

# OUT OF BONDAGE INTO ABUNDANCE

## *Part 4: Coming to Mt. Sinai*

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### INTRODUCTION

- A. As introduced at the very beginning of this study, there were three important steps or aspects to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt that correspond to **three distinct New Testament experiences** in Christ (John 3:3-5):
1. Celebration of the Passover (Ex. 12) = salvation (*born again*)
  2. Crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14) = water baptism (*born of water*)
  3. Coming to Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19) = baptism in the Holy Spirit (*born of the Spirit*)
- B. In Part 3, we learned that after Israel’s initial deliverance from Pharaoh’s bondage (through the blood of the Passover lamb), God’s people witnessed “the salvation of the Lord” once again at the Red Sea, where God buried or “baptized” all of Pharaoh’s armies in the sea – an experience corresponding to New Testament water baptism.
- C. Fifty days after the Israelites made their exodus from Egypt, they came to Mt. Sinai, where the fire of God’s holy presence descended, causing the whole mountain to tremble and quake violently:

**Ex. 19:1, 10-20:** *<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai... <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes <sup>11</sup>and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup>Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. <sup>13</sup>They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.” <sup>14</sup>After Moses*

had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup>Then he said to the people, “Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.” <sup>16</sup>On the morning of the third day there was **thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast**. Everyone in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup>Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup>Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because **the LORD descended on it in fire**. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the **whole mountain trembled violently**. <sup>19</sup>As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. <sup>20</sup>The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up.

D. Israel’s experience at Mt. Sinai is a beautiful type or shadow of the New Testament experience of the **baptism in the Holy Spirit**:

1. Many years after Israel’s coming to Mt. Sinai, God’s fire descended on a group of 120 disciples waiting in an upper room for the promised “Baptism in the Holy Spirit;” this was also fifty days after the Feast of Passover, “when the Day of Pentecost had fully come” (**Acts 2:1-4 –NKJV**):  
<sup>1</sup>When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a **sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them **divided tongues, as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
2. John the Baptist had prophesied about this experience (**Luke 3:16**): *John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But One who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”*
3. Those 120 men and women were baptized with God’s Spirit and fire, and on another occasion shortly after that, they were again filled with the Holy Spirit and “*the place where they were meeting was **shaken***” (Acts 4:31).

- E. Israel's experience with God at Mt. Sinai foreshadowed many different aspects of that future blessing of the baptism in the Holy Spirit; in this study, we will examine **seven important things** that took place at Mt. Sinai and how they correspond to the baptism in the Holy Spirit:
1. God revealed His law and made a covenant with His people
  2. God brought His people into an intimate, holy marriage relationship with Himself
  3. God sought for a temple where He could dwell
  4. God revealed His glory to His people
  5. God organized and united His people into one body, placing them in ranks as a mighty army
  6. God established a kingdom of priests
  7. God prepared His people to march into and possess their promised inheritance

## I. GOD REVEALED HIS LAW AND MADE A COVENANT

- A. **At Mt. Sinai**, Moses received the Word of God (God's holy law), written by the very finger of God on tablets of stone, and there God made a covenant with all the people:
1. **Ex. 31:18:** *When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the **covenant law**, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.*
  2. **Deut. 5:1-4:** *<sup>1</sup>Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. <sup>2</sup>The **LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb** (Sinai). <sup>3</sup>It was not with our ancestors that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. <sup>4</sup>The LORD spoke to you face to face **out of the fire on the mountain**.*
  3. The laws and commandments engraved on the tablets of stone were a clear revelation of God's righteousness and His will for His people; they were to be the basis for Israel's covenant relationship with Jehovah God.
  4. But the children of Israel were unable to keep the covenant, because their hearts were hard and stubborn (as

demonstrated by the fact that the covenant had to be engraved on stone!)

