



**WELCOME  
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BIBLE HOUSE  
OF  
GRACE**

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## **Clouds**

**The LORD and Clouds**

**Heaven and Clouds**

**Jesus and Clouds**

**God's Glory and Clouds**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Clouds and what they Symbolise.

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### Topics.

- A cloud by day and flaming fire by night.
- Clouds and mount Sinai.
- A cloud covering the mercy seat and the tabernacle.
- A cloud and the command of the LORD.
- A pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.
- A cloud fills the house of the LORD.
- Thick clouds veil and surround the LORD.
- An angel wrapped in a cloud.
- Clouds of heaven and Jesus and clouds.
- An angel wrapped in a cloud, and a white cloud.

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### OVERVIEW OF CLOUDS AND THEIR SYMBOLISMS

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#### Depending on the context clouds can signify:

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- God's divine guidance and protection.
- The glory of the LORD, and God's Holy Presence being covered.
- God is always near to the people of Israel.
- God's glory being veiled from mortal and sinful man.
- God coming in judgment.
- A white cloud signifies justice, fairness, holiness, and victory.
- Being surrounded in God's divine presence and glory.
- God's holy divine omnipresence and power being everywhere.
- God's holy divine omnipresence and power being at a specific place.
- Being gloriously surrounded by God's divine presence and glory.
- God's glory being veiled from sinful man.
- God has shut Himself off from His people, because of their rebellion.

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### A CLOUD BY DAY AND FLAMING FIRE BY NIGHT

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The following verses shows that the pillar of cloud that stood over the tabernacle symbolised God's favour, His protection, and His presence:

- **Exodus 13:21-22:** The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. <sup>22</sup>The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
- **Exodus 14:19-20:** Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And it was a cloud of darkness to Egypt, but it gave light by night to Israel so that the one came not near the other all night.
- **Exodus 14:24-25:** In the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, <sup>25</sup>clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

A cloud by day and flaming fire by night is a reference to God's guidance and protection to the people of Israel when they left Egypt (the house of bondage). The pillar of cloud and of fire concealed the Angel of God and protected God's people by day and by night by standing between Israel's enemies as an awesome fearful and breathtaking thick dark stormy cloud and as a spectacular wall of fire which prevented the mighty and fierce armies of Egypt from coming upon the helpless fleeing people of Israel. In this context the cloud signifies God's guidance and protection.

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## CLLOUDS AND MOUNT SINAI

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- **Exodus 19:16:** On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

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Here, the words, "clouds and thick darkness," are in the context of God descending on Mount Sinai, the clouds and thick darkness acted as a veil to cover God's exceeding glory, for if He did not surround Himself in thick cloud, whoever looked upon Him would be destroyed. With every revelation of God to be seen by finite beings there must also be a veiling of His infinite splendour for mortal and sinful creatures to survive such glory and light. The words, "clouds and thick darkness," signify God's glory being veiled from mortal and sinful man.

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## A CLOUD COVERING THE MERCY SEAT

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- **Exodus 40:34-38:** The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.
- When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (1 Kings 8:10-11).

The first mention of the cloud covering the tent of meeting is (Exodus 40:34). The cloud in the context of these verses signify, a covering surrounding God's holy Presence and the light of His brilliant and majestic glory. God's exceeding glory would destroy the sons of men if He did not surround Himself in thick cloud, with every revelation of God

to be seen by finite beings there must also be a veiling of His infinite splendour for mortal and sinful creatures to survive such glory and light. These verses show us four things:

1. The cloud acted as a covering for the glory of the LORD.
2. The cloud guided Gods people on the way they should go.
3. During the day the cloud protected the tabernacle from the heat of the sun and rain and storms.
4. When the cloud covered, settled, and filled the tabernacle Moses was not able to enter it, signifying, that God’s Presence is so purely Holy no human no matter how gifted in the Spirit and in ministry is able to enter God’s Holiness.

**SNAPSHOT:** the cloud over the tabernacle was a visible sign that God was always near to Israel during the day and the night, and signifies that His Presence is always with His people. It is certain there were times when Israel had comfortably settled in their camp, but when the cloud moved, they moved, no matter how comfortable they were, for it was leading them to the Promised Land. Likewise, when God calls us, we should always be willing to follow, for whatever path He leads us on, will be a path that is leading us to our true homeland.

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## A CLOUD COVERING THE TABERNACLE

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- **Numbers 9:15-17:** On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning.<sup>16</sup> So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night.<sup>17</sup> And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped.

