

YT Video-do You Want to See God?

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 8 May 2021

Text [KJV unless otherwise indicated]

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

I. Seeing God

a. Moses

Exo 3:6 Then he said, "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, **Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.**

Exo 33:18 Then Moses said, "**Please show me your glory.**"

Exo 33:19 God said, "I'll cause all my goodness to pass before you, and I'll proclaim the name 'the LORD' before you. I'll be gracious to whom I'll be gracious, and I'll show compassion on whom I'll show compassion.

Exo 33:20 But," he said, "**You cannot see my face, because a man cannot see me and live.**

Exo 33:21 The LORD said, "Look, there is a place near me where you can stand on the rock;

Exo 33:22 and as my glory passes by, I'll put you in a crevice in the rock, and cover you with my hand until I've passed by.

Exo 33:23 Then I'll remove my hand so you may see my back, but **my face must not be seen.**"

1. At the burning bush, Moses was afraid to look at God
2. In Exo 33:18 Moses requested to see God's glory
3. YAHWEH told him that no man can see God's face and live:

See: râ'âh in Hebrew [H7200] and eido in Greek [G1492] as translated in the Septuagint

b. Jacob

Gen 32:30 Jacob would later call that place Peniel, because "I saw God face to face, but my life was spared."

Jacob saw God face to face and lived! Same Hebrew word raah and Greek word eido. The explanation must be that God had revealed Himself to Jacob as a man and not in His full glory.

c. Isaiah

Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon his throne, high and exalted. The train of his robe filled the Temple.

Isa 6:2 The seraphim stood above him. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he was flying.

Isa 6:3 They kept on calling to each other: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of the Heavenly Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!"

Isa 6:4 The foundations of the thresholds quaked at the sound of those who kept calling out, and the Temple was filled with smoke.

*Isa 6:5 **"How terrible it will be for me!" I cried, "because I am ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips! And my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of the Heavenly Armies!"***

*Isa 6:6 **Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a burning coal in his hand that he had taken from the altar with tongs.***

*Isa 6:7 **He touched my mouth and said, "Look! Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt is taken away, and your sins atoned for."***

Isaiah saw [Hebrew "raah" / Greek "eido"] God sitting on His throne! He felt terrible because he knew Moses' account. He became conscious of his uncleanness, which is the opposite of holiness. One of the seraphim had to touch his lips with a burning coal from the Altar, removing his iniquity and purging his sins. This is a powerful reminder of the holiness of God vs the sinfulness and uncleanness of man.

d. Aaron, his sons and 70 elders on Mt Sinai:

Exo 24:9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

*Exo 24:10 And **they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.***

This account appears to contradict what YAHWEH told Moses in Exo 33:20. In fact, virtually all the translations of the Bible except the Septuagint give the same account. The Septuagint renders v.10 as:

*Exo 24:10 And **they saw the place where the God of Israel stood;** and under his feet was as it were a work of sapphire slabs, and as it were the appearance of the firmament of heaven in its purity.*

They did not see God but only the place where He stood! Remember that, later, Nadab & Abihu were profane and presumptuous in burning incense and were consumed by fire.

II. John's Testimony

*Joh 1:18 **No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.***

G3708: horaō

hor-ah'-o

Properly to stare at (compare G3700), that is, (by implication) to discern clearly (physically or mentally); by extension to attend to; by Hebraism to experience; passively to appear: - behold, perceive, see, take heed.

III. John's Vision of God

Rev 1:13 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

Rev 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Rev 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

*Rev 1:17 **And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.** And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

John saw ["eido"] the glory of Yeshua and fell as dead.

IV. Paul's Testimony of the Glory of Yeshua [God]

1Ti 6:13 *I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;*

1Ti 6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1Ti 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

*1Ti 6:16 **Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see:** to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

No man has seen ["eido"] nor can see ["eido"] His glory [doxa], exactly what YAHWEH told Moses.

