Glimpses of God

Meditations,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timelemss Truths

Ken Bible

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Genesis 1:1

(NASB)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 8:1

(NASB)

Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, You who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!

Psalm 19:1

(NASB)

The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.

Psalm 104:1, 24

(NASB)

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

Know Your Creator

God is an all-powerful Spirit Being. He created us as physical beings. How could He reveal Himself to us in a way we could understand? How could He show Himself to each of us in a way that is unlimited by language and culture and that is undiminished by all the changes that swirl around us?

He reveals Himself by the physical world of which we are a part.

What may be known about God is plain...For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20, NIV)

Any open-minded view of our physical world tells us about God. But we observe and experience His creation without knowing Him, even though He has made Himself plain. How does this happen?

We intentionally suppress the truth (Romans 1:18). We refuse to accept Him as Creator. We work to write Him out of our story. We insist on making this physical world our ultimate reality, though actually it is but a small part of a much greater reality. We crown ourselves as the gods of our own lives and destinies, even though our smallness and weakness are inescapably obvious.

Meanwhile, God's glorious revelations of Himself go on speaking to all who will hear.

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. (Psalm 19:2-4, NIV)

Observe our world and experience it with an open mind. See and feel the order, the pleasure, the beauty, the mystery, the power, and the infinite wisdom that connect it all. All this is only the faintest whisper of the magnificent Being that He is (Job 26:14). He wants you to know Him, to trust Him more completely, and to experience life more fully in Him.

Hymn recording: Psalm 104

Psalm 104



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Open Your Eyes

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Open your eyes!
Open your mind and
      your heart!
The world around you is constantly revealing the
      omnipotent,
      transcendent,
      magnificent God.
See His power!
Wonder at His infinite wisdom!
Taste His goodness!
Rest in His faithfulness!
See your God!
Even in its present corruption,
      His creation is whispering the promise of
      all that will be
             very soon.
All creation will be freed from its
      bondage to death,
and we will hear the Creator joyfully proclaim,
      "Look! I am making EVERYTHING NEW!" (Revelation 21:5).
Watch the sunrise and
      imagine THAT sunrise.
Drink in the beauty of a single flower and
      imagine an entire world of such splendor.
Imagine the Creator pouring out
      all His love,
      all His glory,
      all His joy
on His perfect, forever world.
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Hymn recording: Creation Praise

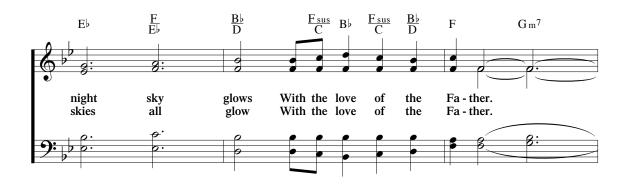
Creation Praise

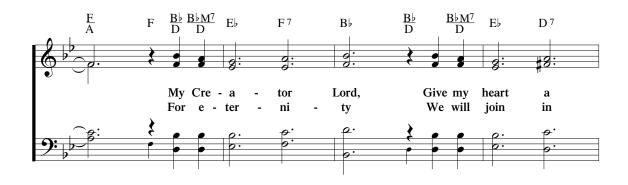


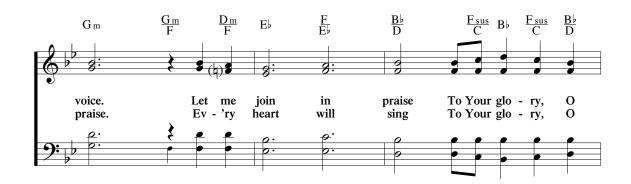
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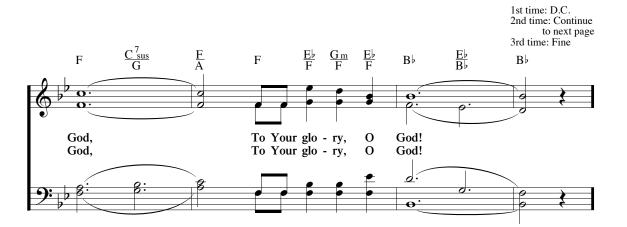
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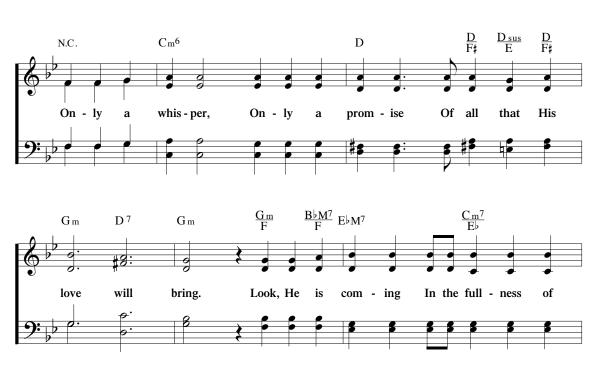
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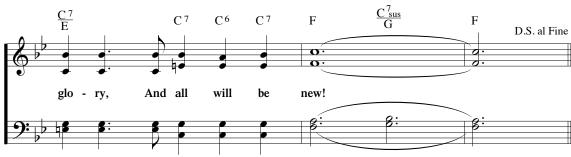