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This is after the account of the tabernacle being erected, the cloud hovered over the roof of the tabernacle and the glory of the LORD filled the entire interior of the tabernacle, both the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, we know this for the following verse shows that Moses could not enter the tent of meeting, because the glory of the LORD filled it:

- Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (Exod. 40:35).

Though the glory of the LORD filled the entire tabernacle, the Presence of the LORD dwelt only above the mercy-seat between the two cherubim, and it was here, over the mercy seat that the Presence of the LORD was uniquely manifested in some special way, and it was here in the Most Holy Place, in which the ark of the testimony stood, that the LORD met and communed with Moses.

- You (Moses) shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.<sup>22</sup> There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.<sup>23</sup> “You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. (Exod. 25:21-23).

**Like the appearance of fire until morning:** (Num. 9:15), whenever the nations surrounding Israel looked down on their camp around the tabernacle, they would see thousands of tents pitched in methodical order around the tabernacle, and in the midst of their camp see the tabernacle

with a cloud of fire hovering over its roof at night radiating light across the tents of Israel, and during the day see the cloud giving beautiful shade to the tabernacle as it stood in the open desert sun.

**Whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent:** (Num. 9:17), this phenomenon first appeared at Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

- The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.<sup>22</sup> The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. (Exod. 13:21-22).

This phenomenon is now described again in connection with Israel's journeyings of which the details are described in the following chapters and books of the Old Testament. The people of Israel took the tabernacle down and followed the cloud as it led them through the wilderness, and were ever it stopped, they set up camp and the cloud again settled over the tabernacle.

These verses and the ones following show that the cloud was the visible sign and symbol that God's presence, protection, and guidance was with Israel, and that God's presence was always near.

- In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. (Psalm 78:14).
- By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go. (Neh. 9:12).
- He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night. (Psalm 105:39).
- You in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. (Neh. 9:19).

### **It is certain there were:**

- Times when Israel had comfortably settled in their camp, and desired to stay remain where they were.
- Times when they felt they had stayed in one place far too long.
- Times when the constant moving of their camp seemed tedious.
- Times when they desired to uproot camp, and make haste to Canaan.

Yet they obeyed God against their own inclinations, and patiently waited for the cloud to move, and no matter how comfortable they were when it moved, they moved, for it was leading them to the Promised Land.

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## **A CLOUD AND THE COMMAND OF THE LORD**

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- **Numbers 9:23:** At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out. They kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by Moses.

The words, "at the command of the LORD," refers to the cloud, it is spoken of has the command of the LORD, because it led the people of the LORD according to God's will. Though the Israelites were an obstinate people, the fact they followed the cloud of the LORD, whenever it stopped and whenever it moved whether they were happy to move or not, manifested their submissiveness and obedience to the will of God, one of the main

reasons for this would have been because the new generation would have been very desirous of entering into the Promised Land as soon as they could. This is one of the reasons the cloud is fitly referred to as the command of God, because it was a visible sign of God's will and His guidance. In the same way that Israel followed the cloud, likewise, we should be willing to follow when God calls us, for whatever path He leads us on, will be a path that is leading us to our true homeland.

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## A PILLAR OF CLOUD BY DAY AND FIRE BY NIGHT

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- **Numbers 14:14:** They will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

God led the wilderness generation by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. In this context, the pillar of cloud and of fire, signify God's divine presence guiding and protecting His people through the wilderness.

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## CLOUDS AND MOUNT SINAI

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- **Deuteronomy 5:22:** These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

Here, the words, "clouds and thick darkness," are in the context of God descending on Mount Sinai, the clouds and thick darkness acted as a veil to cover God's exceeding glory, for if He did not surround Himself in thick cloud, whoever looked upon Him would be destroyed. With every revelation of God to be seen by finite beings there must also be a veiling of His infinite splendour for mortal and sinful creatures to survive such glory and light. The words, "clouds and thick darkness," signify God's glory being veiled from mortal and sinful man.

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## A CLOUD FILLS THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

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- **2 Chronicles 5:13–14:** and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,<sup>14</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

When Solomon finished all the work of the House of the LORD, the House of the LORD was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the House of God. The cloud is not the Presence of the LORD, but covers the brilliant light of God's Holy Presence, to protect any from being struck dead, signifying that sinful man, not even the priests of God are able to stand in God's Holy and awesome presence.

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## PILLAR OF CLOUD BY DAY AND FIRE BY NIGHT

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- **Nehemiah 9:19:** You in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go.

