**R892 Rumination for Feb. 27, 2022**

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

The **T**ext:*And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a* ***cloud****, to lead them the way.* Exo. 13:21

The **T**hots:

Intro. ***C****loud* = **C**ollection of moisture suspended in the skies over the earth and used by biblical writers to symbolize God’s miraculous power and sovereignty as well as His judgment. Holman Dict.

1. **Jehovah and The Cloud – its Significance.**
2. A Sign of God’s **P**erson and **P**resence – Exo. 19:9; 24:16
3. The Revelation of His **P**erson: *The LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud,*

*that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever.*

1. The Revelation of His **P**resence: *The glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day He called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.*
2. A Sign of God’s…
3. **P**otential **P**ower – **C**louds are at His **C**ommand to do His bidding. Job 26:8-9

*He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.*

*He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it.*

1. **P**ersona**l P**rotection in the **P**illar of **C**loud and fire. Neh. 9:19; Exo. 40:36; Psa. 78:14

*Yet Thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.*

1. **P**erpetual **P**romises – **C**louds carry the rainbow of God’s **C**ovenant not to destroy the earth by flood. Gen. 9:12-14\

*And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the* ***cloud****, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come to pass, when I bring a* ***cloud*** *over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the* ***cloud****:*

1. **P**ardon for His **P**eople’s sins – the **C**all to return. Isa 44:22

*I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins:*

*return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee.*

1. **Jesus and the Cloud** –
2. His **R**ole as proclaimed by His Father from the Cloud. Mk. 9:7; Mt. 17:5; Lk. 9:34, 35

*There was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud,*

*saying, This is My beloved Son: hear Him.*

1. He was **R**eceived by a Cloud when He ascended to heaven. Acts 1:9

*While they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

1. He will **R**apture His Own to Himself in the Clouds. I Thes. 4:17

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,*

*to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

1. He will **R**eturn to earth with the Clouds. Rev. 1:7

*Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced him:*

*and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen*

1. His will **R**eappear to Judge the World from the Cloud. Lk. 21:27

*And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

**Cf. Rev. 14:14-16**

*And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

*And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man,*

*having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.*

*And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud,*

*Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

*And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

1. **Let the Joy of His People’s Praises Reach unto the Clouds – Rejoice!**

This Lord’s Day at His Supper let us Exalt Him unto the Clouds.

1. *Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.* Psa. 36:5
2. *For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.* Psa. 57:10
3. *Ascribe ye strength unto God: His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds*. Psa. 68:34

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for favored sinners slain;*

*Thousand, thousand saints attending, Swell the triumph of His train:*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.* John Cennick

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R892**

1. The Bible contains many expressions involving ***the cloud*** so much so that some have even become idiomatic in the English usage.

For instance, consider a few listed below:

Hebrews 12:1 – *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great* ***a cloud of witnesses****, let us* *lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

* Why is the picture of a *cloud* used to depict the witnesses?
* What do this *cloud* of witnesses do?
* How do they do it – especially in encouraging us to…
* *lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,*
* *run with patience the race that is set before us*
* Can you name at least five of these witnesses in this *cloud* and how they encourage us?

**REFLECT**

II Peter 2:17 – *These are wells without water,* ***clouds that are carried with a tempest****;*

*to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.*

Jude 1:12 – *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you,*

*feeding themselves without fear:* ***clouds they are without water****,* *carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*

* What do you understand by this reference to certain people as *clouds with a tempest* or *clouds without water*?
* Who are they? And why are they called such?
* In what way are they *clouds that are carried with a tempest?*

and *clouds they are without water, carried about of winds?*

* Consider also the other expressions that follow.

What is the danger associated with these people?

Revelation 10:1 – *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven,*

***clothed with a cloud:*** *and a rainbow was upon his head,*

*and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:*

* Can you picture what this angel looks like who is *clothed with a cloud?*

Reflect on the above idiomatic expressions from the scriptures involving the *cloud* and discover for yourselves the lessons you can learn from such reflection. **REFLECT.**

1. Consider also what is meant by this text: **I Corinthians 10:1-2**

*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were* ***under the cloud****, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses* ***in the cloud*** *and in the sea;*

What do you understand by this reference to Israel’s crossing of the Red Sea as a picture of baptism?

How does it illustrate to you, baptism is to be conducted?

In what ways is baptism likened to this historic episode in the history of Israel?

Show how this experience can be used to illustrate the conduct and mode of the Christian’s baptism and in what ways or aspects are the two related? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *You can* ***C****laim to be in* ***C****loud nine, if you* ***C****an really grasp the full meaning of the idiomatic* ***C****loud in Scripture*.