Genesis 28:10-17

(NASB)

Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he happened upon a particular place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and made it a support for his head, and lay down in that place.

And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Then behold, the Lord was standing above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is certainly in this place, and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

God of Jacob

Most of Genesis is devoted to the stories of three people, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. Each has a unique, life-long walk with God, and Genesis takes us along on their journeys. Abraham's journey is a story of persevering faith and rich blessing. Joseph foreshadows Jesus Christ, with his unjust suffering, his exaltation, and his role in the salvation of his people. But perhaps we identify the most with Jacob. Even from his mother's womb, his life was struggle. And a good deal of his struggle was his own doing. The younger of twins in a society that heavily favored the eldest son, he schemed. he cheated. he fled, and he wrestled even with the angel of God. But throughout his tumultuous life, God stayed with him. God guided, assured, blessed, and delivered Jacob over and over again. The God of Jacob is our God as well. He is faithful. faithful, faithful,

even when we are not.

Hymn recording: God of Jacob

God of Jacob

Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1 - 35:29; 48



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Selections from the Exodus Account

(NASB)

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, otherwise they will multiply, and in the event of war, they will also join those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. (Exodus 1:8-11, NASB)

The Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I said to you, 'Let My son go so that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I am going to kill your son, your firstborn."" (Exodus 4:21-23, NASB)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for under compulsion he will let them go, and under compulsion he will drive them out of his land." God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself known to them. I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as strangers. Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the labors of the Egyptians, and I will rescue you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments. Then I will take you as My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the labors of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession; I am the Lord." (Exodus 6:1-8, NASB)

"I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh does not listen to you, I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My armies, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I extend My hand over Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst." (Exodus 7:3-5)

Now it came about at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh got up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead. Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of

Israel; and go, worship the Lord, as you have said. Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also." (Exodus 12:29-32, NASB)

At the Red Sea

Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will perform for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever. The Lord will fight for you, while you keep silent."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. As for you, lift up your staff and reach out with your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. And as for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his horsemen."

Then the angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Therefore the one did not approach the other all night.

Then Moses reached out with his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left. Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. But at the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians each said, "Let me flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out with your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen." So Moses reached out with his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left.

So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses. (Exodus 14:13-31, NASB)

God of the Exodus

The exodus started centuries before

Moses met God at the burning bush.

God's plan was already in motion

when He called Abraham to

leave his homeland and

start off for a land God would show him.

He relayed some of the details to Abraham

500 years before they happened:

"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions." (Genesis 15:13-14, NASB)

God was working when

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, only for God to exalt him to rulership in Egypt.

Then from the beginning of the exodus process,

God told Moses plainly that

the exodus would not happen quickly nor painlessly:

"But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will reach out with My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go." (Exodus 3:19-20, NASB)

God was in charge from the outset.

He intentionally prolonged the process

by repeatedly hardening Pharaoh's heart.

His intent was to

fully,

undeniably,

unforgettably

act out His saving power

on the world stage.

And His plan worked.

God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt became

a touchstone for their entire relationship.

The memorial celebration of the Exodus,

the Passover,

is still at the heart of Israel's worship.

