

Text: Ezekiel 43:1-12; Ref: Jer 30:1-24; Joel 2:18-32; Haggai 2:1-9; Isa 6:1-6; Exo 33:18-23; 1 Sam 6:1-21; 2 Sam 6:1-23; 1 Chro 15:1-29; 16:1-36; Acts 2:1-46; 2 Cor 3:18; 2 Cor 4:6

Theme: Behold! Your Cloud is Restored! Jehovah Shammah!

Preached by Rev Simeon Adera Ng'uono, Senior Pastor at AICPV on 04/02/2018

Introduction

- ✓ Have you ever gone through a great difficulty and felt like you were alone, that even God didn't care or hear you, that He had even abandoned you? Have you cried out to God, feeling like He wasn't interested and there never seems to be an answer to your cry, your struggle, you pray, you beg God ... but nothing!?
 - ✓ If you have ever felt this way you are in good company ... men like David experienced this ... Moses knew the feeling, Job knew it, Peter and the other disciples went through this after Jesus' crucifixion, Paul said everyone had abandoned him at one point (2 Tim. 4:16), Elijah felt that he was alone ... he hid because he was afraid that he too would die just like he thought all the other prophets had (Romans. 11:2-5).
 - ✓ Even Jesus felt the emotion of abandonment, first by His disciples, and then by God the father when He was alone on the cross; He cried, "*My God, My God why has thou forsaken me*" ... you see you are in good company when you experience this pain, yes the pain of feeling alone ... but do not forget this one fact: GOD IS THERE ... no matter how you feel!
- i. Promised hope- certain; future; person- Jer 30:17-22; Joel 2: 25-32**
- ✓ God made several promises which were certain to be fulfilled in the future
 - ✓ God promised that he would restore their fortunes- He did!
 - ✓ God promised that he will restore the years the locust –He did!
 - ✓ God promised that they will have plenty to eat- they had!
 - ✓ God promised that he will restore them to health and heal them- he did!
 - ✓ God promised that the glory of the second temple will be greater than the first- It was!
 - ✓ God promised that he himself will be the shepherd of his people-He did Immanuel
 - ✓ God promised that he himself will save his people-He did, Jesus Christ!
 - ✓ God promised that he will pour his Holy Spirit upon them- He did!
 - ✓ God has a promise for every circumstance that we go through in life
 - ✓ God is determined and committed to fulfil all his promises because they are Amen in Jesus Christ!
 - ✓ Whatever you are going through, the best is yet to come
 - ✓ Let your heart be filled with hope
 - ✓ Your sadness will be turned into joy; your weakness will be turned into strength; your mourning will be turned into gladness; your conflict will be turned into peace; your despair will be turned into hope! All these promises will be fulfilled because The Lord is there!

ii. Passionate prayer- mourning; fasting; seeking- Exo 33:18; 1 Sam 7:1; 1 Chro 15:13

- ✓ Moses took courage and asked the Lord the impossible, the unimaginable- “show me your glory”
- ✓ He was not satisfied with just being on the mountain and hearing the Lord give the commandments
- ✓ He wanted to ‘see’ and experience the Kabod of God, the sense God’s weightiness, a sense of God’s depth, a sense of God’s substance, a sense of God’s richness, a sense of God’s splendor, a sense of God’s majesty and a sense of the goodness of the Lord!
- ✓ He got the answer-
- ✓ The Lord made all his ‘goodness’ pass in front of Moses. God will show his goodness to you! God will cause his moral excellence pass in front of you! God will reveal to you that no matter what you are going through, remains good!
- ✓ The Lord proclaimed his name, ‘The Lord’ in his presence
- ✓ Take courage to ask God the impossible, He will answer!
- ✓ Spend time seeking his face, your will find him
- ✓ When the Ark of the Lord had stayed in Kiriath Jearim for twenty years, the Israelites turned to God in mourning and fasting in seeking the face of the Lord. it had been long since winning any battles! It had been long since receiving any blessings! It had been long since knowing any peace! It had been long since feeling the hand of God! it had been long sine hearing the voice of God! How long has it been since you experienced the glory of the Lord in your life?
- ✓ They fasted and on that day the Lord gave them victory and called that place Ebener! Yes Ebenezer is the place between Ichabod and restoration! Ebenezer is the place of victory over the things that hinder the restoration of the glory of God in our lives.
- ✓ Let us wait before him in keshas and watching and we will see him. Make it your single determination to attend keshas this season every last Friday of the month, come so that we can spend time in presence of the Lord in worship, in mourning, in prayer, in celebration, we will see his glory!
- ✓ It is time to seek the Lord with mourning and fasting, because there are somethings in life which can only be transformed by prayer and fasting. Moses fasted forty days and forty night to see the glory of the Lord! have you ever fasted? When was the last time you fasted? Let us start the feast of fasting at AICPV!