V. Sinful Man can only see a little of God's glory

- a. Moses saw the back part of God
- b. Jacob saw God who appeared as a man
- c. The apostles & disciples beheld Yeshua as a man but with supernatural manifestations
- d. The Transfiguration:

Mat 17:1 *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,*

*Mat 17:2 And **was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.***

Mat 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Yeshua showed something of His glory to Peter, James & John. That's why John recorded:

Joh 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Peter also recorded:

2Pe 1:16 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

VI. Theophanies [Reduced Glory]

“The Lord Jesus Christ was present at the beginning of creation—He was and is our Creator. His pre-existence is further affirmed by His many appearances documented throughout the Old Testament. Theophany is a theological term that refers to an encounter with God prior to Christ’s incarnation. There are over 50 possible theophanies recorded throughout the Old Testament, primarily concentrated in Genesis, in the Exodus and conquest events, in Judges, and in the prophets..... Visible manifestations most often involve the Angel of the Lord appearing in human form but could also include other visible encounters such as the fire and smoke on Mount Sinai.”-- <https://www.icr.org/article/theophanies-old-testament-creator>

VII. Purity of Heart

Mat 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

G2513: *katharos*

kath-ar-os'

Of uncertain affinity; clean (literally or figuratively): - clean, clear, pure.

a. Uncleaness is the opposite of holiness:

1Th 4:7 *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

G167: *akatharsia*

ak-ath-ar-see'-ah

*From G169; **impurity** (the quality), physically or morally: - uncleanness.*

b. “akatharsia” is from “akathartos” which is used in the NT for demons and unclean food like pork, shellfish etc [Lev 11]

See Mat 12:43 and Acts 10:14

VIII. Pursue Peace

Heb 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Heb 12:15 *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Heb 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

G1377: diōkō

dee-o'-ko

*A prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb δίω diō (to flee; compare the base of G1169 and G1249); **to pursue** (literally or figuratively); by implication to persecute: - ensue, **follow (after)**, given to, (suffer) persecute (-ion), **press toward**.*

- a. **We are to pursue peace [forgiveness]**
- b. **Failure to do so results in a root of bitterness springing up to defile**
- c. **Esau was a prime example**
- d. **He sold his birthright for a bowl of porridge to Jacob**
- e. **He remained bitter and unforgiving towards Jacob**
- f. **He found no room for repentance later.**

IX. Peace Makers Are Sons of God

*Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for **they shall be called the children of God.***

G5207: uihos

hwee-os'

Apparently a primary word; a "son" (sometimes of animals), used very widely of immediate, remote or figurative kinship: - child, foal, son.

Used primarily of Yeshua. Denotes maturity of sonship

X. Pursue Holiness

Lev 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

*1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

Peter quoted from Lev 11:44 which first gave the injunction to be holy like YAHWEH. Note that Lev 11 is all about not eating unclean food. Hence eating unclean food prevents Christians from being holy. Such people will never be able to see YAHWEH in all His glory.

XI. Chastening & Partaking of His Holiness

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not thou the chastening of the Lord**, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Heb 12:6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, **that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

- a. To become mature sons of God, we have to endure chastening and scourging by Him.

The Greek word “uihos” is used here again.

- b. Those not chastened are **illegitimate**:

G3541: nothos

noth'-os

Of uncertain affinity; a spurious or illegitimate son: - bastard.

- c. Those chastened will partake of His holiness!
- d. The Psalmist:

Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Psa 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Psa 119:75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

In Ps 119 the Psalmist attests that he went astray before he was afflicted: now he keeps YAHWEH's Word and learns His statutes. He also affirms that he was afflicted because of the faithfulness of YAHWEH.

Older commentators believe that King David was the author of the Psalm. Regardless of authorship, King David certainly experienced the chastisement of YAHWEH after he sinned with Bathsheba and murdered her husband. The child born to them died and David experienced rape and murder among his children, rebellion by his son Absalom who also raped David's wives and concubines on the Palace rooftop. David's kingdom had no peace after his terrible sins but, out of it all, he emerged as a man loyal to YAHWEH and wrote many beautiful psalms containing valuable spiritual insights and instructions for holiness.

XII. Summary

- a. We cannot see the fulness of God's glory now because of our sins and sinfulness**
- b. At most, He can offer us a glimpse of His glory [theophany]**
- c. When we die, we shall only be able to see His glory if we are pure in heart, have been chastened by Him so that we are able to partake of His holiness. We must also have pursued peace with all men and holiness. Holiness requires us to avoid the unclean such as unclean food listed in Lev 11 and unclean sexual practices.**