



Shofar Christian Church

Responding to God Encounters

Jaco van Rooyen

The LORD Reveals Himself at Sinai

19 Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. ² After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

Ex 19

³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

Ex 19

⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

Ex 19

⁷ So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him.⁸ And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD.

Ex 19

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.”

Moses told the LORD what the people had said. ¹⁰ Then the LORD told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing.

Ex 19

¹¹ Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch. ¹² Mark off a boundary all around the mountain. Warn the people, 'Be careful! Do not go up on the mountain or even touch its boundaries. Anyone who touches the mountain will certainly be put to death.

Ex 19

¹³ No hand may touch the person or animal that crosses the boundary; instead, stone them or shoot them with arrows. They must be put to death.’ However, when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, then the people may go up on the mountain.”

¹⁴ So Moses went down to the people. He consecrated them for worship, and they washed their clothes.

Ex 19

¹⁵ He told them, “Get ready for the third day, and until then abstain from having sexual intercourse.”

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled.

Ex 19

¹⁷ Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently.

Ex 19

¹⁹ As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. ²⁰ The LORD came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

Ex 19

²¹ Then the LORD told Moses, “Go back down and warn the people not to break through the boundaries to see the LORD, or they will die. ²² Even the priests who regularly come near to the LORD must purify themselves so that the LORD does not break out and destroy them.” ²³ “But LORD,” Moses protested, “the people cannot come up to Mount Sinai. You already warned us. You told me, ‘Mark off a boundary all around the mountain to set it apart as holy.’”

Ex 19

²⁴ But the LORD said, “Go down and bring Aaron back up with you. In the meantime, do not let the priests or the people break through to approach the LORD, or he will break out and destroy them.”
²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them what the LORD had said.

Ex 19

¹¹ “Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—
glorious in holiness,
awesome in splendor,
performing great wonders?
¹² You raised your right hand,
and the earth swallowed our enemies

Ex 15:11-13

13 “With your unfailing love you lead
the people you have redeemed.
In your might, you guide them
to your sacred home.

Ex 15:11-13

³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!”

³³ But the LORD replied to Moses, “No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me.

Ex 32:32-33

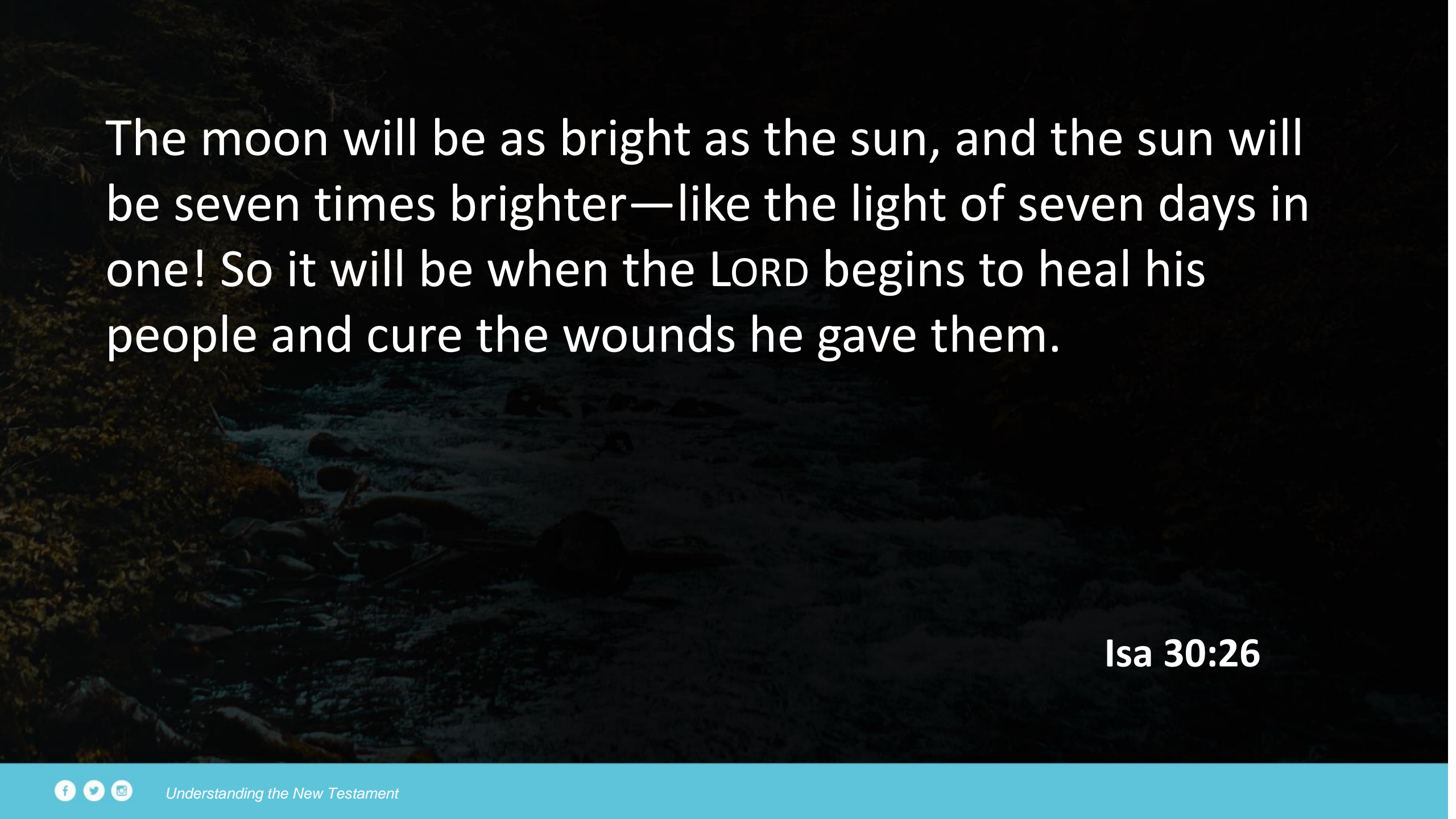
¹³ If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people.”

¹⁴ The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

Ex 33:13-16

¹⁵ Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.”

Ex 33:13-16



The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the sun will be seven times brighter—like the light of seven days in one! So it will be when the LORD begins to heal his people and cure the wounds he gave them.

Isa 30:26



Moses' Response

There is tension in our approach to choose between the “hands” and “face” of God. Confirmation of reflection is not in our words but in changed lives.



Aaron's Response

There is tension between experiencing God in solitude vs fellowship.

God's desire to commune with us is greater than our desire to commune with Him.



Israel's Response

There is tension between ownership vs consumerism.

The strength of the church lies in how many people can be trusted by God to execute.

¹⁸ When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

¹⁹ And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!"

Ex 20:18-19



Regaining the power in our God encounters

1. We must remember where we come from.
2. We must be reminded what we need to become.
3. We must be reminded about our promises.

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.

Rev 3:17-18