Over 40 years later and far away from Egypt, we are given a tiny glimpse of the impression the Exodus had made on the entire world. In the conquering of Jericho, Rahab the prostitute gave this explanation for why she turned against her own city to aid the invading Israelites:

"I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt...When we heard these reports, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below." (Joshua 2:9-11, NASB)

Then when Jesus came,

He fulfilled the Passover

in the Lord's Supper and

made it a celebration of salvation for all believers.

The Exodus is a dramatic demonstration of the unchanging power and love of the sovereign God who is determined to deliver His people completely from all that oppresses them.

Hymn recording: God of the Exodus

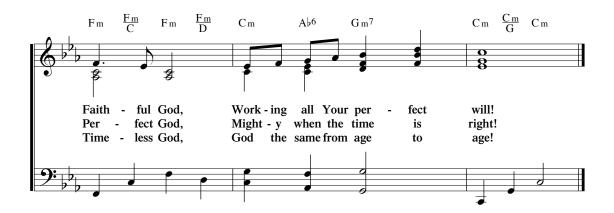
God of the Exodus

Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 1:1 – 15:21



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HUMORESQUE 1 6.7.10.7.6.7.



Deuteronomy 8:1-5

(NASB)

"All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, so that you may live and increase, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord swore to give to your forefathers. And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

"And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord.

"Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. So you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son."

Reflection on the Book of Exodus

Question: Why would God send His people out

for forty years into a a dry, barren land that

lacks provision for even the necessities of life?

Answer: He doesn't send them out.

He leads them out. He goes with them and

before them.

Why does He lead them into such places?

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3, NASB).

God let them feel each need,

then waited for them to turn to Him before He

graciously, miraculously, abundantly

met each need.

So don't be surprised when He

allows you to feel your need,

then waits for you to

wait on Him and

trust Him.

He is not being

stubborn or

unfeeling.

He is giving you what you

need most

in all the world:

the firm, personal assurance,

based on repeated, first-hand experience, that

He Himself is

all you want and

all you need.

He is proving that

He can and will be your Pillar of Cloud by day,

leading you certainly and consistently,

though you won't always understand His reasons or methods.

He can and will be your Pillar of Fire by night,

providing light for all your darkest places.

He can and will be Living Water springing up during your driest times.

He can and will be Living Bread, daily bread, nourishing not only your body, but your entire being.

He can and will be a movable tabernacle, His tangible presence going with you everywhere you go.

Your loving Father is teaching you to know Him, trust Him, and treasure Him through absolutely everything that life brings.

Hymn recording: A **Hymn for the Wilderness**

A Hymn for the Wilderness

TUNE: The Wabash Cannon Ball (alt.) Exodus; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 105:37-45



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MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

Exodus 3:13-15

(NASB)

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you." God furthermore said to Moses, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is the name for all generations to use to call upon Me."

Exodus 33:12 - 34:7

(NASB)

Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.' Now then, if I have found favor in Your sight in any way, please let me know Your ways so that I may know You, in order that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people."

And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are on the face of the earth?"

The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name." Then Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion to whom I will show compassion." He further said, "You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!"

Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you smashed. So be ready by morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. And no one is to come up with you, nor let anyone be seen anywhere on the mountain; even the flocks and the herds are not to graze in front of that mountain."

So he cut out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses got up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and he took the two stone tablets in his hand. And the Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord.

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in faithfulness and truth; who keeps faithfulness for thousands, who forgives wrongdoing, violation of His Law, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, inflicting the punishment of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

God Introduces Himself

God has given Moses a huge responsibility:

to share in leading His people through a vast wilderness and forming them into a nation,

indeed, into the people of God.

At a particularly stressful point in their journey,

Moses feels the deep need

to know God better and

to be assured of His continuing presence.

So Moses prays:

"Let me know Your ways that I may know You" and

"Show me Your glory!" (Exodus 33:13, 18, NASB)

God responds:

"You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!" Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:20-23, NASB)

God does as He promised, and as He does,
He describes Himself in a few words.

So how does God summarize Himself?

What does He most want His people to understand about Him?

- He is the eternal God, the Source of all existence.
- He is unfailing love and absolute dependability.
- He freely, eagerly forgives sin,
- But He will never ignore sin.

A loving Father cannot ignore what threatens His children. Sin and all its fruits must be pursued and destroyed.

This is the God

we fear and love and serve.

