

Seeing God

(To See or Not To See – That is the Question)

Has Seen

Jacob Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”

Moses & Burning Bush

Exodus 3:4-6 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover 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.

Moses/Aaron...Mt with God

Exodus 24:9-11 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 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. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Moses and God at the Tabernacle

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. (V9 “pillar of cloud stood” V10 all people saw pillar/cloud standing at the tabernacle door)

Can Not See

Exodus 33:20 But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

John 6:46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Reconciliation of the “Apparent” Contradiction

1. Bible clarifies what they saw

* Jacob Wrestling w/God - **Hosea 12:3-4** ... And in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed;

* Moses & Burning Bush – **Exodus 3:2** And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush

* Moses/Aaron...God/Mt - **Exodus 24:10** 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.

* God’s Answer to Moses’ Request - **Exodus 33:22-23** So it shall be, while My glory passes by, ... Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

2. Visions - Isaiah 6; Ezekiel; Daniel 7:13-14; John in Revelation

3. Jesus

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 14:7-9 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.