

All Nations Apostolic Tabernacle
The BIG 7 Lessons from
-the Book of-
EXODUS

A Conversational Virtual Bible Study on

1. The Rewards of "FOLLOWSHIP"

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A Look at the Pillar of Cloud & Fire

Scriptural Context: Exodus 13:17–22 (NKJV)

- ¹⁷ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them *by* way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”
- ¹⁸ So God led the people around *by* way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.
- ¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.”

Exodus 13:17–22 (NKJV)

- ²⁰ So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.
- ²¹ 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.
- ²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.



"Followship" Defined

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Followship is:

- i. Following.
- ii. The capacity or willingness to follow a leader.

"Follow"

The verb "follow" has several contextual definitions. Such as,

- i. Go or come after** (a person or thing proceeding ahead); move or travel behind.
- ii. Act according to** (an instruction or precept.

Following = Followership

Followership requires intentionality in:

- Going
- Adhering
- A Willingness to..

Followership

“He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader”

Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)



Following the Lord (Ex. 13:17–22)

Israel's exodus from Egypt wasn't the end of their experience with God; it was the new beginning.

If Israel obeyed His will, God would bring them into the Promised Land and give them their inheritance (Deut. 4:37–38, NKJV).

A.W. Tozer:

**“We are saved
to as well as
saved *from*.”**

- The person who obeys the gospel is born again into the family of God.
- Our experiences increase our knowledge of God.
- Experiences lead to self-discovery and personal growth.

God Plans the Route for His People (vv. 17–18).

- We may not always understand or even agree with the way God chooses, but His way is always the right way.
 - i. **We may confidently say**, “He leads me in the paths of righteousness for **His name’s sake**” (Ps. 23:3, NKJV).
 - ii. **We should humbly pray**, “Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me” (25:4–5, NKJV).

God's Way the Best Way (vv. 17)

- Why take several million people the long way instead of using the shorter and easier route?
- The answer:

"...Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."

Trust God's Way

Give God Permission

If you permit the Lord to direct your steps (Prov. 3:5–6), expect to be led occasionally on paths that may seem unnecessarily long and circuitous.

Remind Yourself

Remind yourself that God knows what He's doing. He isn't in a hurry, and if you follow Him, you're safe and in the place of His blessing.

Look for the Open Door

God may close some doors and suddenly open others. (Acts 16:6–10; 2 Cor. 2:12–13).

Remain alert.

God Encourages His People's Faith (vv. 19)

- Before he died, Joseph made his brothers promise that, when God delivered Israel from Egypt, their descendants would take his coffin with them to the Promised Land (Gen. 50:24–25; Heb. 11:22).

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."...(Exodus 13:19)



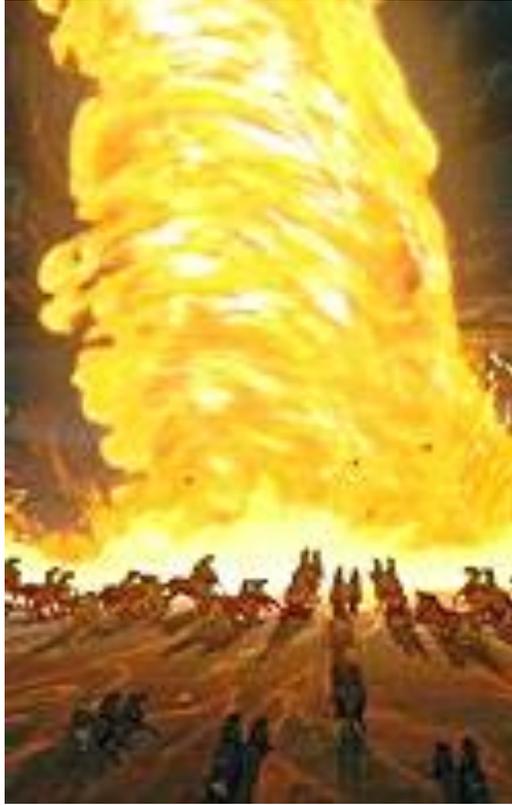
Faith or Nostalgia? – Exodus 13:17-22

The Pillar of Cloud: God Leads the Way

(vv. 20–22)



- God spoke from the pillar of cloud (Num. 12:5–6; Deut. 31:15–16; Ps. 99:7).
- When the cloud moved, the camp moved; when the cloud waited, the camp waited (Ex. 40:34–38).



