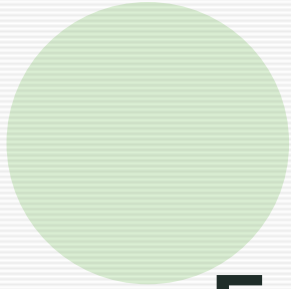




"Encountering the Living God"

▼ Part 1: Moses Encounters God

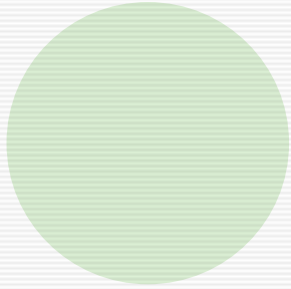


- **Exodus 14:19-20** – pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night – external theophanic appearances of Yahweh (Azusa Street)
- **John 14:17:** “The Spirit of truth now *with* you, will be *in* you.” –the internal God (triune—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)



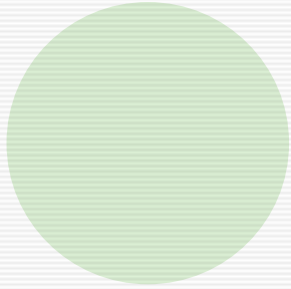
- **Exodus 33:7-11**—“Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting....Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the Lord would speak with Moses...Thus the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man would speak to his friend.”

- **Exodus 3:2-4**—“The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (Pentecostal fire—spiritual fire, heaven’s electricity) So Moses said, ‘I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.’ (Thought it was earthly fire. No awareness yet that this was like the pillar of fire, heavenly fire/light.) 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 Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ (Double salutation by God; Moses responds verbally



One Feature of a Living God Encounter: God Calls Us By Name

- **John 10:2-4**—“But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. ...the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name...”



God's Double Salutation to Multiple Biblical Characters

God calling the names of His servants twice is not an isolated phenomenon in scripture – “double salutation”

- **Job 33:14** “God speaks once, even twice, and still the hearer misses the point.”



OT and NT: 8 occasions

- **Gen. 22:11** “Abraham, Abraham” before sacrifice of Isaac
- **Gen. 46:2** God calls Israel’s birth name twice, “Jacob, Jacob”—
- **Exodus 3:4** “Moses, Moses”
- **1 Sam. 3:10** “Samuel, Samuel”
- **Luke 10:41**; NT: Jesus to Martha, “Martha, Martha”
- **Luke 22:31**; Jesus to Peter after Lord’s Supper—“Simon, Simon”
- **Acts 9.4** Jesus to Saul on the Damascus Road—“Saul, Saul”
- **Matt. 23:37** Jesus to a city—“Jerusalem, Jerusalem”

God's Audible Voice I – Internal Audibility

Internal audible voice – Not the still, small voice arises from within your thoughts; but an internal (inside your soul) audible voice –often a loud, booming voice not coming in our thoughts, but instead cutting through and interrupting our thoughts—not physically hearable, but seems to be because it resounds so loudly within us—we hear with our spiritual ears

- Occasions for this internal audible voice—Upon awakening—“Bruce!” Between sleep and wakefulness.
- You “hear” from behind or from one side or the other –
- **Isaiah 30:21**—Your ears will hear a voice behind, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right or turn to the left.”
- Was this how Moses “heard” God’s voice speaking from the bush?

God's Audible Voice 2 – External Audibility

2. **External audible voice** – of God in the garden—Gen. 3:9—heard with physical ears—the Lord “called to Adam” by name? then said, “Where are you?”—possibly audible

- **Numbers 12:6-8** – God chose to speak to Moses **mouth to mouth**—was through external audible voice was the norm for Moses and God?

What does the external audible voice of God sound like?

- **Job 37:2** a thunder-like voice that frightens:—“the thunder and rumbling of His voice...” **Rev. 1:15**—His voice was like the sound of rushing waters
- My experience

God's NT Audible Voice

God speaking to Saul on Damascus Road.

- **Acts 9: 3-7** an external audible voice: “Saul, Saul...” – Saul heard God’s voice clearly—those with him heard sound but not words clearly—Acts 22:9—“those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.”
- **Matt. 3:16-17. Jesus’ baptism** “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens (sky) were opened and John saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” --must have been clearly hearable, at least to John? No scripture says people heard “sound” but not a clear voice.

God's NT Audible Voice

- **Mark 9:7 Transfiguration:**—Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, ‘This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!’
- **John 12:27-29**—“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came out of heaven: ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’ So the crowd of people who stood by and *heard it (God’s voice) were saying that it had thundered;* others were saying, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’”



Important Key: We Must Respond to God Calling our Name!

Note Key in Moses' verbal response—He says, “Here I am.”
Abraham too: “Here I am.” – Similar to Samuel's saying what he said in response to God's call: “Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, (Lord), for Your servant is listening.’ (1 Sam. 3:10)
–God only talked with Samuel after Samuel said he was listening!

Make Time and Space to Hear What He Has to Say Then!

- **Verbalize our “Ok, God, I’ll hear You!”** -- “Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.” Can be in response to still, small voice from inside our thoughts, or to internal or external audible voice of God
- **Choose to “come aside” and give God your listening ear!**
- Is His call to us by name part of how He “awakens our listening ear?”
- **Isaiah 50:4**—“He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.”
- Will He speak with us then when we intentionally give Him our listening ear?—our time, our space, when we interrupt our busyness?
- **Song of Solomon 8:14** Will we “come away as His beloved?”