B. **By the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**, the believer is brought into a “New Covenant” with God, where a new law called the “Law of the Spirit” is written by the “Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone (as at Mt. Sinai), but on “tablets of human hearts”:

1. **2 Cor. 3:3-16:** <sup>3</sup>*You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, **written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*** <sup>4</sup>*Such confidence we have through Christ before God.* <sup>5</sup>*Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.* <sup>6</sup>*He has made us competent as ministers of a **new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit;** for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.* <sup>7</sup>*Now if the **ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone,** came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was,* <sup>8</sup>*will not the **ministry of the Spirit** be even more glorious?* <sup>9</sup>*If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!* <sup>10</sup>*For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.* <sup>11</sup>*And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!* <sup>12</sup>*Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.* <sup>13</sup>*We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.* <sup>14</sup>*But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the **old covenant** is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.* <sup>15</sup>*Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.* <sup>16</sup>*But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*
2. Man’s heart of stone is replaced with a tender heart of flesh – a willing heart melted and constrained by the love of God:

a) **Ezek. 36:26-27:** <sup>26</sup>*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will **remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*** <sup>27</sup>*And I will put*

*My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.*

- b) **Ps. 110:3** (AMP): *Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your power.*
3. This new law written upon the heart is called the “royal law” (James 2:8); it is the law of love, enabling us to fulfill “*the righteous requirement of the law*” by loving God and our fellow man with a divine love that has been “*poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*” (Rom. 5:5)
4. **Rom. 8:2-4**: <sup>2</sup>*Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.* <sup>3</sup>*For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh,* <sup>4</sup>*in order **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***
5. **Rom. 13:8-10**: <sup>8</sup>*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for **whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.*** <sup>9</sup>*The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”* <sup>10</sup>*Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.***
6. The “veil upon the heart” is taken away, and the Holy Spirit, the Author of all Scripture, begins to reveal deeper truths and mysteries from the Word of God:
- a) **John 16:12-15**: <sup>12</sup>*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.* <sup>13</sup>*But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and **He will tell you what is yet to come.*** <sup>14</sup>*He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you.* <sup>15</sup>*All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said **the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you.***

- b) **1 Cor. 2:9-16:** <sup>9</sup>However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” – the things God has prepared for those who love Him – <sup>10</sup>these are the things **God has revealed to us by His Spirit**. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>**What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.** <sup>13</sup>This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in **words taught by the Spirit**, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. <sup>14</sup>The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup>The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup>for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?” *But we have the mind of Christ.*
- c) **2 Pet. 1:20-21:** <sup>20</sup>Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- d) NOTE: Immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter began to receive profound revelation on numerous Old Testament Scriptures (Acts 2:14-21, 25-28, 34) from Joel and the Psalms

## **II. GOD BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE INTO AN INTIMATE, HOLY MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF**

A. **At Mt. Sinai**, God spoke to Moses and all the people “face to face,” called them His “treasured possession,” and He became a “Husband unto them”:

1. **Deut. 5:1-4:** <sup>1</sup>Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing

today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. <sup>2</sup>The **LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb** (Sinai). <sup>3</sup>It was not with our ancestors that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. <sup>4</sup>The LORD spoke to you face to face **out of the fire on the mountain**.

2. **Ex. 19:3-6:** <sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and **brought you to Myself**. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be **My treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is Mine, <sup>6</sup>**you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”
3. **Ex. 19:10-15:** <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and **consecrate them** today and tomorrow. Have them **wash their clothes** <sup>11</sup>and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup>**Put limits for the people around the mountain** and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. **Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.** <sup>13</sup>They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.” <sup>14</sup>After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he **consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.** <sup>15</sup>Then he said to the people, “**Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.**”
4. **Jer. 31:31-32:** <sup>31</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors **when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt**, because they broke My covenant, though **I was a husband to them,**” declares the LORD.

5. **Jer. 3:14, 20:** <sup>14</sup>“Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for **I am your husband**. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion...  
<sup>20</sup>But like a woman **unfaithful to her husband**, so you, Israel, have been unfaithful to me,” declares the LORD.
  6. **Hos. 2:19-20:** **I will betroth you to Me** forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. <sup>20</sup>I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.
  7. After carrying Israel to Mt. Sinai and bringing them into a marriage covenant with Himself, God made it clear though His law delivered to Moses that He is a “jealous God” (Ex. 20:5)
- B. **By the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**, each believer is “united with the Lord in one spirit” and actually becomes “espoused” or “married” to his/her Husband, Jesus Christ!