The Pillar of Fire: God Enlightens

- God's Word is light (Ps. 119:105).
- God's Word is fire (Jer. 23:29).
- God's people are enlightened by His Word (Eph. 1:15–23).

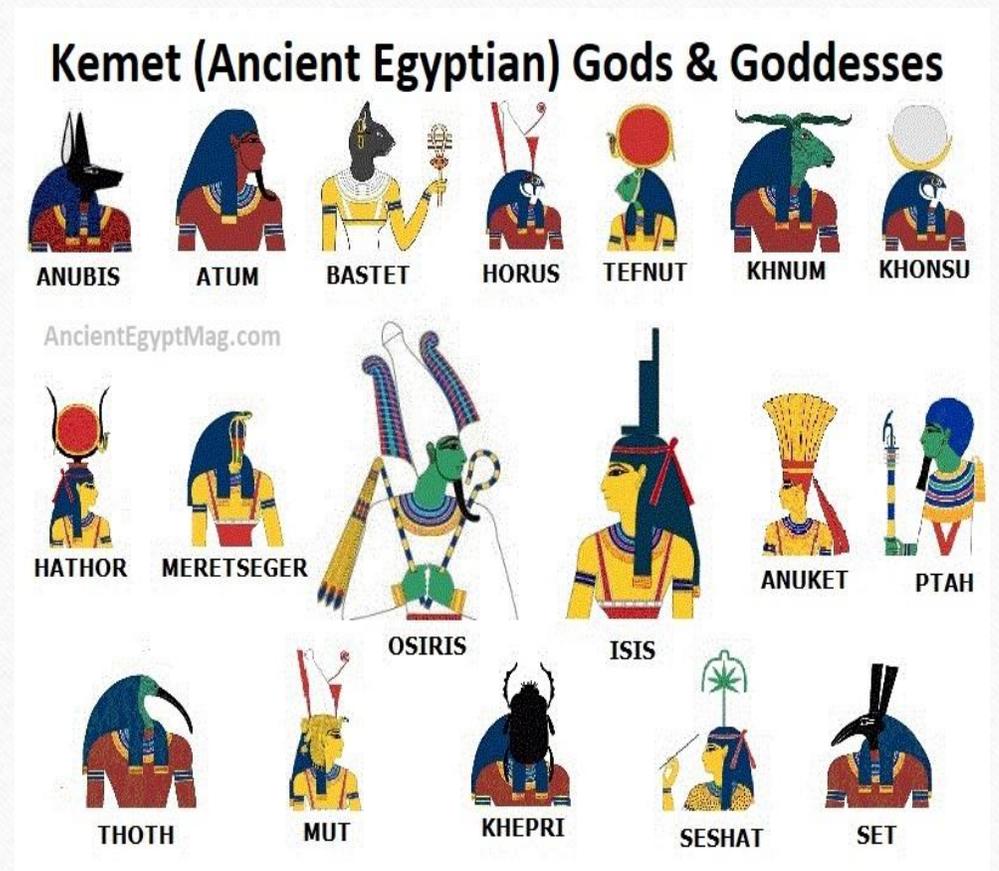
Egypt's Pursuit (Ex. 14: 1–9)

- Israel's exodus threatened Egypt's economy.
- Did God's way leave Israel vulnerable?
- Were they fair game for Egypt's army?
- What was God's plan? (Ex. 14:3-4).



GOD: The Incomparable Strategist

Once again,
God triumphs over
Pharaoh and Egypt's
gods & goddesses.



GOD: The Incomparable Strategist

Pharaoh
commandeered all
the chariots of Egypt,
mounted his own royal
chariot, and pursued
the people of Israel.



Israel's "See-Saw"



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Mentality (Ex. 14: 10–12)

When the Israelites kept their eyes on the fiery pillar and followed the Lord, they walked by faith and no enemy could touch them.

When they took their eyes off the Lord, they became frightened and complained.

How many disappointments or discomfort would it take to stop believing and start complaining? “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

**Know Your
God?
Trust Your
God!**

(Ex. 14: 13–31)

“Fear not” (vv. 13).



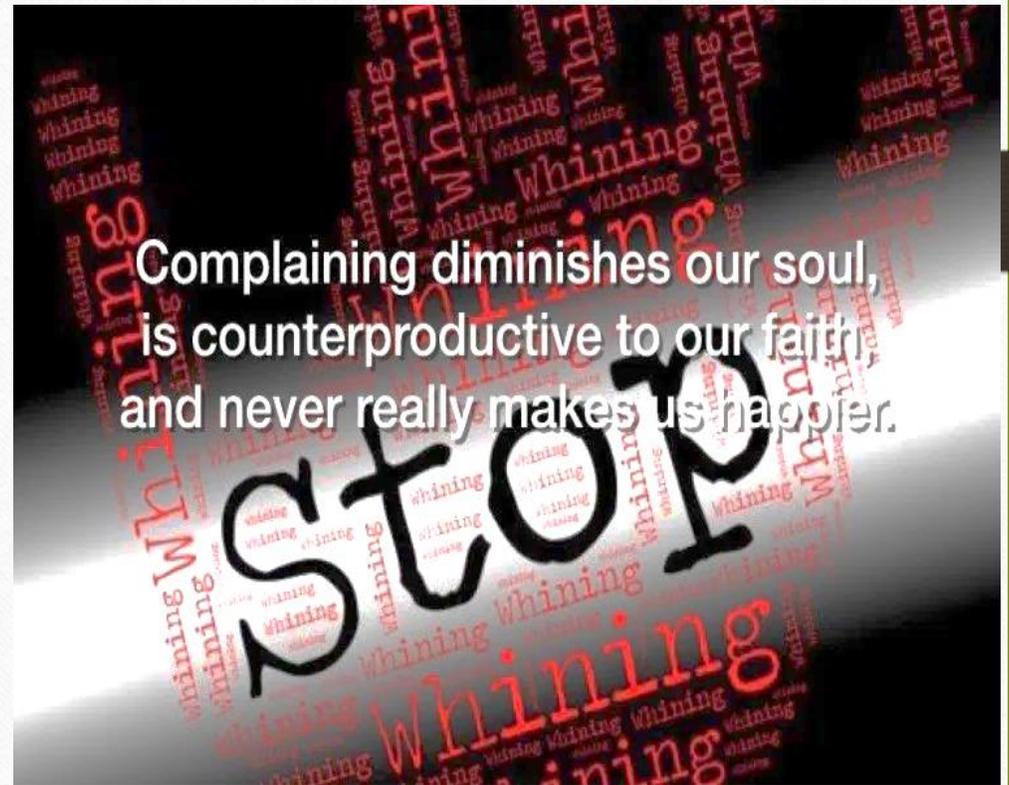
*“Stand still and see the
salvation of the Lord”* (vv. 13).



“Be still” (vv. 14).

Unbelief vs. Faith

- Unbelief complains, but faith obeys. *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Ps. 46:10).
- What is there to complain about when we have the wonderful promise, *“The Lord shall fight for you”* (Ex. 14:14)?