iii. Proper place- Temple of Dagon; Stone in the field; house of neighbor; aside; Jerusalem-1 Sam 5:2; 1 Sam 6:18; 7:1; 2 Sam 6:11; 1 Chro 16:1; Ezek 43:7

- ✓ Restoration of the Lord’s glory must be in the proper place. The place which people will point to and say, the Lord is there! Many of us have not experienced any form of restoration in our lives because the Lord is not in his rightful place!
- ✓ When the Ark was placed in the Temple of Dagon, Dagon was found fallen on his face before the Ark, with his head and hands broken off. You cannot not add God to your

gods, they will bow down to God and be destroyed! You cannot mix God with idols, charms,

- ✓ When you remain faithful to God, walking in his glory, no god, no witchcraft, no charm, no weapon forged against you will prosper! They will all bow down! They will all be destroyed!
- ✓ The Ark of the Lord was again placed by a rock in the field. This was an open place; it was a place of common practices; the people of the town opened it and looked inside irreverently bringing judgement upon themselves. The people of the town confessed that the 'Lord is holy', His place must be separate and unique. We must treat the place when God's glory dwells with reverence, awe and adoration. Let us not neglect the place of God's dwelling! Let us not ignore God's dwelling! Let us not leave God's dwelling in the field-in the open place, in the vulnerable place, in the unattended places! Let us not treat the Lord with commonness! The Lord is there, take care of that place!
- ✓ At Abinadab's house the Ark was guarded. The presence of God in our lives must be guarded against any intrusions of worldliness, impurities and anything that may bring pollution leading to contamination. Let us guard ourselves from the sins, which so easily entangles us. Our hearts are the wellspring of life, let us guard our hearts from attitudes of pride, jealousy, greed, selfishness, carnality and any form of worldliness!

✓
iv. Proper way- Keep watch; Keep following; Consecration; Repentance; Celebration

- ✓ The Lord's glory must be restored in the proper way if we must experience its impact, favor and blessings in our lives
- ✓ The Philistines were commanded to keep watching and keep following the Ark of the Covenant of God until it settles in its place. We must keep watching, we must keep following the Lord fixing our eyes upon him who is the author of our salvation. Let us not give up; let us not get tired; let us not neglect the call to walk with the Lord and fix our inner eyes, the eyes of faith no matter what happens. Then we will see and bear witness that the Lord is there!
- ✓ The Lord's glory will be restored when we undergo consecration, the art of separating ourselves from sinful, attitudinal and behavioral tendencies, which pollute the heart, mind and body. Abinadam consecrated his son as the guardian. David called upon the Levites to consecrate themselves. We must consecrate ourselves from the lust of the eyes, the pride of life and all kind of worldly passions and opinions that pollute our lives.
- ✓ The Lord's glory will be restored through the offering of sacrifices-the guilt sacrifices, the burnt offering sacrifices and the peace sacrifices. Jesus has become our guilt offering. We must confess our sins and repent from our waywardness. We must offer our bodies as living sacrifices, keeping ourselves from the sins can pollute the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the sins of immorality, debauchery.
- ✓ We must desist from any kind of irreverent behavior before the Lord and in serving the Lord. The case of the seventy people from the town of Beth Shemesh was a sad experience. The Lord struck them dead because they opened the Ark and looked inside

of it, treating it irreverently. The case of Uzzah is a sad experience. He thought he could support the Ark from falling down; he was struck dead by the Lord because he treated the Lord's glory irreverently. The case of Mikal was a sad experience when she despised David while dancing and celebrating the restoration of the Lord's glory. She was struck with barrenness and never had the joy of mothering. Watch out that you do not despise the Lord's servants. If something is happening to your life and it could be because you treated the Lord's servant lightly, please confess and let the Lord's servant pray for you. The case of Ananias and Saphirah was a sad event; they treated the Lord irreverently when they lied about the sale of their land. The Holy Spirit struck them dead.

- ✓ Let us not treat the Lord; let us not treat the Lord's house irreverently; let us not treat the Lord's service irreverently by our own strength; let us not despise the Lord's servants
 - ✓ Your Uzzah and Uzzah must die in order to see the Lord. Uzzah stands for contempt, while Uzzah stands for pride and complacency (2 Chro 26:19-21).
- v. Prosperous community- Families; Israelites; Early Church; Contemporary 2 Sam 16:18
- ✓ Wherever the Ark of the Lord was properly kept and properly treated, blessings were left in that place.
 - ✓ The people of Kiriath Jearim where the Ark of the Lord stayed for about 40 years experienced the blessing of longevity. Up to the time Samuel convened to fight the Philistines, it was 20 years and the time Saul came king until the time of David was another 20 years, a total of 40 years. Good life, long life and constancy was the portion of these people. When the Lord is there, there will be such blessings, you will live long; you will work long; you will prosper long.
 - ✓ The house of Obed Edom the Ark stayed for only three months but he experienced such a blessing that the word was reported to the King. Time doesn't really matter, but when the glory of the Lord is in your life, 40 years or three months will bring blessings in your life.
 - ✓ When David brought the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, he blessed the people and gave each person a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisin. The people's needs were abundantly supplied.
 - ✓ The prophet Joel promises that God will restore the years that the locust had eaten; they would have plenty to eat; the mountains will drop new wine; the hills will flow with milk; because the Lord is there! Where the Lord is, there is plenty to go around everybody!
 - ✓ When the Holy Spirit came down upon the early Church, they sold their goods and properties and they gave every one according to their needs. They had a spirit of generosity; their needs were supplied in abundant.
- vi. **Personal witness- Jehovah Shammah -Ezek 48:35; Acts 2:12**

- ✓ The Bible teaches us that God's presence is more than just a feeling, it is a reality of fact, the "*Lord is there*" no matter what we think or sense or feel! Let it be the testimony by which you are known, the Lord is there! The Lord is in that family; the Lord is in that church; the Lord is that business; the Lord is in that career;
- ✓ People can see the presence of the Lord and exclaim the Lord is there; it is as Philip told Nathaniel, come and see! People will see for themselves and bear witness about your life, the Lord is there!
- ✓ The feeling of loneliness and abandonment-God is there!
- ✓ The feelings of fear and frustrations- God is there!
- ✓ In times of trouble-, God is there!
- ✓ In times of grief-, God is there!
- ✓ In times of testing and temptation-, God is there!

Conclusion

God is here and he is personal, he can be experienced, he can restore his glory in your life and restore your fortunes! People can describe your life, your home, your career, your religion and say, The Lord is there! Today you can hold on to the promise of hope for his presence; today you can passionately pray for his presence; today you can invite him into the right place in your heart. Yes today you can live and serve him in the right way; today you can experience the abundance of his blessings; today you can personally bear witness to his glory and people will say, The Lord is there! Today you can move from Ichabod to Ebenezer to Shammah to Immanuel to come Lord Jesus come! Amen