**1 Cor. 6:11, 15-20:** <sup>11</sup>But you were washed, you were **sanctified**, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and **by the Spirit of our God**... <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ Himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “**The two will become one flesh.**” <sup>17</sup>But **whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.** <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are **temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1. **2 Cor. 11:2-3:** <sup>2</sup>I am **jealous for you with a godly jealousy**. I promised you to one **Husband, to Christ**, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
2. **Rom. 7:4** (NKJV): Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that

*you may be **married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead**, that we should bear fruit to God.*

3. Just as God required the people to be washed and consecrated at Mt. Sinai, so through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, God begins to sanctify each believer (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 15:16), washing and preparing His Church to be a pure and spotless Bride:
  - a) **2 Thess. 2:13:** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be **saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through belief in the truth.*
  - b) **1 Thess. 5:23-24:** <sup>23</sup>*May God Himself, the God of peace, **sanctify you through and through**. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.*
  - c) **Eph. 5:22-32:** <sup>22</sup>*Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved **the church** and gave Himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to **make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word**, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to Himself as **a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless**. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>**This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.***
  - d) **Rev. 21:9-10:** <sup>9</sup>*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife***

*of the Lamb.”* <sup>10</sup>*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

- e) **Rev. 22:17:** *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.*

### III. GOD SOUGHT FOR A TEMPLE WHERE HE COULD DWELL

A. **At Mt. Sinai,** God told the children of Israel to make Him a Tabernacle – a dwelling place for His holy presence:

1. **Ex. 25:8-9:** <sup>8</sup>*Then have them **make a sanctuary for Me,** and I will dwell among them. <sup>9</sup>Make this **tabernacle** and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*
2. It had to be a “sanctuary,” that is, a holy, consecrated place, for God is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!
3. The construction of the Tabernacle was a joint effort – everyone came and willingly offered their time, strength, abilities and resources to work together; the silver, gold and other precious materials that they offered were the spoils they had brought out of Egypt
  - a) **Ex. 35:4-10:** <sup>4</sup>*Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: <sup>5</sup>From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. **Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering** of gold, silver and bronze; <sup>6</sup>blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; <sup>7</sup>ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; <sup>8</sup>olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; <sup>9</sup>and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. <sup>10</sup>“**All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded.***
  - b) **Ex. 36:1-7:** <sup>1</sup>“*So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded.”* <sup>2</sup>*Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do*

**the work.** <sup>3</sup>They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. <sup>4</sup>So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing <sup>5</sup>and said to Moses, “**The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done.**” <sup>6</sup>Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so **the people were restrained from bringing more,** <sup>7</sup>because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

4. Once the Tabernacle was completed, God came to dwell therein, leading and guiding the people along their journey by a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire:
  - a) **Ex. 40:33-38:** <sup>33</sup>Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup>Then the **cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.** <sup>35</sup>Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; <sup>37</sup>but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. <sup>38</sup>So **the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.**
  - b) **Num. 9:15-23:** <sup>15</sup>On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, **the cloud covered it.** From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire. <sup>16</sup>That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire. <sup>17</sup>**Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.** <sup>18</sup>At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at His command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they

remained in camp. <sup>19</sup>When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed **the LORD's order** and did not set out. <sup>20</sup>Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; **at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at His command they would set out.** <sup>21</sup>Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. <sup>22</sup>Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. <sup>23</sup>At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

**B. By the baptism in the Holy Spirit**, the individual believer becomes the temple of God, and he is also joined together corporately with all Spirit-baptized saints to become the habitation or House of God, called the Church

**1. Individually:**

- a) **1 Cor. 3:16-17:** <sup>16</sup>Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?** <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.
- b) **1 Cor. 6:19-20:** <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your **bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.
- c) **John 14:15-20:** *If you love Me, keep My commands.* <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup>**the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for **He lives with you and WILL BE IN YOU.** <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.

*<sup>20</sup>On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.*

2. **Corporately:**

- a) On the Day of Pentecost, the Church was formed; as in the case of the Tabernacle built at Mt. Sinai, everyone began working together, willingly offering whatever he could to help in the work of the Lord; joined together by the same Spirit, *“all the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.”*
- b) **Eph. 2:19-22:** *<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*
- c) **Acts 2:41-47:** *<sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>**All the believers were together and had everything in common.** <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day **they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
- d) **Acts 4:31-35:** *<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the word of God boldly. <sup>32</sup>**All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions***

**was their own, but they shared everything they had.**

<sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup>that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup>and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

- e) **1 Cor. 14:26:** *What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? **When you come together**, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that **the church** may be built up.*
3. Just as the cloud of God's glory covered the tabernacle at Mt. Sinai, through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the child of God is completely "immersed" into the Spirit of God; as mentioned earlier in this study, Paul interestingly used the word "baptized" to refer to Israel's experience with the cloud:

**1 Cor. 10:1-4:** <sup>1</sup>*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all **under the cloud** and that they all passed through the sea.*

<sup>2</sup>*They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.*

4. The amazing way in which the children of Israel were guided by God's cloud and fire is a beautiful picture of each believer (and the entire church) being led by the Spirit:
- a) **Rom. 8:14:** *For those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are the children of God.*
- b) **Gal. 5:16-25:** <sup>16</sup>*So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious:*

*sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;*  
<sup>20</sup>*idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy,*  
*fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions*  
<sup>21</sup>*and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn*  
*you, as I did before, that those who live like this will*  
*not inherit the kingdom of God.* <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the*  
*Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness,*  
*goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup>*gentleness and self-control.*  
*Against such things there is no law.* <sup>24</sup>*Those who*  
*belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its*  
*passions and desires.* <sup>25</sup>*Since we live by the Spirit, **let***  
***us keep in step with the Spirit.***

5. NOTE: In the passage examined earlier from Numbers 9, whenever the cloud moved or remained, the Israelites would encamp or set out “**at the LORD's command;**” in other words, the cloud was a visible manifestation of God Himself directing His people!

#### IV. GOD REVEALED HIS GLORY TO HIS PEOPLE

A. **At Mt. Sinai**, God’s glory could be seen by the Israelites as a “consuming fire” and Moses’ face shone with the radiance of that same glory when he descended from the top of the mountain:

1. **Ex. 24:15-18:** <sup>15</sup>*When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it,* <sup>16</sup>*and **the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai.** For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud.* <sup>17</sup>*To the Israelites the glory of the LORD **looked like a consuming fire** on top of the mountain.* <sup>18</sup>*Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*
2. **Ex. 34:29-35:** <sup>29</sup>*When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.* <sup>30</sup>*When Aaron and all the Israelites saw **Moses, his face was radiant,** and they were afraid to come near him.* <sup>31</sup>*But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.* <sup>32</sup>*Afterward all the Israelites came near him,*

and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses finished speaking to them, he **put a veil over his face**. <sup>34</sup>But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

3. **Ex. 40:33-35:** <sup>33</sup>Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup>Then the **cloud covered the tent** of meeting, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**. <sup>35</sup>Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

B. **By the baptism in the Holy Spirit**, the believer is filled with the very “Spirit of Glory” and receives a glory far greater than that which Moses had:

1. **1 Pet. 4:14:** *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the **Spirit of glory** and of God rests on you.*
2. **2 Cor. 3:7-11:** <sup>7</sup>Now if the **ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory**, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, <sup>8</sup>**will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?** <sup>9</sup>If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, **how much more glorious** is the ministry that brings righteousness! <sup>10</sup>For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the **surpassing glory**. <sup>11</sup>And if what was **transitory** came with glory, **how much greater is the glory** of that which lasts!
3. **2 Cor. 3:17-18:** <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, who with unveiled faces **contemplate the Lord's glory**, are being **transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit**.

## V. GOD ORGANIZED AND UNITED HIS PEOPLE INTO ONE BODY, PLACING THEM IN RANKS AS A MIGHTY ARMY

A. **At Mt. Sinai**, God numbered and ordered all the Israelites by their tribes and families; He had a special plan for each tribe and arranged them all in a specific marching order:

1. **Num. 2:1-34:** <sup>1</sup>*The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:*  
<sup>2</sup>*“The Israelites are to camp around the tent of meeting some distance from it, each of them under their standard and holding the banners of their family.”* <sup>3</sup>**On the east**, toward the sunrise, the divisions of the camp of **Judah** are to encamp under their standard. **The leader of the people of Judah** is Nahshon... <sup>5</sup>*The tribe of Issachar will camp next to them...* <sup>7</sup>*The tribe of Zebulun will be next...* <sup>9</sup>*All the men assigned to the camp of Judah, according to their divisions, number 186,400. They will set out first.* <sup>10</sup>**On the south** will be the divisions of the camp of **Reuben** under their standard... <sup>12</sup>*The tribe of Simeon will camp next to them...* <sup>14</sup>*The tribe of Gad will be next...* <sup>16</sup>*All the men assigned to the camp of Reuben, according to their divisions, number 151,450. They will set out second.* <sup>17</sup>*Then the tent of meeting and the camp of the Levites will set out in the middle of the camps. They will set out in the same order as they encamp, EACH IN THEIR OWN PLACE under their standard.* <sup>18</sup>**On the west** will be the divisions of the camp of **Ephraim** under their standard... <sup>20</sup>*The tribe of Manasseh will be next to them...* <sup>22</sup>*The tribe of Benjamin will be next...* <sup>24</sup>*All the men assigned to the camp of Ephraim, according to their divisions, number 108,100. They will set out third.* <sup>25</sup>**On the north** will be the divisions of the camp of **Dan** under their standard... <sup>27</sup>*The tribe of Asher will camp next to them...* <sup>29</sup>*The tribe of Naphtali will be next...* <sup>31</sup>*All the men assigned to the camp of Dan number 157,600. They will set out last, under their standards.* <sup>32</sup>*These are the Israelites, counted according to their families. All the men in the camps, by their divisions, number 603,550.* <sup>33</sup>*The Levites, however, were not counted along with the other Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses.* <sup>34</sup>*So the Israelites did everything the LORD commanded Moses; that is the way they encamped under their standards, and that is the way they set out, each of them with their clan and family.*

2. NOTE: The word “divisions” found repeatedly in the previous passage (vv.3, 4, 6, etc.) is the Hebrew word *tsaba* which means “a mass of persons, especially regularly organized for war (an army); by implication army, battle, company, host, service, soldiers, warfare;” the word is translated “armies” in KJV and NAS.

B. **By the baptism in the Holy Spirit**, each believer is baptized into the Body of Christ, where he is mysteriously joined with all other Spirit-filled saints by the “same Spirit;” as a unique member with a distinct office and function to fulfill (maybe an “eye,” “ear,” “hand” or “foot”), the Spirit-baptized Christian is equipped with special gifts by the Holy Spirit according to God’s calling and assigned a specific place in the Body of Christ by God:

1. **1 Cor. 12:7-13:** *<sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines. <sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*
2. **1 Cor. 12:14-18, 28:** *<sup>14</sup>Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact **GOD HAS PLACED the parts in the body, every one***

*of them, just as He wanted them to be... <sup>28</sup>And GOD HAS PLACED in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.*

3. After Pentecost, the saints of the early church were united together in one accord (Acts 2:42-47), as soldiers of Christ, marching throughout the land like a great and mighty army, carrying the “sword of the Spirit” and putting on the “full armor of God”:

- a) **Eph. 4:11-16:** *<sup>11</sup>So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him** who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From Him the **whole body, joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*
- b) **Eph. 6:13-18:** *<sup>13</sup>Therefore **put on the full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

## VI. GOD ESTABLISHED A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

A. **At Mt. Sinai**, God separated His people to be a kingdom of priests, fulfilling the call repeatedly given in Egypt, “Let My people go so that they may serve Me;” furthermore, it was there that God separated the tribe of Levi to serve in the Tabernacle as full-time consecrated priests; God was establishing His kingdom, a theocracy where He would rule over the nation of Israel:

1. **Ex. 19:3-6:** <sup>3</sup>*Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, <sup>6</sup>**you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’* These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”
2. The function of a priest is two-fold: (1) he ministers to God on behalf of the people (through prayers, sacrifices and worship) and (2) he ministers to people on behalf of God (giving God’s word, counsel and instruction)
3. **Ex. 32:25-29:** <sup>25</sup>[When he descended from Mt. Sinai] *Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup>So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “**Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.**” And all **the Levites rallied to him.** <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’” <sup>28</sup>The **Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.** <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, “**You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and He has blessed you this day.**”*