Hymn recording: God Introduces Himself

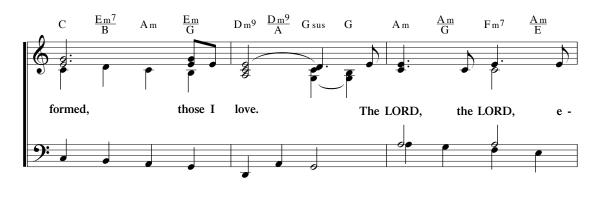
God Introduces Himself

Exodus 3:13-15; 34:6-7



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Irregular





1 Kings 18:20-24

(NASB)

So Ahab sent orders among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him so much as a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left as a prophet of the Lord, while Baal's prophets are 450 men. 23 Now have them give us two oxen; and have them choose the one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people replied, "That is a good idea."

1 Kings 18:36-40

(NASB)

Then at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, "Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that You, Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God!" Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

1 Kings 19:1-13

(NASB)

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more so, if by about this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them." And he was afraid, and got up and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; and he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked for himself to die, and said, "Enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

Then he lay down and fell asleep under a broom tree; but behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat!" And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a round loaf of bread baked on hot coals, and a pitcher of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him, and said, "Arise, eat; because the journey is too long for you." So he arose and ate and drank, and he journeyed in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Then he came there to a cave and spent the night there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life."

So He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

God's Gentle Whisper

Elijah was fresh off his spectacular victory over the 450 prophets of Baal.

Through him, God had proven again that

He is the one true God,

the one who answers by fire.

But when wicked Queen Jezebel heard what had happened,

she swore that she would kill Elijah, and

he ran for his life.

He fled into the wilderness.

where God ministered to him with

food and

rest.

Then on the strength of that food,

Elijah traveled for forty days to Mt. Sinai,

"the mountain of God".

Elijah was

weary,

discouraged, and

hungry to encounter God.

So God told him.

""Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord."

And behold, the Lord was passing by! (1 Kings 19:11, NASB)

Then came a mighty wind that

tore the mountain and broke the rocks,

but God was not in the wind.

Then an earthquake,

but God was not in the earthquake.

Next, a fire,

but God was not in the fire.

Finally, Elijah heard

a gentle whisper.

He immediately recognized

the presence of God.

So he wrapped his face in his cloak and

stood in the entrance of his cave,

ready for the encounter he had long sought.

Sometimes God reveals Himself most

unmistakably and

beautifully,
not with overt displays of
power and
emotion,
but with the gentle whisper of
His intimate presence.

Hymn recording: <u>Just You</u>

Just You

1 Kings 18:20 – 19:18



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

GOD'S WHISPER 5.5.6.D.w.Ref.

Isaiah 6:1-8

(NASB)

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim were standing above Him, each having six wings: with two each covered his face, and with two each covered his feet, and with two each flew. And one called out to another and said.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of armies. The whole earth is full of His glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said,

"Woe to me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I live among a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of armies."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your guilt is taken away and atonement is made for your sin."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah's Vision

Near the beginning of Isaiah's ministry,

God gave him a vision of Himself.

This vision would color

everything Isaiah understood and said about God and His people.

Uzziah had been one of the country's better kings and had reigned 52 years.

Most of his subjects had only known this one king throughout their entire lives.

So his death was a time of

uneasiness and uncertainty.

At such a time, God allowed Isaiah to see

the one True King,

the absolute ruler of all the universe,

high and exalted,

sitting on a throne.

But since God is spirit,

he doesn't have a body and

thus doesn't literally sit on a throne.

The throne helps us understand that

God is a King.

And the setting suggests that He is

THE King.

Note that though Isaiah says, "I saw the Lord,"

he never physically describes God.

The same is true of other throne-room visions in the Bible.

But what Isaiah sees and hears and senses in God's surroundings grips him with God's overwhelming

reality and

holiness.

Though physically undescribed,

God is at the center of the picture,

filling and overflowing it.

The train of His majestic robe fills the temple.

The picture of His glory includes

"Seraphim,"

literally, "burning ones".

