



# The Good News

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## ***The Pillar of Cloud and Fire***

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**W**e can learn in Exodus about all the ways God used His power to lead His people out of Egypt. We can learn how God appeared to Moses in a bush that burned but was not consumed, how that God caused great calamities to come upon the people of Egypt, and how that God parted the Red Sea so that the children of Israel could cross on dry land. God's power is apparent as we read through these ancient accounts, as is His care for His people. Another great sign of God's power is one that is sometimes overlooked. We find in **Ex. 13:21-22** that *"...the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people."* There are two elements found in this passage that gave the Israelites a deeper understanding of God. These same two elements can also be applied to us as we strive to serve God. Let us consider these two points:

**God led the people by day** – None of us know what this pillar of cloud looked like, although our imaginations surely cannot do it justice. When I think of a pillar of cloud, I think of something like a twister, but this pillar was not called a whirlwind. But imagine an enormous column of cloud, beginning close to the ground and extending upward. Such a form would be easy to spot, even among a throng of thousands of people. God chose this form for a reason. Obviously, whatever this pillar looked like, it was easily discernible from other cloud formations, and the people could easily follow it. We find that throughout the Bible God continues to lead those who seek to follow Him. In

**John 10:1-5** Jesus refers to Himself as a Shepherd as He says *"And when He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice."* In the New Testament, it is shown that God now leads those who follow Him through His Son Jesus. We must submit ourselves to Christ as sheep following the Shepherd for us to obtain salvation.

**God lit the path for the people by night** – Again, none of us know precisely what this pillar of fire looked like, but it must have been an amazing sight to see a vast pillar of flames extending into the sky and moving from place to place. The necessity of this pillar of fire is obvious: with such an enormous amount of people traveling together, light would be essential. They did not have street-lamps, and typically even a handful of travelers would not be able to see sufficiently at night to travel. But by God's power, He lit the way for the entire congregation of the people of Israel to journey without losing their way in darkness. This holds true for us today as we read in **I John 1:5, 7** that *"...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."* *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* The spiritual light found in Christ involves living a pure life as God has commanded.

During the Exodus, God led His people in ways that were clear and obvious. He does the same today through His Son and the Word which His Son gave us. We must commit ourselves to Him, as His directions to us are clear...and our destination is the ultimate Promised Land: Heaven.