God led the wilderness generation by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. In this context, the pillar of cloud and of fire, signify God's divine presence guiding and protecting His people through the wilderness.

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## THICK CLOUDS VEIL THE LORD

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- **Job 22:12-14:** Eliphaz answers Job, "Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are! <sup>13</sup>But you (Job) say, 'What does God know? Can he judge through the deep darkness (dark clouds in KJV)? <sup>14</sup>Thick clouds veil him (are a covering to him in KJV), so that he does not see, and he walks on the vault of heaven (circuit of heaven in KJV).'

The first thing to notice, is that Eliphaz is accusing Job of saying this, since there is no record of Job saying what Eliphaz is accusing him of, and the fact, there is a record of Job saying, "God uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light" (Job 12:22), which is in total contrast to what Eliphaz is accusing Job of saying, it is hardly likely Job said what Eliphaz is accusing him of saying.

In the context of Eliphaz accusation, the words, "What does God know, can he judge through the deep darkness?" Carry the idea, God is so surrounded by dark clouds He cannot see evil being done on earth, this idea is support by the following words, "He does not see, for he walks on the vault of heaven." This of course is an extremely false statement, which is another reason we can be confident Job is being accused of something he did not say. It is most likely Eliphaz is twisting and distorting something Job did say, to belittle and demean him.

**The vault of heaven:** the simplest way to understand this statement is to imagine standing in the vault of a bank with the door locked, nothing outside the walls of the vault would be seen. This is the picture that Eliphaz is presenting of God, he is basically saying, that God is so locked inside the walls of heaven, that He cannot see anything outside of heaven, obviously this is a false statement, however, some who are suffering extreme sickness, sorrow, hardships, and troubles, especially for long periods of time, and other who look at all the wars, violence, injustices and suffering on earth sometimes feel this way.

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## CLOUDS SURROUND THE LORD

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- **Psalms 97:1-4:** The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! <sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. <sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

Since this Psalm speaks of:

- Fire going before the LORD and burning up his adversaries.
- The earth trembling, and worshipers of idols being put to shame.
- The heavens proclaiming God's righteousness.
- All the people seeing His glory and rejoicing and giving thanks to the LORD and His holy name.

The expression, clouds, and thick darkness," can signify the following two things:



1. In the context of fire going before the LORD and burning up his adversaries etc., the expression, clouds and thick darkness are all around him, signifies God coming in judgment.
2. In the context of "the heavens proclaiming God's righteousness," the expression, "clouds and thick darkness are all around him," signifies clouds covering God holy presence and His righteousness.

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## AN ANGEL WRAPPED IN A CLOUD

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- **Lamentations 3:43-44:** You have wrapped yourself with anger and pursued us, killing without pity; <sup>44</sup>you have wrapped yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through. (Lament. 3:41-44).

The people of Israel have become so rebellious and corrupt, God is pouring out judgment upon them without mercy, which means, the words, "you have wrapped yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through," carry the idea, God has shut Himself off from His people.

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## CLOUDS OF HEAVEN

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- **Daniel 7:13-14:** I (Daniel) saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

The expression, "the clouds of heaven," in the context of this chapter signifies, the one coming like a son of man, was surrounded in God's divine presence, and with dignity, honour, majesty, and glory.

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## NEW TESTAMENT

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### CLOUDS AND JESUS

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**In the following verses, clouds signify:** the holy divine omnipresence and power of God being everywhere, and at a specific place at the same time.

- **Matthew 17:5:** A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples, and Jesus ascended in a cloud and God's voice spoke from the same cloud. (Matt. 17:5).
- **Matthew 24:30:** Jesus will come on the clouds (some translations say in the clouds) of heaven with power and great glory. (Matt. 26:64) (Mark 13:26) (Rev. 1:7).
- **Acts 1:9:** A cloud took Jesus out of the disciple's sight (Acts 1:9).
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17:** Believers will be caught up the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

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## AN ANGEL WRAPPED IN A CLOUD

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- **Revelation 10:1:** Then I (John) saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. (Revelation 10:1).



An angel being wrapped in a cloud, "signifies the angel being shrouded in high dignity and honour majesty and glory, and gloriously surrounded by God's divine presence.

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## A WHITE CLOUD

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- **Revelation 14:14:** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.

A white cloud signifies: Justice, fairness, holiness, and victory.

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## FOOTNOTE

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What I have presented here in this document should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.