

The Prophet Who Knows God Face to Face:

A Short Meditation

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“The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.” (Exodus 33:11)

This must be one of the most mind-boggling passages in the Bible. Among all the prophets, Moses held a unique place. God did not speak to him in riddles or dreams, but plainly, face to face “just as a man speaks to his friend.” Moses entered the Tent of Meeting, and the cloud of glory would descend. He lingered in the presence of the Almighty. He knew the Lord intimately. And yet even Moses, in all his closeness, was not permitted to see the fullness of God’s glory.

“You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!” (Exodus 33:20)

Even the friend of God had limits. He was shielded in a cleft of the rock as God’s glory passed by. But then, centuries later, the One greater than Moses came.

“No one has seen God at any time; God the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” (John 1:18)

Jesus didn’t merely speak with God—He *is* God. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the radiance of the Father’s glory (Hebrews 1:3), and the perfect image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).

From the Tent of Meeting to the Incarnation

What Moses saw in partial glimpses, the disciples saw in the face of Jesus. John testifies:

“We saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

This is the heart of the Gospel: the God whom Moses feared to gaze upon has come to us—approachable, knowable. Not only that, but this Greater Moses has *made a way* for us to behold God’s glory, too.



Face to Face

Beholding with Unveiled Faces

Paul writes that under the old covenant, a veil remained over Israel's eyes when the Law was read. But in Christ, the veil is taken away:

“But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image...” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Where Moses' face shone temporarily with reflected glory, Jesus radiates inherent, eternal glory. And through Him, we not only *see* the Father, we are *being transformed* into His likeness.

Devotional Reflection

- Do I see Jesus as the One who perfectly reveals the Father, not just as a teacher, but as God in the flesh?
- Am I drawing near with an unveiled face, or am I living as if there is still a veil between me and God?
- How am I being changed as I behold the glory of Christ?