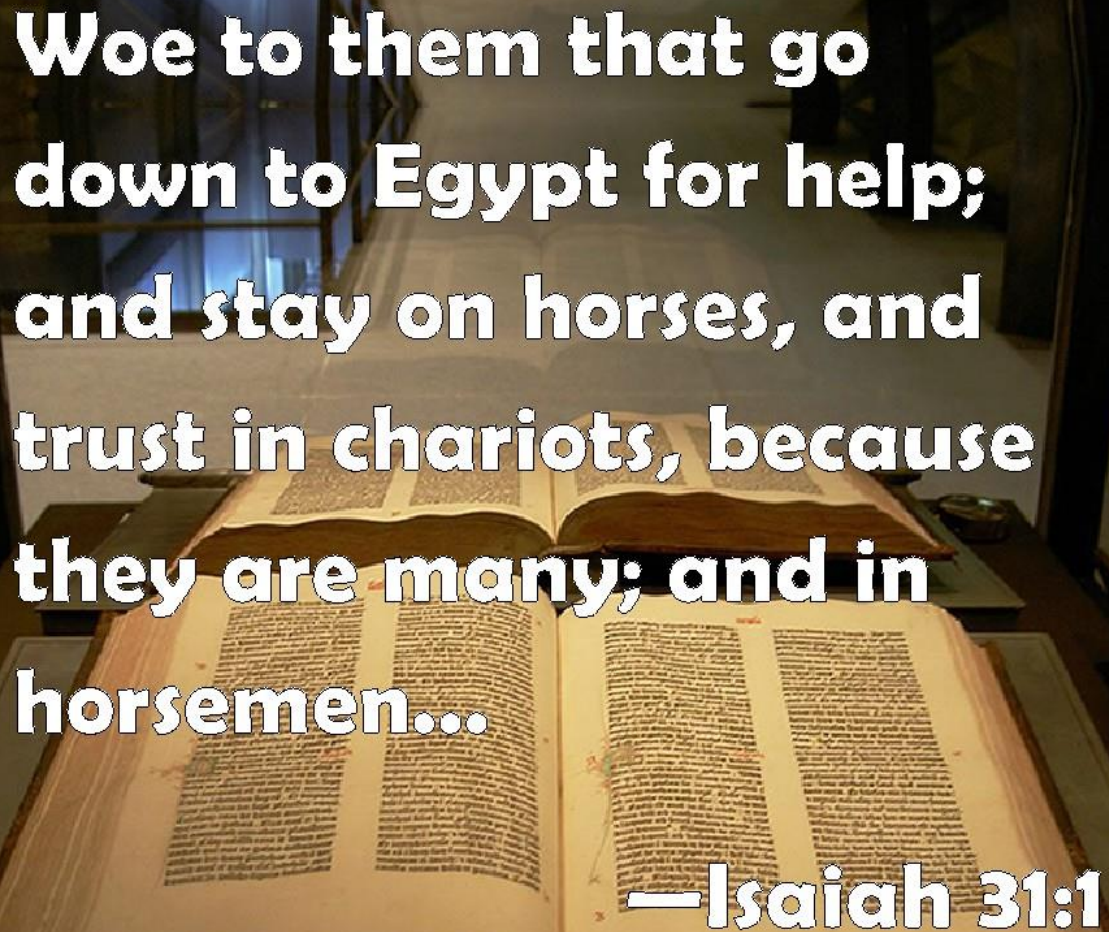


Coming up or Going Down



**Woe to them that go
down to Egypt for help;
and stay on horses, and
trust in chariots, because
they are many; and in
horsemen...**

—Isaiah 31:1

[Audio Version](#)

Hello, Precious Saints.

It's Friday, the 21st of April, and the Holy Spirit is continuing on the theme of the last two messages. Do you remember I spoke last time of how we tend to seek for outward

guidance, to seek leading, to seek information from outward sources instead of going to God and getting all our answers from Him? Well, on Thursday morning, the Holy Spirit instructed me to read Isaiah 30 and 31, and I saw that the same theme continues there. God is speaking concerning His children going to the world, seeking other sources of information, support, encouragement and supply. So, let's just read the beginning of Isaiah 30.

'Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord who take counsel and carry out a plan, but it's not Mine. And you make a league and pour out a drink offering, but not of My Spirit, thus adding sin to sin; who set out to go down into Egypt and have not asked Me, to flee to the stronghold of Pharaoh and to strengthen themselves in his strength and to trust in the shadow of Egypt.'

So here we see God is clearly addressing His people who are seeking refuge in Egypt, which is a type of the world system. They are making plans and taking counsel, but it's not His counsel, it's the counsel of the world; the counsel of man, the counsel of human understanding - and you are going down to Egypt or the world system or the things of the world and seeing them as the stronghold of protection; trusting in the shadow of Egypt. God wants us to trust in the shadow of His wing; to hide ourselves in the shadow of His wings. That's why He says, "Come up to Me and be there". Move away from those who are going to be worshiping the golden calf at the bottom of the mountain; worshiping the gods of Egypt, seeking counsel of the idols of Egypt and asking the idols of Egypt to lead them. If you read in the account in Exodus, the people said to Aaron, "Make us a golden calf that it may be carried ahead of us in the wilderness to lead us". So they were not only wanting to worship and bow to the golden calf, they were actually seeing this man-made Idol as a source of leadership and direction. And God says in Isaiah 30, *'Woe to those who set out to go down to Egypt...'* In verse 3, it says:

'The strength and protection of Pharaoh turned to your shame, and the refuge in the shadow of Egypt will be for your humiliation and confusion'.

In other words, the sources you are looking to for help instead of God and His counsel, direction and protection are going to be to your shame. And He actually says in verse 7, *'Egypt's help is worthless'*. Egypt's help is WORTHLESS. And He instructs Isaiah, the prophet, to write down His words so that it may be a witness for the time to come FOR

EVERMORE. In other words, the words that God instructed Isaiah to write down are also for us in these end times. These people did not want to hear the law and instruction of the Lord. In Isaiah 30:10, it actually says,

'They say to the seers, See not and to the prophets, prophesy not what is right. Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceitful illusions. Get out of the true way, turn aside out of the path and stop holding up before us the holy one of Israel'.

These people want things that tickle their ears. They want messages that make them feel great. 'This is your best life now'. 'Your greatest moments are just ahead'. 'Breakthrough is coming' - all the kind of prophecies that the false prophets bring. They don't want to hear the true prophets. They don't want to hear the things that the true seers are seeing that are up ahead. And they say, "Get out of our way. Get out of our way and stop talking to us about the Holy One of Israel". So, these are really '*rebellious, faithless, lying sons*', as verse 9 describes. And God warns them, & says, "Woe, woe to those who go down to Egypt to help!"

He speaks of a great crash that is coming. And for me that spoke of the financial crash! Early on in Isaiah 30, it speaks of all their riches being brought on camels; the load of their treasures being brought down to Egypt - looking to the world system to store your treasure and to store your wealth. And He says this sin of trusting in the wealth and the protection and the financial strength of Egypt is going to be like a wall that crashes suddenly and swiftly and it will be so broken, Verse 14 says, that it's like a potter's vessel that is broken, that there's no piece big enough to even carry one coal of fire from the hearth or to carry a little bit of water to drink out of the cistern.

In other words, this system that one's trusting in; that one's putting all one's weight and faith in, your own investments, your consulting of the stock markets and the shares etc, that is going to be so shattered and broken (and very suddenly), that there's going to be no source of warmth or thirst quenching for you from that source. And there's a very important verse in verse 15. He says:

'In returning to Me and resting in Me, you shall be saved. In quietness, and confidence shall be your strength.'

God saying, "I'm the Source of strength. I'm the Source of rest. I'm the source of safety. But as Isaiah 30:15 says, the people say, "We will not!"