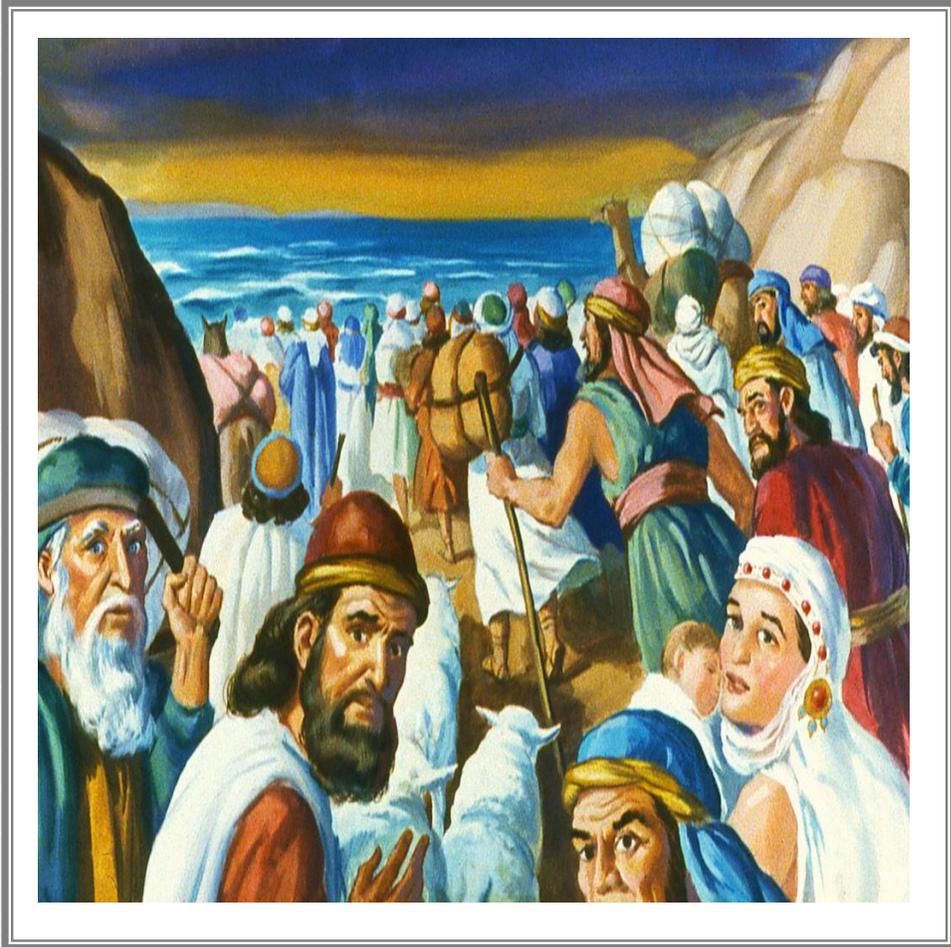




Expectant Faith Acts

“Go forward!”

(Ex. 14:15)



Expectant Faith Acts

- Why did God perform this series of miracles for the Jewish people?
- He's a Promise-keeper! (Exodus 3:7–8).



Expectant Faith Acts

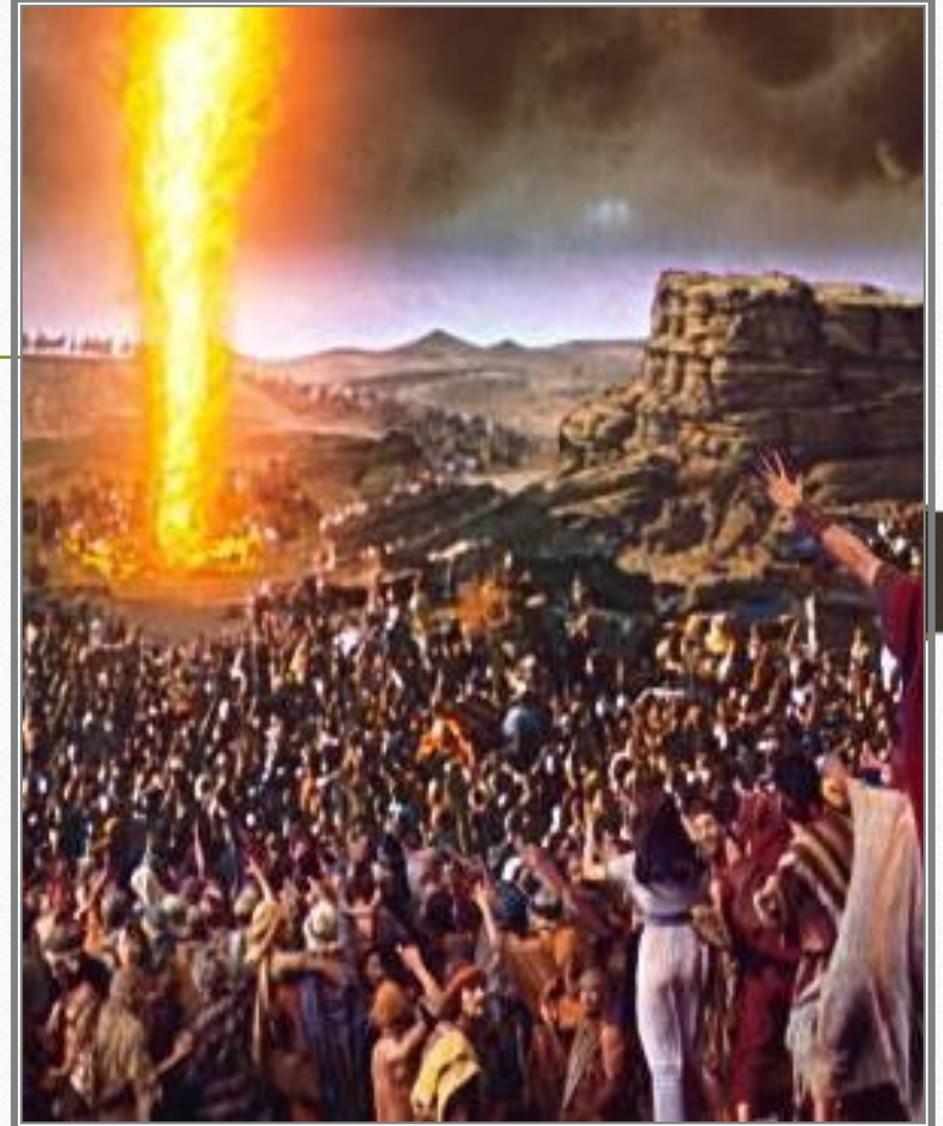
- Once more, God revealed His power and glory in the defeat of the Egyptian army.

“And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord” (14:18).

- When Moses stretched out his hand, the Lord sent a powerful wind that drove the sea waters back and opened the way for the Jews to cross.

