

God Reveals Himself Through A Veil Of Heartfelt Tears

Ezekiel 9:4 [NIV] *“and said to him, ‘Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.’”*

God gave special protection to those who sighed and cried out to Him because of all the evil that was happening around them.

Exodus 3:1-5 [NIV] *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight, why the bush does not burn up.’ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’”*

It was the trembling Moses to whom God revealed His plan for Israel who were captive in Egypt.

Exodus 32:30-32 [NIV] *“The next day Moses said to the people, ‘You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.’ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, ‘Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin, but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.’”*

It was the same Moses who threw Himself before God with the offer to have Himself blotted out of God’s Book of Life if God would forgive sinning Israel.

Daniel 9:20-23 [NIV] *“While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill, while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, ‘Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision.’”*

Daniel’s long prayers and fasting brought the archangel Gabriel from heaven to reveal to him what God was planning to do among human beings over many generations.

Revelation 5:1-5 [NIV] *“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’ But no-one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no-one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.’”*

The apostle John wept because no-one could open the seven-sealed book that revealed what God was about to do to sinning humanity.

The psalmists often wrote in tears and the prophets could hardly conceal their heavy-heartedness as they warned sinning Israel and humanity as a whole.

Philippians 3:18 [NIV] *“For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”*

Paul broke into tears when he considered the end of those who were antichrists, “*enemies of the cross.*”

The doctrine of Christ’s second coming has fallen into neglect over the last few decades.

There are many contributing factors to this but the chief one is that between the two world wars men without tears undertook to instruct the church in the writings of the tear-stained prophets.

Big crowds of followers resulted until events proved these teachers to be wrong on too many points.

The reaction set in and prophecy lost favour with the masses. This was a neat trick of the devil and it worked too well.

There is another field where tearless men have done the Church untold harm, it is the prayer for the sick.

James 5:14-15 [NIV] “*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*”

It was said that the prayers of the great preacher and minister Charles Spurgeon raised up more sick people than any doctor in London.

When tearless promoters took up this doctrine it was turned into an often fake but always lucrative racket.

All this was done in the name of the “*Man of Sorrows.*” [Isaiah 53:3-4]

Whatever is done without tear-filled heart is done in the dark however scriptural it may appear to be.

The heart of a religious trifler will be destroyed by the brightness of the truth they touch.

The liturgical services in many churches can eventually have little or no meaning for the average participant, this is not because it is carefully prescribed but because the average participant is what they are.

The whole Christian family stands desperately in the restoration of penitence, humility and tears.

Not only in our religious services but also in our day-to-day contact with our Creator God and Saviour.