'And you said no, we will speed our own course on horses.'

And God says, "Okay then, you're going to trust in the strength of a horse. You're going to trust your own course, your own human plans. *'Therefore, you will speed in flight from your enemies. You say we will ride upon swift steeds ('going our own way' the Amplified says). Therefore, will they who pursue you be swift'*.

So, God says your own plans of escape, your ideas, putting strength in things that are created - even in a horse to carry you away to safety. It's not going to be a solution. Psalm 33:17, says, *'A horse is devoid of value for victory. Neither does he deliver any by his great power. Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him, who wait for Him and hope in His mercy and loving kindness, to deliver them from death and to keep them alive in famine'*. So what God is saying is that it's those who fear Him and see Him as their Source of protection and deliverance, even to keep them alive in famine, His eyes upon those, but those who say, "Nope, I'm going down to Egypt for help. I've got a plan. I'm going to ride swiftly away on my horse. (Well, in modern terms, it's more like 'in my 4x4 vehicle'). I'll get away quickly from anybody who pursues me".

God is saying, "No. That's not going to give you victory. That's not going to give you protection. There is no power in that thing to deliver you. The only source of deliverance and protection and life keeping power is in the Lord of Hosts and He watches over those who fear Him". Psalm 147:10 says, *He delights not in the strength of a horse, nor does he take pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, who hope in his mercy and loving kindness'*. So, your own strength and your own legs and your own power to deliver yourself don't impress God or delight Him. The strongest racehorse there is, nothing that you can look to for deliverance or safety or to use to flee from what is coming impresses God at all. He takes pleasure in those who fear Him.

So, the Word of God is always comparing those who depend on their own strength or the strength of Egypt versus those who walk in the fear of the Lord and hide themselves under the shadow of His wing and say, "Lord, you are my Stronghold, You are my Refuge, You are my Protection". Isaiah 31:18, says that the Lord is *'waiting and longing*

to be gracious to you. He lifts Himself up that He may have mercy on you and show loving kindness to you, for He is a God of justice'. And it says in the Amplified, 'blessed are all those who EARNESTLY WAIT for Him, who expect and look for and long for Him, for His victory, His favor, and His matchless, unbroken companionship'. So those who are waiting for God, who are seeking out His companionship, His favor, His love, there is a blessing upon them and God's longing to be gracious to you.

That's why He says, "Come up to Me and be there". Because His heart is for you. His heart wants to be gracious and kind to you. But are you looking for the companionship of Egypt? Are you looking for the companionship and the relaxation of the entertainments of Egypt? Are you seeking counsel from the oracles of Egypt, from those who are wise in the wisdom of men -which God considers foolishness? Or are you waiting for Him, longing for Him and seeking His matchless, unbroken companionship? It says, 'Blessed are those who earnestly wait for Him'.

You know, sometimes it takes a while for God's counsel to come. He said to Moses, "Come up to me and be there". In other words, stay in that place. Wait for Me. Wait for Me. For the Prophet Jeremiah, it took ten days on one occasion for the prophet to receive and hear the Word of the Lord for the people. Let's read that.

Jer 42:1 THEN ALL the captains of the forces, and Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah [Azariah] son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even to the greatest came near Jer 42:2 And said to Jeremiah the prophet, We beseech you that you will let our supplication be presented before you and that you will pray to the Lord your God for us, even for all this remnant [of the people of Judah]; for whereas we were once many, there are but a few of us left, as you see with your [own] eyes. Jer 42:3 [Pray] that the Lord your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do. Jer 42:4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your words; and it will be that whatever thing the Lord will answer you, I will declare it to you; I will keep nothing back from you. Jer 42:5 Then they said to Jeremiah, May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we fail to do according to all the things that the Lord your God sends you to tell us. Jer 42:6 Whether it is good or evil, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God, to Whom we are sending you [to inquire], that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God.

So, they seemingly are seeking direction from the Lord God. They're not going to Egypt. Seemingly, they wanted God to speak to them. "Show us what to do. What must we do? We are the remnant. We want God to speak to us".

Wow. These people seem to have a great attitude. "Whatever God says to us we will do, we will delight to do His will," they say. And then in verse seven, it says,

'And after ten days, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah'.

You know, sometimes God doesn't show up straight away. You come up higher. You're being there. But there are not always instant answers. Isaiah 30 said *'Blessed are those who EARNESTLY WAIT for Me'*. Earnest Waiting and seeking bring answers. And I have to ask you, how hungry are you for face-to-face encounter with God? If God doesn't speak to you for one day or two days, do you go back to consulting Egypt for help? I had a conversation with a friend of mine yesterday and she said she feels like her relationship with God is this: she phones him, He doesn't answer. She leaves Him a voice message and she never hears back from Him. She said to me, "What's wrong?" And immediately the Lord said to me, "Tell her she's too low down on the mountain. She must *'come up higher and be there'*".

And then, of course, there's this experience - you go up higher; you separate yourself unto the Lord. You 'be there' and then you don't hear anything.... How long are you willing to wait, Beloved? How hungry are you for the counsel of the Lord? It took ten days before the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, and these people were desperate for guidance and for direction. Would you be willing to wait ten days to hear God speak? Or would you find yourself scrolling through the messages on YouTube? "Oh, here's someone who seems to have heard from the Lord. Let's see what they have to say". How hungry are you to hear personally from God? How hungry are you for encounter? God doesn't always answer straight away. And what about if you don't like what He says after ten days? Let's read what these people said when they heard what God told Jeremiah for them.

'So, he called them and he said, thus says the Lord. If you will remain in this land, I will build you up and not pull you down. I will plant you and not pull you up. I will relent and comfort and ease Myself concerning the evil that I have done to you. Don't be afraid of

the King of Babylon, of whom you are fearful. Don't be afraid of him, says the Lord, for I am with you to save you and deliver you from his hand. And I will grant mercy to you that he may have mercy on you'.

So, God can even control the King of Babylon. If you are obedient to God and you are where He tells you to be, God can even make the ruthless King of Babylon have mercy on you and permit you to remain in your own land.

'But if you say we will not dwell in this land and disobey the Word of the Lord saying, no, we will go to the land of Egypt where we will not see war or hear the sound of trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there, then hear the word of the Lord, remnant; Thus says the Lord of Hosts, If you are fully determined to go to Egypt and you do go to dwell there TEMPORARILY....'

So, these people, even though God's told them stay where they are, If they are fully determined and say, "Okay, we'll just go and get help from the shadow of Egypt for a little bit. We know where the true place of refuge is. And later on, a little bit further down the line, we'll come back to being under the protection of God". And God says in reply:

'If you do go to dwell there temporarily, the sword which you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt and the famine you are afraid of will follow close after you, and there you will die'.

So, God warns them. He says, "Do what I tell you to do. But if you choose to go to Egypt for help, it's going to go very badly for you there. You're going to die by the sword, by famine and by pestilence", Verse 17 says. So, God lays it out plainly for them. And what do they say? Let's go to Jeremiah 43. When Jeremiah had finished speaking everything which God had sent him to tell them, (these are people that declared they were desperately hungry for God's counsel, and they even promised that whatever God said they would do), Jeremiah 43:2 says,

Then Azariah son of Hoshai and Johanan son of Kareah and all the proud and insolent men said to Jeremiah, You are not telling the truth! The Lord our God has not sent you to say, Do not go into Egypt to dwell there temporarily.

Jer 43:3 But Baruch son of Neriah is setting you against us to deliver us into the hands of the Chaldeans, so they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon.

And they said they were not going to obey this, and they took the whole remnant and they went down to Egypt and they did not obey the word of the Lord. Can you believe this? I was horrified when I read this through. They waited a WHOLE TEN DAYS to get counsel from the Lord, and then they didn't like what He said. So I have to ask you, Beloved, when you come up higher and be there and the Lord speaks to you, what if you don't like what He says after ten days? I pray to the Lord Almighty that you will not say, "We will go to Egypt. I don't like the counsel you've given me, God! I think I'm going to choose the world and its systems". How do we translate that to the present day? "I think I will just get involved in the New World Order. I think I'll just start using this cashless financial system now - just for a bit. And then later on down the line, I'll wean myself off it and I'll come completely under God's protection". That's what it translates to in today's terms, doesn't it? God said, *'if you go down there to Egypt to dwell temporarily, then it will not fare well with you. And you will die by sword, by famine, and by pestilence'*. Can you hear this?

Can you hear this, Beloved? God does not want us to die by sword, famine and pestilence. He wants us to separate from the world and all that pertains to it and come fully under His protection. And to do that, we have to come up higher. We have to come up higher and be there so that we can hear His counsel in God's timing. He will speak to us. Sometimes He is testing how serious you are, how much do you really want to hear from Me? Or are you going to run back to YouTube or to Brighton or to watch a series or to do whatever. "How hungry really are you for My presence? You say you are hungry? You say you'll do whatever I tell you to do..." But oh, we don't even know our own hearts, because sometimes God tells us to do things that we really don't want to do, that don't sound comfortable. I mean, God told those people in Jeremiah 40 to stay in the place where the King of Babylon was ruling. "Stay there and I will show you mercy through him". And they thinking, "That doesn't sound so comfortable... Down there in Egypt, look, I mean, they're getting food. Everything's working. The system's working there. There's no war there if you cooperate with Egypt. Nothing horrible is happening there. It's only those who separate themselves from Egypt that seem to be having problems". And God says so You don't want to heed My counsel. You don't want to listen to what I'm telling you about the power of My might to even control the King of

Babylon's attitude towards you. You want to go your own way? You want to go to Egypt for help? Go ahead. But you're all going to die because you sought the counsel and the shelter of Egypt". Isaiah 30. Woe of those who go down to Egypt for help. Isaiah 31:1 reiterates that:

'Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses and trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are strong, but they look not to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek and consult the Lord. Yet he is wise and brings calamity and does not retract His words. Now the Egyptians are men and not God. Their horses are flesh and not spirit... And when the Lord stretches out his hand, both Egypt who helps will stumble, and Judah, who is helped, will fall and they will perish and be consumed together'.

The Lord is saying that there is no help in Egypt or in the shelter of Egypt or its systems. When the judgment of God comes, then those who have gone to Egypt for help will fall along with Egypt. Let's go back to Isaiah 30 and carry on reading what God is saying to His people who seek Him, who wait for Him. It says in Isaiah 30:20:

'Though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction...'

God's being honest. He's saying you're going into a difficult time. There is going to be adversity. There is going to be affliction. It's not a bed of roses up ahead. But in the midst of trouble, God can provide for you. God can comfort you. God can strengthen you. The word 'adversity' in Hebrew is 'tsar'. It means 'a narrow, tight place of distress and affliction'. Sounds a bit like a birth canal to me. So, He's saying, "You are going to be passing through a narrow, tight place". The word 'affliction' in Hebrew is 'lahat'. It means 'oppression'. He's saying there is going to be oppression. It's going to be a narrow place, a difficult place with oppression. But what does it say in the second half of Isaiah 30:20? Though there are these things, *'yet your teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes will constantly behold your teacher'*. In other words, you've been seeking God's counsel. You've been seeking His matchless, unbroken fellowship. You have a desire to come up higher and to 'be there'. It might take a little time, but God's not going to hide Himself from you anymore. You are going to see Him constantly during this time of affliction and adversity. During this narrow, tight place where there is

oppression, God is going to be constantly, visibly present for you. You're going to see Him.

You know the word 'teacher' there is 'yarah'. It means 'to flow like water'. It's also the word used for 'early rain'. God will give you the early rains. When He comes and speaks, His words are going to drop like rain upon your heart. You're going to see Him constantly. It's not like you're going to search for Him and not going to be able to find Him. That's why He's calling you to come up higher, to separate yourself from the lower slopes, where the things of Egypt are like octopus tentacles that hold you fast. "Come up to Me". To ME, God says, **"Come to Me, those who are thirsty, and get water without price. Yes, there's affliction and adversity. It is the end time. It's tribulation. But I'm going to be with you. I'm not going to hide Myself from you"**.

v21 'and your ears will hear a word behind you saying, this is the way, walk in it when you turn to the right hand and to the left'.

Why is He behind you? Why is the Voice behind you? Because God's got your back. You're going to get counsel and direction. The Psalms say, *'I will guide you with My eye upon you'*. **"You're going to see Me and you're going to hear Me as never before. But come up to Me, Beloved. You're too low on the mountain. Come up higher and be there. I'm not going to hide Myself. It's going to be a difficult time, but I'm going to be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry"**. Verse 19 says, *'When I hear your cry, I will answer you.'* ...But only if you stop going to Egypt for help. Come up to Him and be there.

You know, God's whole desire is that His people would return to Him with all their hearts and souls and strengths and even the tribulation, even the shaking of everything that can be shaken until the things that cannot be shaken remain, ALL OF IT is to separate unto Himself a whole-hearted, set-apart people. In Isaiah 30:16, where the people say, "We going to speed our own course on horses!" and God says, "You're going to be pursued. 1000 of you will flee at the threat of one of them...", you know, Beloved, when one person in power issues a decree concerning it no longer being legal to serve God, many Christians are going to flee and go into hiding at that point. There is persecution coming for Christians. And God says in verse 17, *'At the threat of five, you will flee till you are left like a beacon on top of a mountain and like a signal on top of a hill'*.

When the New World Order begins to really issue threats against believers and legal sanctioning and not allowing one to function freely in society or to worship God freely, there is going to be a fleeing, but it says here *'you will flee until you are left like a beacon on top of a mountain'*. That word 'left', do you know that it also means 'remnant'? It is the true remnant of God that ends up on top of the mountain. God calls us to come up higher. He issues an invitation. Jeremiah 16:16 says, God will send fishers and they will fish people out, and then He will send hunters, *'and they will hunt you out of every place'*. Fishing is like extending an invitation. When you hang a hook in the water, it's an invitation for the fish to come and bite and to be drawn unto the fishermen. It is free to choose whether to bite or not... but when a hunter comes, it's a whole different kettle of fish (excuse the pun!). God is fishing. He's saying, "Come up to Me", it's an invitation.

"Come up to Me and be there". But at some point, those who do not respond willingly, are going to begin to be hunted. There's going to be oppression and fleeing and hunting believers. And only the remnant will be left, having reached the top of a mountain because people are going to fall away. They're going to not be able to take the persecution and they're going to cave in and start to submit to the New World Order and the things that are required- just in order to have peace and quiet. And so, it's going to be used as a sifting process to sift out a true and pure remnant that are a sign on top of the mountain.

What mountain is this that we're climbing, Beloved. It's not an earthly mountain. Isaiah 30:19 says *'Oh, you people who dwell in Zion at Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will be gracious to you at the sound of your cry'*. We're in the New Testament. God is not wanting everybody to move to Mount Zion in Israel. Paul says 'you've come unto the heavenly Mount Zion, the Heavenly Jerusalem' (Hebrew 12:22) 'to an innumerable company of angels. And to the Church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven'. The mountain that we're climbing spiritually is Mount Zion. And God is going to be sifting and shaking everything that can be shaken, and he allows the hunting and He allows the pursuit of those who claim to be those who worship His Name and follow Him because He's sifting out the insincere. He's sifting out the counterfeit. He's sifting out those who seek to preserve their flesh. He's sifting out those who really and truly want to go to the shelter of Egypt for help, just like those ones who asked Jeremiah to get a

word from the Lord. And when he came with it, they didn't want to hear. They didn't like the counsel of the Lord. They actually wanted to go to Egypt for help. It was hidden deep in their hearts, although it didn't show itself at first. At first, they said, "Whatever God says to us we will do. Let it be against us if we don't obey Him". And then when they get told what God wants them to do, they don't like it at all. And it says all who were proud amongst them said, "This word is not true". Pride lurks in the depths of our hearts - the pride of life. The lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh and the pride of life are our prime enemies. And they're all within our own hearts. These are the enemies that need to be removed. And so God is calling us to come up to Him and to be there; to earnestly wait for His matchless, unbroken companionship.

You might have to wait ten days before God speaks. You might have to wait a while, but are you hungry enough for Him to press up higher, to leave behind you the comforts of Egypt; the comforts of the world system, the comforts of the flesh, the easy answers. You know, it's much quicker to heat up a meal in a microwave, but it destroys and dismantles all the proteins in your food so that your body can't recognize it, so that you're not nourishing yourself when you eat a microwaved meal. It was the same meal. If it's heated on the stove top, you eat it and it nourishes you - but it takes longer and it's more work and there are pots to wash! We are a microwave generation. We want instant gratification - And THIS is our downfall now, because it's hard for us to wait; to EARNESTLY WAIT before the Lord. It's hard for us to show up and present ourselves before the Lord and to harness our minds and focus on Him and have Him say nothing day after day after day. It's hard for the flesh. It's hard for our soulish understanding because we've been brought up in a generation that loves instant gratification. It's really hard. Ten days to wait to get God before God says something is a LONG TIME for us. Most of us would give up on day four and think, "Oh, I really need some spiritual food. Maybe my spiritual ears are not working. Well, let me just look for something encouraging to listen to".

It's hard when you separate yourself and come up to Him. To HIM - and BE THERE. It's hard to earnestly wait! So, this wasn't a very comfortable message, Beloved. But it's a truthful message and it's telling us that affliction and hardship are up ahead. AFFLICTION AND ADVERSITY, but in the midst of it, God will be there, very present and manifest for us to see and hear as never before. If we will disentangle ourselves from Egypt and come up to Him, He wants to be gracious to us. He waits to be gracious

to us, but it's up to us whether we will accept the invitation to come up to Him, or whether we will wait and be amongst those whom the hunters drive up towards Him, because everything that we've leaned on in Egypt fails us. It's our choice. What are you hungry for, Beloved? How long are you willing to wait? How earnestly are you prepared to seek Him? Difficult questions, challenging questions, but the ones that we need to ask ourselves. May the Lord bless you. May you be strengthened with might out of the rich treasury of His glory to exercise endurance and patience as you ascend higher in the Spirit, not willing to accept or settle for anything less than REAL ENCOUNTER.

You know, in John 17, Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him 'to a mountain apart'. They went without the other disciples. God may give you 1 or 2 friends in the Spirit who are willing to go up the mountain with you and Jesus to the top. He took them alone to the top of the mountain. And it was there that they had an encounter with Jesus in his resurrection power BEFORE the time of resurrection. His garments shone white as light and His face shone like the sun. If you look at Revelation 2, that was how John encountered Him as the resurrected Christ, the First and the Last, Who died and who lives forevermore. John had seen Him before like this, with those three disciples who went up the Mountain of Transfiguration before the crucifixion. They encountered Jesus in His heavenly power and heavenly glory. He was transformed to that before their eyes. They experienced Jesus in a way they never had before. But where did they do that? AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, ALONE AND APART from the other disciples. It didn't happen in the midst of the disciples around the campfire. They had to go up the mountain with Jesus, alone and apart. And there, they saw Him and heard Him and encountered Him in a way they had never, ever experienced before.

So, I pray the Spirit would urge you and lead you to that place; that you may encounter and be enveloped in a cloud of light and hear the voice of the Father and see Jesus with His garments white as light and His face shining like the sun, in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.