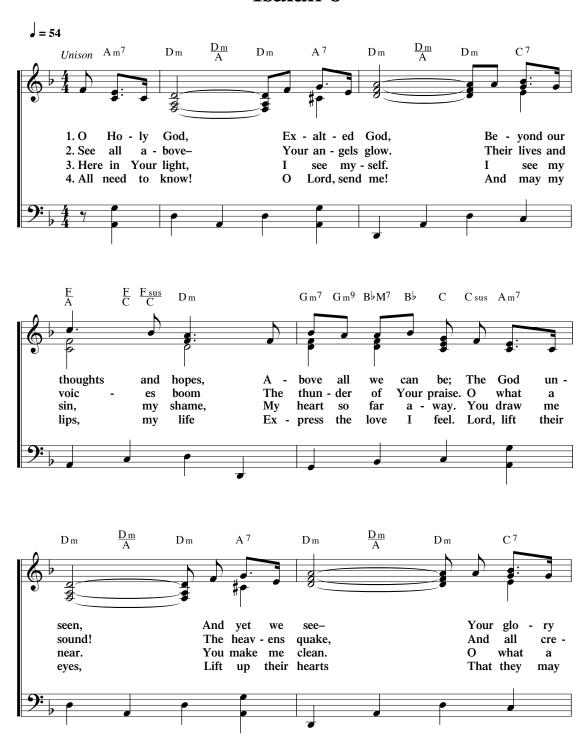
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With four of their six wings,
      they express their humility,
      covering their face and feet in God's presence.
With the other two wings, they stand ready to fly and
      do God's will at a moment's notice,
The entire building trembles with
      their thunderous, unceasing praise.
Isaiah's response:
      "I am ruined...doomed...destroyed!
      For I am thoroughly unclean, and
      everyone around me is unclean,
      yet my eyes have seen
             the King,
             the Lord of all reality,
             the Holy One".
But Holy God doesn't drive the unworthy sinner away.
      He cleanses him.
      He draws him near.
      He calls him.
      He uses him.
When God needs a messenger,
      Isaiah is first in line.
He is eager to share
      this magnificent God!
His lips, formerly unclean,
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are now privileged to carry

God's holy word.

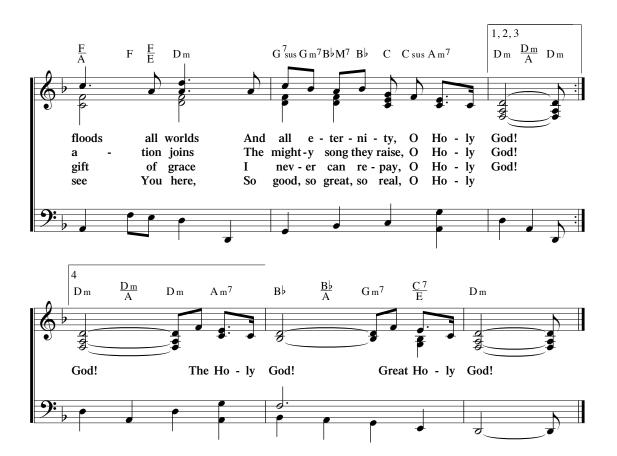
Hymn recording: Isaiah 6

Isaiah 6



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ISAIAH 6 4.4.6.6.4.4.6.6.4.



Luke 2:1-20

(NASB)

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all the people were on their way to register for the census, each to his own city. Now Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was betrothed to him, and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And so the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among people [k]with whom He is pleased."

When the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem, then, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen Him, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it were amazed about the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Christmas Is the Story of a King

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

(Matthew 2:1-6, NIV)

Christmas is the story of a King.

When the King was born,
Caesar Augustus was Emperor of Rome.
He ruled the world
with great power and
vast military might.
But he died in 14 A.D.,
and his kingdom passed to another.

Herod the Great was King of Judea. He ruled with violence and

cruel jealousy.
He tried to kill the Child King.
The Child lived,
but Herod died,
and his power died with him.

The Child King was

Lord of the Universe,

Almighty God.

He ruled

with humility and self-sacrifice, with love and forgiveness.

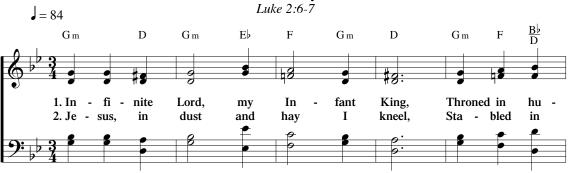
He faced death and destroyed it. His Kingdom will never end.

