**R916\_Rumination for Aug. 14, 2022**

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

The **T**ext: *Ascribe ye strength unto God…His strength is in the* ***clouds****.* Psa. 68:34

The **T**hots:

1. **The Significance of the Cloud**
2. Its **D**efinition:
3. A ***C****loud* (as ***C****overing* the sky) i.e., the *nimbus* or thunder-cloud: - cloud (-y). 87 occurrences. Strong
4. A **C**ollection of moisture suspended in the skies over the earth.
5. Its **D**escription:
6. A term **U**sed by biblical writers to **S**ymbolize God’s miraculous power and **S**overeignty

as well as His judgment. Holman Bible Dictionary

1. A word **U**sed as a **S**ymbol of the Divine presence indicating the **S**plendour of His glory which it conceals ([Ex 16:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+16%3A10); [Ex 33:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+33%3A9); [Num 11:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+11%3A25); [Num 12:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+12%3A5); [Job 22:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+22%3A14); [Ps 18:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+18%3A11)). Illustrated Bible Dictionary.
2. An **A**scription of Praise to **S**ignify God’s **A**ttributes: Psa. 68:34

*Ascribe ye strength unto God…His strength is in the clouds.*

1. **The Sign of the bow in the Cloud.**
2. A **R**ainbow in the **C**loud to **R**emind God of His **C**ovenant. Gen. 9:13, 14
3. *I do set My bow in the* ***C****loud, and it shall be for a token of a* ***C****ovenant between Me and the earth.*

*And it shall come to pass, when I bring a* ***C****loud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the* ***C****loud:*

1. *And I will remember My* ***C****ovenant, which is between Me and you and every living* ***C****reature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a* ***F****lood to destroy all* ***F****lesh.* Gen.9:15
2. A **R**einforcement and **C**onfirmation of His new **R**elationship with Man: Gen. 9:16

*And the bow shall be in the* ***C****loud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting* ***C****ovenant between God and every living* ***C****reature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

1. **The Symbol in the Pillar of Cloud (and Fire).**
2. Of God’s **P**ersonal **P**resence – His **G**lory was with His **P**eople. Exo. 16:10b
3. *…they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the* ***cloud****.*
4. *A* ***cloud*** *covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* Exo. 40:34
5. That same glory later "*filled the house of the Lord*," that is, the **temple** in Jerusalem

*And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the* ***cloud*** *filled the house of the LORD…* I Kgs. 8:10, 11; [II Chr. 5:13, 14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ch+5%3A13-14)

1. Of God’s **P**ermanent **P**rotection – He **G**uided and **G**uarded them. Exo. 13:21-22
2. *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a* ***cloud****, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the* ***cloud*** *by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.*
3. *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.* Neh. 9:19

1. *When the* ***cloud*** *was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the* ***cloud*** *were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.*

Exo. 40:36, 37

1. *In the daytime also He led them with a* ***cloud****, and all the night with a light of fire*. Psa. 78:14
2. **Thu Other Significant Roles of the Cloud/s.**
3. God **S**poke from the **C**loud To **C**onfirm the **S**tanding of Jesus as His **S**on. Matt. 17:5; Mk. 9:7; Lk. 9:35

*While he yet spake, behold, a bright* ***cloud*** *overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the* ***cloud****,*

*which said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.*

1. A Cloud was **S**een to **R**eceive Jesus back to Heaven. Acts 1:9

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

1. One day Jesus will **R**aise the dead and **R**apture the living to **R**eceive them 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. Jesus will **R**eturn the **S**econd time to earth with Clouds. Rev. 1:7
2. The people will **R**epent when they see Him:

*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. He will **R**eturn to **R**eign over the earth: Matt. 24:30; Mk. 13:26; 14:62; Lk. 21:27
2. *And then shall appear the* ***S****ign of the* ***S****on of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall* ***S****ee the* ***S****on of man coming in the* ***clouds*** *of heaven with power and great glory.*
3. *Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the* ***clouds*** *of heaven.* Matt. 26:64

*There’s a rainbow on the cloud for you, There’s a promise that is sure and true;*

*Yes, the storm will pass away; There will dawn a brighter day—*

*There’s a rainbow on the cloud for you.* Eliza E. Hewitt

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 916**

1. Following is a list of “cloud-idioms” taken from <https://englishbyday.com/cloud-idioms/>

The Idioms are given with their respective meanings. Which of these idioms best fit you in present time? In what ways is it or are they relevant to you? **REFLECT.**

* 1. *A Cloud Hangs Over Someone Or Something*

Meaning: used to describe when someone or something is surrounded by feelings of uncertainty, distrust, or negativity. It is often used after a negative event in the recent past.

* Are you in any way under such a cloud? Can you see God’s rainbow in the cloud when under such circumstances?
  1. *Every Dark Cloud Has A Silver Lining*

Meaning: *a silver lining on a cloud means that the sun is behind it. With that in mind, it means that something good can come out of a bad situation.*

* With God to guide us, all things will work out for Good to them that love Him. Rim. 8:28
  1. *To Be On Cloud Nine*

Meaning: to be in a state of extreme happiness.

* In life we cannot live on cloud nine all the time; let us remember there are precious lessons (at times hard and difficult they may be) but we can learn from them and live better lives.

1. *Cloud Of Suspicion*

Meaning: to have feelings of suspicion of wrongdoing committed by someone.

* To live under a cloud of suspicion all your life is indeed miserable. Do take steps to get rid of such suspicion and live a transparent life.

1. *To Cloud The Issue*

Meaning: to distract people from the current topic by introducing irrelevant or misleading information.

* When challenged to tell the truth it is best to do so and live with a clear conscience.

1. *To Have One’s Head In The Clouds* or *In the Clouds.*

Meaning: to be absentminded. A person that doesn’t know what is going on around them.

A person who is not realistic because they are always thinking about their hopes or dreams.

* Do not be so spiritually-minded to be of no earthly use.

1. *A Cloud On The Horizon*

Meaning: a sign that something bad is going to happen in the near future.

* No matter what the circumstances we may be living in, we need to remember that there is indeed always a cloud on the horizon and the cloud we are looking for is the Lord’s Coming in the Clouds!

1. *Storm Clouds*

Meaning: it suggests impending trouble or problems.

* Nahum 1:3 - *The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.*

God is Compassionate, Loving and Gracious – but when the wicked persists in their wickedness, His wrath He will not hold back, and He will descend on them in the whirlwind and in the storm! Indeed, we can see the storm clouds in the horizon!

* Are you looking for the Silver Lining of the Lord’s Coming in the Clouds or His Coming with the Storm Clouds? **REFLECT**

1. Biblical Clouds also signal something *Terrible and Unpleasant* going to happen*.*

Consider: *The cloud is also the symbol of the terrible and of destruction. The day of Yahweh's reckoning is called the "day of clouds" (Ezekiel 30:3) and a day of "clouds and thick darkness" (Zeph. 1:15). The invader is expected to "come up as clouds" (Jeremiah 4:13). Joel (2:2) foretells the coming of locusts as "a day of clouds and thick darkness" which is both literal and figurative. Misfortune and old age are compared to "the cloudy and dark day" (Ezekiel 34:12) and "the clouds returning after rain" (Eccles. 12:2)* – The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

These clouds are indeed ominous and are indicative of God’s coming judgements on this sinful world. Are you prepared to meet these looming clouds – will you be over or under them?

How sure can you be? **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:**

*Do not live in the clouds or be under them; always stay above them with God in the Clouds!*