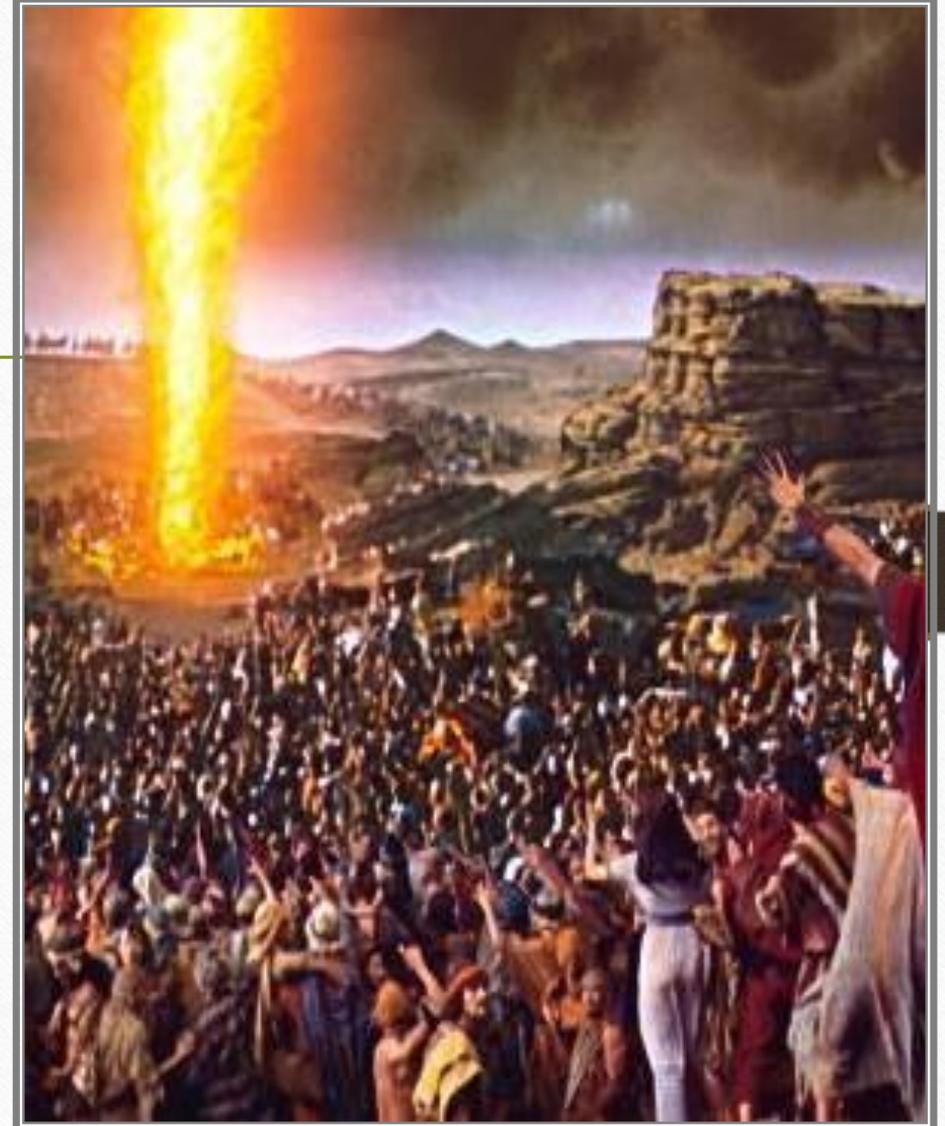
The Pillar of Fire: Light & Darkness

The pillar gave
light to Israel but
darkness to the
enemy.



An Unforgettable Night!

- When the Egyptian soldiers tried to follow, the mud disabled their chariots and impeded their progress; when the waters returned, all the Egyptian soldiers were drowned.
- It was indeed a night to be remembered.



God Sees Through Everything!

Exodus 14:23–25 (NKJV)

- ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.
- ²⁴ Now 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.
- ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

**More
than Just
an
Exodus**

This series of divine miracles was certainly a **revelation** of the greatness and power of God, His faithfulness to His promises, and His concern for His people.

Future psalmists would **extol the Lord** for His mighty works at the Red Sea (Psa. 66; 78; 80–81; 105–106; 136).

The prophets would use the Exodus to **encourage** the Jewish exiles in their return to their land after the Babylonian Captivity (Isa. 43:1–7; 52:11–12; 55:12–13; Jer. 16:14–15; 23:7–8).

God's Character Is Extolled

(Exodus 15: 11–16a)

- His people sang, “*Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods?*” (vv. 11; see Micah 7:18).
- The answer? **Nobody!**

“Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

(Ex. 15:11).

Cloud and Fire with Us Always

Exodus 40:38 (NKJV)

"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."

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."



FELLOWSHIP: A Call to Repentance

Hosea 6:1-3 (NKJV)

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

² After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

³ Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.