

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Thin Places: Seeing the Year Ahead with God Moses on the Mountain – Seeing God’s Presence

Exodus 24:12-18 (NIV)

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

¹³ Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴ He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶ and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

NOTES:

Defining “Thin Places”: “The thin place is where the veil between this world and the next is so sheer that it is easy to step through.” (Barbara Brown Taylor, *Home By Another Way*)

“Thin spaces exist not only outside us but also within us. Each of us stands at the threshold of our own pain or wonder, our own thin space. Thin places are places in which you can feel the heartbeat of God.” (Julianne Stanz, *Braving Thin Places, Celtic Wisdom to Create a Space for Grace*)

An Invitation to Come

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Mountaintop Experiences and Encountering God’s Presence

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Coming Down from the Mountain: Beholding and Becoming

Enter this door as if the floor within were gold,
And every wall of jewels, all wealth untold:
As if a choir in robes of fire were singing here.

Nor shouts,
Nor rush,
But hush,
For God is here.

(Celtic plaque in County Carlow, Ireland)

Hiking Practice: As you climb a mountain or hill, pause at the top and look over the landscape below. Imagine the year ahead unfolding before you. Invite God to show you what matters most, and pray for clarity to walk in God’s will through the coming months.