

The Presence of God

{Part One of the Presence-Powered Warfare Series}

[This is not meant to be an exhaustive study, but rather a brief introduction into the Biblical theology of God's presence.]

{Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the NKJV}

I. Promise of His Presence

A. Universal

1. Jeremiah 23:24 (NIV)

Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.

2. Psalm 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

a) Futile Attempts To Hide or Flee from His Presence

(1) Genesis 3:8

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

(2) Jonah 1:3

But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

B. Corporate

1. Places of Worship

a) 2 Chron. 20:9

'If disaster comes upon us--sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine--we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name *is* in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

b) Psalm 63:1-2

¹ O God, You are my God;
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You
In a dry and thirsty land
Where there is no water.
² So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.

2. His People

a) 1 Samuel 11:15 (NIV)

So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

b) Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.

c) Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

C. Personal

1. To The Believer

a) John 14:15-18, 23

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ²³Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

b) Psalm 140:13

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

c) Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

2. To The Seeker

a) Deut. 4:29

But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

b) 1 Chron. 28:9

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

c) 2 Chron. 15:2

And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

d) Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

II. Pursuit of and Encounter with His Presence

A. Pursuit of His Presence

1. With Whole Heart

a) Psalm 119:2

Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart.

b) Psalm 84:2, 5

²My soul longs, yes, even faints

For the courts of the LORD;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

⁵Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,

Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

c) 2 Chron. 34:31 (NIV)

The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord--to follow the Lord and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

d) Lament. 2:19 (NIV)

Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.

2. Prayer and Worship

a) Exodus 33:10

All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

b) 2 Chron. 7:1-3

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. [2] And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord' s house. [3] When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying:

"For He is good,

For His mercy endures forever."

3. Diligently (Seeking His Face)

a) 1 Chron. 16:11 and Psalm 105:4

Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

b) Psalm 24:6

This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah.

c) Psalm 27:8

When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

4. With Joyful Thanksgiving

a) Psalm 95:2

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

5. With Singing

a) Psalm 100:2

Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

6. In Ceaseless Prayer

a) Ephes. 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

b) 1 Thess 5:17

pray without ceasing

7. In Silence

a) Zeph. 1:7

Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD *is* at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

B. Encounter with His Presence

1. Theophanic (see also **Direction** section below)

a) Genesis 15:1, 17-21

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

[7] Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." [8] And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" [9] So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." [10] Then he

brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. [11] And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

[12] Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. [13] Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. [14] And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. [15] Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. [16] But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

[17] And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. [18] On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates-- [19] the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, [20] the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, [21] the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

b) Exodus 3:2¹

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

c) Exodus 19:9, 18-21

And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.

[18] Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. [19] And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. [20] Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. [21] And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish.

d) Exodus 20:18-20

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. [19] Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." [20] And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

e) Exodus 24:9-11

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, [10] and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. [11] But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

f) Exodus 24:15-18

Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. [16] Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the

¹ Many more passages speak of the Angel of the LORD. They are not all included here.

seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. [17] The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. [18] So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

g) Exodus 33:10

All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

h) Exodus 34:5

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

i) Deut. 5:4-5, 23-28

The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. [5] I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said: [23]"So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. [24] And you said: ' Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. [25] Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. [26] For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? [27] You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.' [28] Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: ' I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.

j) Joshua 5:13-15

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" [14] So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" [15] Then the Commander of the Lord' s army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

k) 2 Chron. 5:13-14

indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying:

"For He is good,
For His mercy endures forever,"

that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, [14] so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

l) Ezekiel 1:4, 26-28

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

[26] And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. [27] Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. [28] Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

m) Micah 1:1-4

The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. [2] Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord God be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple. [3] For behold, the Lord is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth. [4] The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.

n) Habakkuk 3:3-6

God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, And the earth was full of His praise. [4] His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there His power was hidden. [5] Before Him went pestilence, And fever followed at His feet. [6] He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, The perpetual hills bowed. His ways are everlasting.

o) Hebrews 12:18-21

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, [19] and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. [20] (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." [21] And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

2. Glorifies Himself

a) Exodus 34:5-7

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

3. Holiness

a) Exodus 3:5-6

Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the

God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

b) Exodus 29:42-43

This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you. [43] And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.

c) Leviticus 9:24 (NIV)

Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

d) Leviticus 10:2 (NIV)

So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

e) Joshua 5:15

Then the Commander of the Lord' s army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

f) Isaiah 6:1-7

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

³And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

The whole earth is full of His glory!"

⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King,

The LORD of hosts."

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

"Behold, this has touched your lips;

Your iniquity is taken away,

And your sin purged."

4. He Speaks

a) Exodus 33:9-10

And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

b) Numbers 12:5-8

Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. ⁶Then He said, "Hear now My words:

"If there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision;
I speak to him in a dream.
⁷Not so with My servant Moses;
He is faithful in all My house.
⁸I speak with him face to face,
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;
And he sees the form of the Lord.
Why then were you not afraid
To speak against My servant Moses?"

c) Deut. 5:2-5

The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. [3] The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. [4] The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. [5] I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain.

d) Psalm 99:7

He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar;
They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them.

e) 1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV)

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. [12] After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

III. Power of His Presence

A. Terrestrial Effects

1. Psalm 29

A Psalm of David.

Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
[2] Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

[3] The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders;
The Lord is over many waters.

