

Exodus 33:9 HCSB When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and remain at the entrance to the tent, and *the LORD* would speak with Moses.



When. *Heb* “and it was when.”

The Lord. *Heb* “and he”; the referent (the Lord) has been specified in the translation for clarity.

Cloud¹...come down...remain...speak with Moses. Both verbs, “remain” and “speak,” are perfect tenses with *vav* (ו) consecutive.² In this, Yah not only showed His approval of Moses and what his behavior, but used it to contrast His disapproval of the people and their approval. In our post-modern society that shrinks from even giving children “Fs” for their failures, this may seem harsh, as though God was rubbing their faces in their sins. However, will not the Judge of all the Earth do right? This same God would soon cause His people to wander in the wilderness for 40 years for one bad decision. He would cause them to choke and get sick on meat that they had whined to get. He would forbid Moses entry into the Promised Land for one temper fit. We would do well to remember this aspect of our God!

Yet, how encouraging it would have been to see that pillar descend each day. Every time it did, it indicated that Hashem had not yet left them alone and undefended in the vast Sinaitic wilderness. How encouraged we should be each time we have one more opportunity to commune with our God. How privileged we should feel at each encounter!

That this tent was a temporary solution is further clarified by the fact that once the larger tabernacle was finished, the cloud no longer remained at the entrance, but filled the tabernacle in such a manner as to preclude Moses’ entrance.³

¹ The Tent of Meeting by Ted Larson

² Exodus 25:22; 31:1, 18; Psalm 99:7

³ Exodus 40:33-35