests preparing for the Passover. The entire sequence of events can be found in **The Fire and the Cloud** by Robert Reiland. According to Mr. Reiland, the Divine Presence arrived at the summit of the Mount of Olives and remained there for 3 1/2 years, pleading with the Israelites to repent and return to the Lord. Since they would not, in December of 69 AD the Divine Presence ascended into Heaven from the Mount of Olives saying: *"I will return again to My Place..."* (Hosea 5:15).

As you know, the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed just a few months later, in the spring of 70 AD. Between 30 AD (when Yeshua was crucified) and 70 AD, (when the Temple was destroyed), it seems that the Lord gave His people a generation to turn back to Him and embrace the Truth. Some must have wondered: "Could that Rabbi of Nazareth, who was put to death, have been the Messiah, the Son of God?" "Did we miss the time of our visitation?" "Is the departure of the Divine Presence from our midst a judgment against us?" "Should we leave Jerusalem, since the Cloud moved?"

The Return of the Cloud

The Cloud, evidence of God's Glory, would not be permanently removed from the midst of God's People Israel. In His great mercy, God had a plan to restore, regather, rebuild and return His People to Himself. Concerning the renewal of Zion, the prophet Isaiah declared: *"When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, then the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a **cloud** and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering"* (Is. 4:4-5). The day will come when Messiah is worshipped in Jerusalem, and the Lord dwells in her midst once again.

A Final Voice From the Cloud

The God of Israel spoke from a cloud one final time, proclaiming clearly to His People Israel His plan for the Glory of God to be among them forever. This event occurred during the Feast of Sukkot on the Mount of Transfiguration. *"Now after six days [probably the seventh day of the holiday], Yeshua took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them [probably in His original glorified form]...And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Yeshua. Then Peter answered and said to Yeshua, 'Rabbi, it*

is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles [sukkot]: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—...And a **cloud** came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the **cloud**, saying, 'This is My beloved Son. Hear [Shema] Him' " (Mark 9:2, 4-5, 7)!

Moses was there representing the Torah. Elijah was there representing the Prophets. Both were overshadowed by the cloud, since a greater glory than either of them had come. The voice that spoke from the cloud was the voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the same voice that spoke on Mt. Sinai, the same presence that dwelt in the Mishkan, and in the Temple. The God of Israel was declaring that Yeshua was His beloved Son. Up until His coming, God asked His People to listen to Moses and the Prophets. Now, He was asking them to listen [Shema Yisrael!] to His Son, the Messiah. In Hebrew, to listen also means to obey. Yeshua had come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. They were two witnesses to Yeshua being **the final revelation**.

God was giving a direct command from Heaven: "This is My Son. Hear Him." This puts the Gospel message in a slightly different perspective: If a Jewish person loves God, and sincerely wants to obey Him, he or she must receive the One whom God credentialed by speaking from a cloud in Heaven.

The truth of Yeshua is expressed beautifully in Hebrews 1:1-3: "God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 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; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."

God Still Speaks from the Clouds

We were driving to Temple recently on a Shabbat morning, and Jamie was explaining to Neil that she was struggling in her faith concerning some major dental work that was about to be done. She concluded by turning to Neil and saying, "I just have to trust God. He is leading me, and He'll take care of me." No sooner had she uttered those words, when in the sky, amidst the clouds, were the words: TRUST GOD. The words seemed to follow our car all the way to the synagogue. But when we arrived, a new message was being written: GOD LOVES YOU. God still speaks in the clouds! Glory!

May the Glory Cloud overshadow you as you praise and thank Him this month!

We thank God for each one of you! Love - Neil & Jamie

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - November 2010

LOCAL TV STATIONS

AIRTIME:	STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:
TUE 6:00 PM	AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4
SUN 2:30 PM	FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22
THU 11:30 AM	FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45
SUN 1:30 PM	FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45
SAT 10:30 PM	FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61
SUN 2:30 PM	GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16
SUN 1:30 PM	IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40
SUN 1:30 PM	MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25
SUN 4:00 PM	NJ/NY	NYC/New Jersey	WMBC TV 63
SUN 12:00 PM	OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26
SUN 12:00 PM	OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21

SATELLITE NETWORKS (EST)

DirecTV

SUN 3:00 PM Ch. 367 - WHT (World Harvest TV)
 SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)
 SAT 10:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

Dish Network

SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 267 & 9399 - CTN (Christian Television Network)
 SAT 10:30 PM Ch. 267 & 9399 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

AT&T Cable

SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 578 - WHT (World Harvest TV)

INTERNET - www.jewishjewels.org

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