

To Follow the Cloud Or To Follow God's Direction

1. Exodus 13:20-22

- a. God never leaves His people without clear guidance. This is revealed in the history of Israel.
- b. God's method for leading Israel was by the cloud.
- c. This cloud was a sign for Jehovah's presence and guidance for His people.

2. Exodus 13:20-22

- a. This happened prior to their leaving Egypt.
- b. God provided the cloud while the Israelites were still in Egypt.

3. Exodus 14: 19-20, 24 during their exit from Egypt the cloud served them well.

- a. (v-24) God operated from the cloud.
- b. (16:10) Israel continued to follow the cloud.
- c. Exodus 24:15-18, Exodus 33:9-19
- d. The cloud rested upon the tabernacle and gave guidance to the camp of Israel.

4. Exodus 40: 34-38

- b. This glory is called *Shekinah* – which means dwelling place of God, which tells Jehovah rested in the cloud.
- c. The cloud was both fire and cloud, which is revelation and covering.
- d. The absolute uncertainty of the cloud's movement kept the children of Israel alert.
- e. They never knew when it would move. It might move by day or night.
- f. The most important factor was to stay in touch with the cloud. Anyone who failed to move with the cloud would be left behind.
- g. Only the cloud chose to stay or move.
- h. It is important to follow the cloud.
- i. Believers today are still led by the residing presence of Jehovah.

5. Acts 2 He does not reside in a cloud above the church building, but dwells in the lives of His people.

- a. Romans 8:14 For as many are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.
- b. Matthew 17:1-7 Simon Peter saw the cloud and thought it a good idea to build three tabernacles on the mount of transfiguration (to settle there).
- c. He could not see the cloud was moving down into the valley (Jesus). If he builds it, it turns into a monument.
- d. Matthew 16: 21-23 another example – not following the right cloud.

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