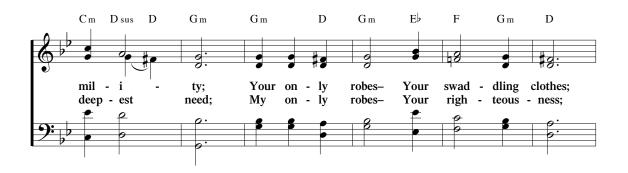
Christmas is the story of a King, and our King forever is Jesus.

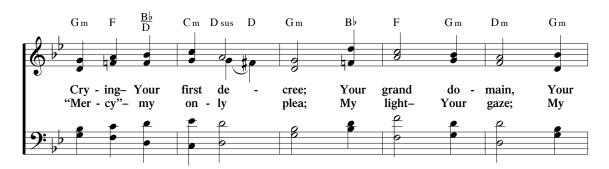
Hymn recording: <u>Infinite Lord</u>

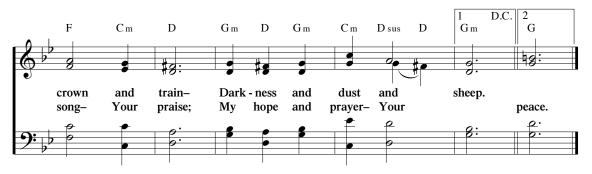
Infinite Lord

TUNE: Coventry Carol Luke 2:6-7









WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional English Melody COVENTRY CAROL 8.6.8.6.8.6.

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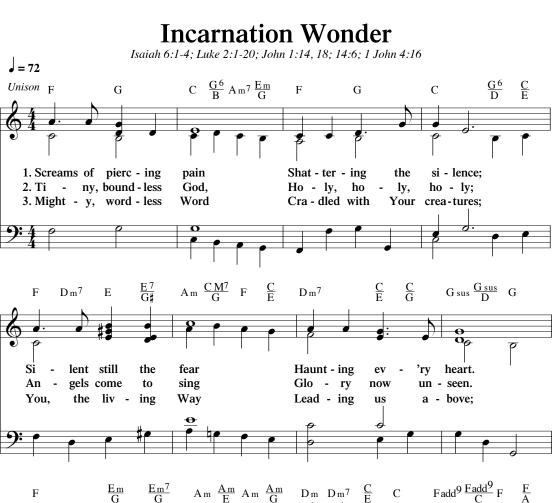
Incarnation Wonder

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (John 1:18, NIV)

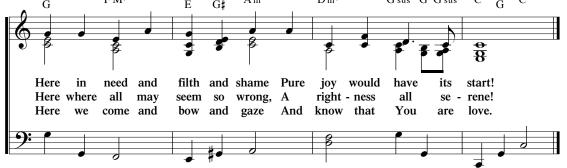
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dirt floor of the stable and
look down at the helpless infant,
      know that
Jesus is already doing what He came to do:
      He is letting us see and feel
      what God is like.
There in the darkness, pain, desperation, and fear,
God's presence is already
      light,
      joy,
      peace, and
      the warm assurance of hope.
When God "invaded" earth,
He didn't come as
      a military conqueror or
      a judge,
             though He can be both.
He came as the lowest of the low,
      a helpless infant
      born of a disgraced peasant girl.
Look down at Him.
The incarnate Word is
      humbly,
      beautifully,
      wordlessly
proclaiming that
      God
      is
      love!
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As you kneel on the

Hymn recording: Incarnation Wonder







WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

INCARNATION WONDER 5.6.5.5.5.6.7.6.

Matthew 2:1-11

(NASB)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For from you will come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was to be found. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 3:13-17

(NASB)

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, coming to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have the need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?" But Jesus, answering, said to him, "Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 16:28 - 17:8

(NASB)

[Jesus said,] "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will make three tabernacles here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." And raising their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

When the Heavens Open

When God opens the heavens,

He shows us what He is doing.

He shows us our world as He sees it.

When Jesus was born, God opened the heavens.

He sent us a special star to announce that

the magnificent, transcendent God was

now living among us.

The star drew worshipers from

a far-away land and

a different religion.

They were the first sign that the One who had come was

the Light of all the nations and

the King of all Kings.

When Jesus was baptized, God opened the heavens.

As Jesus' ministry began, His first act was to publicly

take all our sins upon Himself.

