**R848 (73) Rumination for 25 April, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Afar Off** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Worship ye* ***afar off***Exo. 24:1

The **T**hots:

1. **Israel Worshipping Afar Off****Exo. 24:1**
2. The **P**rohibition to go near to worship **–** *worship ye* ***afar off****.* 24:1
3. The **P**eople **–** *they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.* 24:2b
4. The only **P**erson allowed to go near **–** *Moses* ***alone*** *shall come near the LORD* 24:2a

 **Cf. The Church Worshipping Near Heb. 10:22**

1. No **P**rohibition**: *Let us* *draw near*** *with a true heart in full assurance of faith.* 10:22
2. We, the **P**eople: *Having therefore,* ***brethren****, boldness to enter into the holiest* 10:19a
3. The **P**erson and the **P**ropitiation*: By the blood of* ***Jesus****.* *by a new and living way* 10:19b, 20

*Which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.*

1. **Lepers standing Afar Off**Lk. 17:12

 *As He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood* ***afar off:***

1. **T**heir **C**ry**:** *Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.* 17:13
2. **T**en **C**leansed**:** *Go show yourselves unto the priests****…*** *as they went, they were cleansed.* 17:14
3. **T**hankfulness only shown by one**:** *one … turned back, …giving Him thanks*:17:15, 16a
	1. *He was a* ***S****amaritan* (17:16b) Cf. *you which were afar off.* Eph. 2:17
	2. *He was a* ***S****tranger* (17:18) Cf. *ye were…strangers from the covenants of promise* 2:12

As **G**entiles Saved by **G**race, let us return to **G**ive thanks and to **G**lorify **G**od.

1. **Peter Following Afar Off –** *Peter followed Him afar off*Mt. 26:58
2. It led him to **W**arm himself in the **W**orld’s fire. Jn. 18:18, 25
3. It led him to **D**eny His **D**iscipleship with Jesus. Jn. 18:17, 25-27
	1. He denied know**ing** the Man Jesus. Mt. 26:71, 72-74
	2. He denied be**ing** with Jesus. Mk. 14:67-71
* Let us **not** **D**eny the Lord His **R**emembrance and **R**everence this **D**ay.
1. **The Women Beholding Afar Off Mt. 27:55**
2. Their **M**inistry **–** they had followed Jesus from far, from Galilee. 27:55
3. Later **M**ary **M**agdalene, the **M**otherof Jesus and others stood **near** the cross Jn. 19:25, NRSV
4. They ***beheld*** the **M**andying on the cross.

Cf.a)*Pilate saith unto them,* ***Behold*** *the man!*Jn. 19:5

b)*He saith unto the Jews,* ***Behold*** *your King!* Jn. 19:14

c)*He* (Jesus) *saith unto His mother, Woman,* ***behold*** *thy son!* Jn. 19:26

d)*Saith He* (Jesus) *to the disciple* (John), ***Behold*** *thy mother!* Jn. 19:27

***Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,***

***that we should be called the sons of God.***

**Con.: Heb. 10: 19-24 See Reflections #2.**

*19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

*20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

*21 And having an high priest over the house of God;*

*22* ***Let us draw near*** *with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*23* ***Let us*** *hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)*

*24 And* ***let us*** *consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*Near, O my God, to Thee! Near, near to Thee!*

*Now let Thy Spirit lead By Calvary’s tree:*

*There Jesus died for me, By Him, I’m brought to Thee –*

*Near, near, my God, to Thee! So near to Thee!*

*Far, far from Thee I strayed In paths of sin;*

*Jesus came forth to save – New life brought in:*

*Through Him I’m safe and free, His blood makes nigh to Thee –*

 *Near, near, my God, to Thee! So near to Thee!*  Russel

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 848**

1. God is a Jealous God to Possess what is Rightfully His, and Zealous to Preserve and Protect what is Legally His. He is like a Consuming fire to Punish those who break any Covenant with Him. He lay down the Rules, Regulations and Restrictions in the first instance so that no one could plead ignorance. Thus, when giving His Commandments to Confirm His Covenant with Israel, God said to Moses: (Deuteronomy 4:23-24) –

*Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God,*

*which He made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing,*

*which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.*

*For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

The writer to the Hebrew Christians in the New Testament also Recalled this incident,

and he wrote to Remind them of what happened to Israel under the Law: (Heb. 12:18-29)

*For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire…*

*(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)*

He then went on to Contrast their Privileges as Christians saved by Grace:

*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.* (Heb. 12:22-24)

They should take care that as Christians they should live holy lives even as God is holy, and therefore they should be holy (I Pet. 1:15, 16) and approach God’s presence with holy fear: *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire –* His Character and Person do not Change!

Today, Consider the manner Christians come into the presence of God (to put it into current terms, when they come to church) to worship – do they show this attitude of *reverence and godly fear* with reference to their behaviour, deportment, punctuality in keeping time when meeting God, in their speech and how they address God, and many other aspects that require them to demonstrate that they are serving a Jealous, Zealous and Holy God? **REFLECT**

1. The writer to the Hebrew Christians reminded the Christians… (Hebrews 10:19-25)

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

*By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God;*

***Let us*** *draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

***Let us*** *hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) And…*

***Let us*** *consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Are you Practicing the Privileges you have in Christ, your High Priest, to do what you are exhorted to do with the “***Let Us***” exhortations? **REFLECT**.

 **POINTS TO PONDER:** *Today God seems to be* ***Far*** *in* ***H****eaven,*

*but actually, He is as* ***Near*** *as ever to us in our* ***H****earts.*