4. **Deut. 10:8-10:** <sup>8</sup>At that time [at Mt. Sinai] the **LORD set apart the tribe of Levi** to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to **minister** and to pronounce blessings in His name, as they still do today. <sup>9</sup>That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the LORD is their inheritance, as the LORD your God told them.) <sup>10</sup>Now I had stayed **on the mountain** forty days and forty nights, as I did the first time, and the LORD listened to me at this time also. It was not His will to destroy you.
5. **Deut. 33:8-10:** <sup>8</sup>About **Levi** He said: “Your Thummim and Urim belong to **Your faithful servant**. You tested him at Massah; You contended with him at the waters of Meribah. <sup>9</sup>He said of his father and mother, ‘I have no regard for them.’ He did not recognize his brothers or acknowledge his own children, but he watched over Your word and guarded Your covenant. <sup>10</sup>**He teaches Your precepts** to Jacob and Your law to Israel. **He offers incense** before You and whole **burnt offerings** on Your altar.”
6. **Num. 3:5-13:** <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>6</sup>“Bring the **tribe of Levi** and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. <sup>7</sup>They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the tent of meeting by **doing the work of the tabernacle**. <sup>8</sup>They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. <sup>9</sup>Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. <sup>10</sup>**Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests**; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to death.” <sup>11</sup>The LORD also said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. **The Levites are Mine**, <sup>13</sup>for all the firstborn are Mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for Myself every firstborn in Israel, whether human or animal. They are to be Mine. I am the LORD.”

B. **By the baptism in the Holy Spirit**, God establishes His kingdom in those who have been “born of the Spirit,” i.e. baptized in the Holy Spirit, anointing every believer to be a “royal priest” to serve God:

1. **John 3:3-8:** <sup>3</sup>*Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see **the kingdom of God** unless they are born again.”* <sup>4</sup>*“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!”* <sup>5</sup>*Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can **enter the kingdom of God** unless they are **born of water and the Spirit**. <sup>6</sup>*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit**. <sup>7</sup>*You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with **everyone born of the Spirit**.”****
2. **Rom. 14:17:** *For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy **in the Holy Spirit**.*
3. **1 Pet. 2:5, 9:** <sup>5</sup>*You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a **holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... <sup>9</sup>*But you are a **chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.****
4. **Rev. 1:5-6:** <sup>5</sup>*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, <sup>6</sup>*and has **made us to be a kingdom and priests** to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**
5. **Rev. 5:9-10:** <sup>9</sup>*And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup>*You have made them to be **a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth**.”**

## VII. GOD PREPARED HIS PEOPLE TO MARCH INTO AND POSSESS THEIR PROMISED INHERITANCE

- A. **At Mt. Sinai**, the children of Israel became a united army with God as their Captain; He promised to lead them to a “land flowing with milk and honey,” going ahead of them as a “devouring fire” and destroying all of their enemies:
1. **Ex. 23:27-31:** *<sup>27</sup>I will send My terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. <sup>28</sup>I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the **Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way...** <sup>30</sup>Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. <sup>31</sup>**I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the desert to the Euphrates River. I will give into your hands the people who live in the land, and you will drive them out before you.***
  2. **Deut. 9:1-3:** *<sup>1</sup>Hear, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky. <sup>2</sup>The people are strong and tall--Anakites! You know about them and have heard it said: “Who can stand up against the Anakites?” <sup>3</sup>But be assured today that the **LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; He will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you.***
- B. **By the baptism in the Holy Spirit**, every believer is given the full potential to enter and inherit the kingdom that God promised him; filled with “divine power,” he is assured of a “rich welcome” into the eternal kingdom; he has come, not to Mt. Sinai, but rather to Mt. Zion and New Jerusalem, the eternal dwelling place and inheritance for all the saints of God
1. **John 3:3-5:** *<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see **the kingdom of God** unless they are born again.” <sup>4</sup>“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can **enter the kingdom of God** unless they are **born of water and the Spirit.***

2. **2 Pet. 1:3-11:** <sup>3</sup>*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires... <sup>10</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup>and you will receive a **rich welcome into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*
  
3. **Heb. 12:18-24:** <sup>18</sup>*You have not come to a mountain [Mt. Sinai] that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; <sup>19</sup>to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, <sup>20</sup>because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” <sup>21</sup>The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.” <sup>22</sup>**But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. As seen in this study, God accomplished a number of significant things at Mt. Sinai, all of which correspond to the Lord’s manifold purposes that are revealed through the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
  
- B. After seeing God’s glory and being reassured by God that He would take them into the Promised Land, the Israelites took a long detour before facing those seven nations of Canaan that the Lord said He would destroy.
  
- C. In our next study (Part 5), we will examine Israel’s 40 year journey through the wilderness and how we as Christians can avoid such a lengthy wandering in our spiritual journey!