[4] The voice of the Lord is powerful;
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

[5] The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,

Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
[6] He makes them also skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
[7] The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire.

[8] The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
[9] The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth,
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"

[10] The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood,
And the Lord sits as King forever.
[11] The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace.

2. 1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV)

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. [12] After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

3. Psalm 68:8

The earth shook; The heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God; Sinai itself *was moved* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

4. Psalm 77:16-18

The waters saw You, O God;
The waters saw You, they were afraid;
The depths also trembled.
[17] The clouds poured out water;
The skies sent out a sound;
Your arrows also flashed about.
[18] The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
The lightnings lit up the world;
The earth trembled and shook.

5. Psalm 97:5

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6. Psalm 114:7

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob,

7. Isaiah 64:1-3

Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence--

² As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil-- To make Your name known to Your adversaries, *That* the nations may tremble at Your presence!

³ When You did awesome things *for which* we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence.

8. Ezekiel 38:20

so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'

9. Nahum 1:5

The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

10. Rev. 20:11 (NIV)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

B. Spiritual Effects

1. On Evil

a) Idols Perish

(1) Isaiah 19:1

The burden against Egypt.

Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.

(2) 1 Samuel 5:1-5

¹ Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ²When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. ³And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again. ⁴And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon' s torso was left of it. ⁵Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon' s house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

b) Wicked Perish

(1) Numbers 16:19-35

And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the congregation.

[20] And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, [21] "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." [22] Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?" [23] So the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, [24] "Speak to the congregation, saying, ' Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.' " [25] Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. [26] And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men!

Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." [27] So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children. [28] And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. [29] If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. [30] But if the Lord creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the Lord." [31] Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, [32] and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. [33] So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. [34] Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!" [35] And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

(2) Psalm 68:1-2

Let God arise,

Let His enemies be scattered;

Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

²As smoke is driven away, So drive *them* away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

(3) Jeremiah 4:26

I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land *was* a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger.

2. On His People

a) Reverence

(1) Exodus 20:18-20

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. [19] Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." [20] And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

(2) Exodus 34:5, 8

⁵Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁸So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

(3) Deut. 5:23-27

"So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. [24] And you said: ' Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. [25]

Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. [26] For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? [27] You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

(4) 1 Samuel 6:20 (NIV)

and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?"

(5) Job 23:15

Therefore I am terrified at His presence; When I consider *this*, I am afraid of Him.

(6) Psalm 76:7

You, Yourself, *are* to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry?

(7) Isaiah 6:1-6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.³ And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

The whole earth is full of His glory!"

⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King,

The LORD of hosts."

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

"Behold, this has touched your lips;

Your iniquity is taken away,

And your sin purged."

(8) Jeremiah 5:22

Do you not fear Me?' says the Lord.

' Will you not tremble at My presence,

Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea,

By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it?

And though its waves toss to and fro,

Yet they cannot prevail;

Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

(9) Haggai 1:12

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their

God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.

b) Joy

(1) Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

(2) Psalm 21:6

For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence.

c) Hunger Satisfied

(1) Psalm 73:25

Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

(2) Psalm 42:1-2

To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.
As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.
²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

(3) Psalm 63:1-3

¹O God, You are my God;
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You
In a dry and thirsty land
Where there is no water.
²So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.
³Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips shall praise You.

d) Essentiality

(1) Deut. 30:20

that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

(2) Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

e) Refreshing

(1) Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

f) Rest

(1) Exodus 33:14

And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

(2) Isaiah 11:10

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

g) Deliverance

(1) Exodus 14:19, 24

And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

²⁴Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.

(2) Exodus 33:15

Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.

(3) Deut. 4:37

And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

(4) Psalm 9:3

When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence.

(5) Isaiah 63:9

In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.

(6) Psalm 18:1-19

¹ I will love You, O LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁴The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁵The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.
⁷Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.
⁸Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.
⁹He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.
¹⁰And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.
¹¹He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies.
¹²From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire.
¹³The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.
¹⁴He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.
¹⁵Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered At Your rebuke, O LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.
¹⁶He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.
¹⁷He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me.
¹⁸They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.
¹⁹He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

(7) 2 Samuel 22:13 (NIV)

Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth.

(8) 2 Chron. 20:9, 21-22

⁹ If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name *is* in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

²¹And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

"Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."

²²Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

(9) Psalm 17:2

Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright.

h) Protection

(1) Psalm 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

(2) Psalm 31:20

You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man;
You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.

(3) Psalm 91:1-16

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, *And* under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day,

⁶ *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, *And* ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you.

⁸ Only with your eyes shall you look, *And* see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place,

¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, *Nor* shall any plague come near your dwelling;

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

¹² *In their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

¹⁴ "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, *And* show him My salvation."

i) Direction

(1) Exodus 13:21-22

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ²²He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

(2) Exodus 28:30 (NIV)

Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron' s heart whenever he enters the presence of the Lord. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord.

(3) Exodus 40:34-38

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. [35] And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. [36] Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle,

the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. [37] But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. [38] For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

(4) Numbers 9:15-23

Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. ¹⁸At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. ¹⁹Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord and did not journey. ²⁰So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the Lord they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the Lord they would journey. ²¹So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. ²²Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey. ²³At the command of the Lord they remained encamped, and at the command of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

(5) Deut. 1:33

who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.

(6) Neh. 9:12, 19

Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel. ¹⁹Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.

(7) Psalm 78:14

In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire.

NOTES: