

JESUS IN ALL | LEVITICUS – Jesus, Our Ever-Present Guide

Sunday, February 9, 2025

WELCOME & PRAY

MAIN TEXT

***2** Numbers 9:15-16 CSB – *On the day the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and it appeared like fire above the tabernacle from evening until morning. It remained that way continuously: the cloud would cover it, appearing like fire at night.*

INTRODUCTION

In Numbers 9:15-23, God led the Israelites through the wilderness by a cloud by day and fire by night, demonstrating His constant presence and guidance. This passage foreshadows how Jesus, our Ever-Present Guide, leads us today. Through the Holy Spirit, His Word, and Divine Providence, Christ continues to guide His people as we journey toward our eternal home. ***3** Divine Providence is God's intervention in the universe and in the affairs of humanity.

***4 1. THE CLOUD BY DAY AND FIRE BY NIGHT – JESUS IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH US | 9:15-16**

- **Re-read** vv 15-16. God revealed His presence to Israel through the cloud and fire. The cloud provided shade and guidance in the scorching wilderness, while the fire gave light and protection in the darkness.
 - **Exodus 13:21-22** – *The LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to give them light, so that they could travel day or night.*
 - ***5 John 1:14** – *The Word became flesh and dwelt (ἐσκήνωσεν, eskēnōsen – ‘tabernacled’) among us.* Jesus is God’s presence made visible.
 - **Matthew 28:20** – *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* Jesus, like the cloud and fire, continually leads us.
 - ***6** The word for “cloud” (ענן, anan) often symbolizes *God’s divine presence* (Exodus 40:34).
 - The term for “fire” (אש, esh) represents *God’s holiness and purification* (Deuteronomy 4:24).
 - Just as the Israelites trusted God’s presence, we must trust Jesus as our daily guide.
 - When we walk through difficulties, His presence shields us in trials and illuminates our path (Psalm 119:105).

***7 2. THE CLOUD AND FIRE MOVED AT GOD'S COMMAND – JESUS LEADS US IN HIS PERFECT TIMING | 9:17-18**

- The Israelites moved only when the cloud lifted and stayed when it settled. Their journey depended on God’s direction, not their own plans (**Re-read** vv 17-19).
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** – *Trust in the LORD with all your heart... He will make your paths straight.*
 - ***8** Turn & read **Romans 8:14** – *For all those led (ἄγονται, agontai) by God’s Spirit are God’s sons.* Jesus is not leading from afar. He actively guides us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - ***9 Acts 16:6-7** – Paul was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia and Bithynia, showing God’s timing in ministry.
 - The phrase “At the LORD’s command” (עַל־פִּי יְהוָה, ‘al pi Yahweh) appears repeatedly, emphasizing God’s absolute control over Israel’s movements. ***10** Israel did not move unless the cloud moved—**God directed their journey.**
 - The verb “settled” (שָׁקַן, shakan) is related to Shekinah, a term later used to describe God's indwelling presence.
 - Are we moving in step with God’s timing or rushing ahead?
 - Jesus, through His Spirit, directs us in every season. We must be patient and obedient to His leading.

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***11 3. THE CLOUD AND FIRE LED TO THE PROMISED LAND – JESUS LEADS US TO HEAVEN | vv 22-23**

- **Re-read** vv 22-23. The cloud and fire guided Israel through the wilderness to Canaan, their promised inheritance (Ex. 40:38). Likewise, Jesus leads us through life's trials toward our heavenly inheritance.
 - **John 14:2-3** – *I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come again and take you to myself.*
 - **Hebrews 12:2** – *Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer (ἀρχηγός, archēgos – 'leader, captain') and perfecter of our faith.* The **cloud** guided Israel, but **Jesus** is our guide today.
 - **Revelation 21:3** – *Look, God's dwelling (σκηνή, skēnē – 'tabernacle') is with humanity.* The final fulfillment of His presence.
 - ***12** The word "guide" in John 16:13 (ὁδηγήσει, hodēgēsei) means to lead along the way – a direct parallel to the cloud leading Israel.
 - ***13** The term "way" (ὁδός, hodos) in John 14:6 (*I am the way*) connects to God leading His people on the right path. Jesus is not just our destination but the way we travel.
 - The Christian journey is not aimless—Jesus is leading us to an eternal destination. Stay faithful, even when the path seems unclear. Jesus, our guide, never fails.

***14 CONCLUSION: Follow the Ever-Present Guide**

Numbers 9:15-23 paints a powerful picture of God's guidance, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- 1. Trust in Jesus' presence** – He is with you in every season.
- 2. Move in His timing** – Be sensitive to and act upon the Holy Spirit's leading.
- 3. Stay on course** – Keep your eyes focused on Jesus, our destination and reward.

Just as Israel depended on the cloud and fire, we must depend on Christ. He is not only the way—*He is with us on the way!*

PRAY/ ALTAR INVITATION

- Are you following Jesus, the Ever-Present Guide, or are you trying to navigate life on your own?
- Where have you needed the Lord's guidance?
- Are there times you asked for the Lord to guide you, and you didn't follow Him? Repent from that now.
- Ask for His Divine Providence and obey when and where He leads and guides.

BENEDICTION