

the general concepts and make these notes for them and then see how they will bless us as well. The vital parts of these early meetings are what concern us now and in a brief way I have sketched them as follows.

- II. Discussion: The theophanies dramatized the “taste and see” ideas of the Psalmist by making the subjects realize their dependence on God and the reality of His control. The lessons they learned are threefold at least and probably many more in a better analysis.
- A. Believe on the Lord (Try His salvation)...The divine appearance does not argue with the subject...He does not send a calling card but in some way the subject knows who is there. We read about the importance of faith in Hebrews 11:6 and we see it dramatized when God appears as a Person.
- B. Commit life to Him.....The patriarch or subject is immediately dependent on the Lord. What God says will be extremely important. The entire future of the subject will be dependent on the Lord who has appeared. It is no time to argue but it is a time to bow in submission.
- C. Appreciate His company....be glad for the fact that God has visited and the subject is blessed. The fear of the Lord does not mean that we are kept in servile fear but that we honor Him as God and Creator and are respectful of Him in all the areas of life. For just a few moments these patriarchs experienced the actual presence of God with them. The impact would last for years--a lifetime, I think, but it would constantly remind them that God was with them and they would always be under His care.
- III. Conclusion: Yes, taste and see that the Lord is good. The Scripture is our chief source of knowledge of God today....I am suspicious of persons having visions---but do not deny that if God chose to do it He could do it. He has revealed Himself to us in His Son and to know the Lord Jesus is to know the Father. We do not need a larger image or statue or picture. The Lord Jesus Christ is quite enough. And His presence instructs us to believe, to commit, and to enjoy the will and the presence of God. We will see it more and more in the theophanies but will remember that it is a consistent revelation through all of the Scripture.

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