

(Exodus) Exodus 40:34-38

by J. Vernon McGee

The sermon emphasizes the importance of following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which is represented by the cloud in the Old Testament, and prioritizing the Word of God in our decisions.

Duration: 4:34

Scripture: Exodus 13:21, Exodus 33:9, Exodus 40:34, Exodus 40:36, Exodus 40:38, Matthew 6:33, Romans 9:4

Topics: "Exodus"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the book of Exodus and how it opens in gloom in the brickyards of Egypt but closes in glory. The presence of the Lord is seen in the tabernacle, leading the people through the wilderness. The preacher emphasizes that God wants to deliver people from the slavery of sin and bring them into the glory of His presence. The sermon also highlights the importance of church members being filled with the Holy Spirit and following God's will, rather than spouting their own opinions without reference to the Word of God. The sermon concludes by focusing on the setting up of the tabernacle and how the cloud of the Lord's presence guided the Israelites in their journeys.

Transcript

Now, I have left very little time for this 40th chapter. What you have here is the setting up of the tabernacle. And I only wanted to lift out one thing, because we have dealt with every article of furniture, every part of the tabernacle, and when Moses set it up in the camp of Israel, this is what happened, verse 34 of chapter 40 now, "...then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, "...and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys.

But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. "...For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys." When Paul attempts to identify these people over in the 9th chapter of Romans, he says, who are Israelites. And of the things he enumerates, one is they had the glory.

They are the only people that ever had the visible glory of God, the visible presence of God. And that was what led them. That cloud would lift in the morning if they were to journey.

And if it didn't lift, the children of Israel stayed in the camp. They didn't attempt to move that day. They didn't move by their own wisdom or their own judgment, and they didn't vote on it, and Moses didn't make the decision the cloud did.

Now, we sometimes say this, and I think in our conservative churches it's pretty meaningless today. We say Christ is the head of the church. How about your church? Is He the head of the church? Are we following the cloud today, or do we put a man on the board because we say, well, you know, He's a successful businessman? My friend, that's not the reason to put Him on the board.

That ought not to exclude Him. Don't misunderstand me, but that ought not to be the reason. And you hear people say today, well, I want to talk to my preacher about whether I should do this or not.

A lot of people consult me on things. I'm no expert at telling them what to do. I can't solve their marital problems.

And by the way, the psychologists can't either. May I say to you, there's the pillar of cloud today, but you don't see it. You know, it's the Holy Spirit of God, and He ought to be the one to lead us and to guide us and let us know that we're in the will of God.

Oh, how this is neglected today. We're always appealing to something human and something outside. We need a church.

We need preachers. We need teachers. We need laymen.

We need church members that are filled with the Holy Spirit of God. There are too many of them that are just spouting off, talking. And they're talking without any unction at all, coming from heaven.

Pay no attention to the Word of God. I have been to church board meetings and listened to officers just spout off. No reference at all to what the Word of God says or what might be God's will.

Just this constant wanting to put forward our own way. My friend, there's no visible cloud over the church today, but the Holy Spirit of God wants to lead us and guide us. And this book that we just now concluded is a very wonderful book.

Did you notice? Again, it opened in gloom in the brickyards of Egypt, and it closes in glory. The presence of the Lord is there in the tabernacle now and leading these people through the wilderness. God today wants to deliver you from the gloom of the slavery of sin and bring you into the glory of His presence and in the very center of His will that He might lead you and guide you.

What a wonderful book. Exodus. He leads you out that He might lead you into a good land.

Until next time, may God richly bless you, my beloved.

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