The Sinless One lined up with the sinners and

symbolically died beneath Jordan's waters,

bearing the sins of the whole world.

At this crucial moment.

the Father spoke and

the Spirit appeared.

Together they testified that

this was indeed the pure and perfect Son of God.

When Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration,

God opened the heavens.

As Jesus approached His death,

the Father gave three disciples a fleeting glimpse of

the Christ as He truly was,

in His eternal splendor,

human yet heavenly.

The law and the prophets visibly testified to Him.

On all three occasions, God opened the heavens to show us

unmistakably,

unforgettably

that His own Son had come to us,

the Light of the World.

He had taken on our flesh and blood to bear away all our sin. He had come so that every one of us might share fully and forever in Him.

Hymn recording: Epiphany Hymn (REGENT SQUARE)

Epiphany Hymn

TUNE: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (REGENT SQUARE)

Matthew 2:1-11; 3:13-17; 17:1-8; Mark 1:9-11; 9:2-8;

Luke 3:21-22; 9:28-36; John 1:29-34



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MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

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John 14:9

(NASB)

[Jesus said,] "He who has seen me has seen the Father."

John 14:20

(NASB)

"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in You."

Colossians 1:15

(NASB)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 2:9-10

(NASB)

In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority.

Hebrews 1:1-3

(NASB)

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Father, I See You in Your Son

```
Glorious Father, I recognize You
      in Your Son, Jesus.
I see
      Your goodness and
      Your greatness.
In Him Your holiness is
      not fearsome
      but attractive.
He makes me want to
      be holy as He is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 3:16).
I listen to His words and
      drink in Your eternal, life-giving wisdom.
I watch how He lives and begin to
      learn Your ways.
In Jesus I
      see You,
      know You,
      love You.
      trust You, and
      long for more of You.
O kind and giving Father,
continue to form in me and
      grow in me
His mind and
His Spirit –
      which is Your mind and Your Spirit, Father.
In Christ, give me all You are.
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Hymn recording: Father, I See You in Your Son

Father, I See in Your Son

John 10:37-38; 12:44-45, 49-50; 14:8-11, 20; Colossians 1:15; 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-3



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

L.M.
USHER'S WELL 2

John 14:15-26

(NASB)

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you. The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him."

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. The one who does not love Me does not follow My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

"These things I have spoken to you while remaining with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

John 16:13-14

(NASB)

"When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you."

Acts 1:8

(NASB)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:1-6

(NASB)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.

Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together and they were bewildered, because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

Pentecost

The gift of God's indwelling Spirit changed the Church from timid, self-centered individuals to a bold and loving body of disciples. They left their fearful hiding and became effective witnesses to the Living Christ.

Jesus Christ had come to make us holy, to reconcile us completely to the Father, to remove all the barriers between Him and us. His ministry to us did not end when He rose from the dead and ascended back to His Father. The Man of the Spirit poured out the Gift of the Father, the promised Holy Spirit, on the Jewish festival of Pentecost, ten days after His ascension. His coming was accompanied by two signs. Both of these signs had long been symbols of the living presence of God.

- "A noise like violent rushing wind" (Acts 2:2, NASB) In both Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek, the word for "Spirit" also means "wind" and "breath". Thus God's Spirit has always been associated with wind. God's Spirit is His life in motion. For example, read Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-10.
- "Tongues as of fire...rested on each one of them" (Acts 2:3, NASB) Fire is another frequent symbol of God's presence. For example, recall that God's presence was a pillar of fire in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21). God revealed His holy presence on Mt. Sinai by fire (Exodus 19:18). When Elijah faced the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, the God who answered by fire was the true God (1 Kings 18:24).

The dramatic sights and sounds of the Spirit's arrival gave proof that Jesus was who He said He was, that He had completed His earthly ministry, and that He was reigning triumphantly at the Father's right hand. He signaled unmistakably that the powerful, living presence of God Himself was now among, with, and within His people. The promise God had given centuries before through the prophet Ezekiel was now fulfilled:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes." (Ezekiel 36:25-27, NASB)

Being God's holy people is no longer the impossible task of obeying rules. It is receiving God's holy life by faith. It is no longer a burden from the outside, but a power from the inside.

Hymn recording: Pentecost Hymn

Pentecost Hymn



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Welsh Hymn Tune; harm. by John Roberts

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