

March 24 | Sunday

He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence

Read [Matthew 11:28-30](#)



25 | Mon – Bad news | Read [Genesis 3:21-24 and 4:1-16](#)

The worst thing about sin is the consequence of being sent out of God's presence. Adam and Eve's sin ended their evening walks with God in the garden and their relationship with Him drastically changed. Their son Cain's sin also resulted in him being sent away from God's presence. Have you ever had the feeling that God was distant from you as a result of your rebellious attitudes or sinful acts?

26 | Tue – Facing God | Read [Exodus 34:27-35](#)

No one experienced the presence of God quite the way Moses did. The Israelites had been enmeshed in a polytheistic culture for 400 years. So three months after God rescued them from slavery, He set up guidelines for a new life and how to approach a holy God respectfully. God gave these to Moses while he was sitting in God's actual presence. How was Moses changed by those conversations? What happens when *you* spend time with God?

27 | Wed – Holy smoke | Read [Hebrews 10:1-4](#)

The first thing God did for the liberated Israelites was to teach the difference between fake gods and the real God, between the holy and the common, between the clean and unclean. They could not be in God's presence because of sin, so a priest burned daily sacrifices which would temporarily cover the sin. A thick curtain always separated the people from direct contact with God. Only a high priest could enter the presence of God in that Holy Place once each year. How would it feel for you to be so restricted from God's presence?

28 | Thu – One minute changed everything | Read [Matthew 27:50-53](#) / [Hebrews 10:19-23](#)

The Old Testament laws taught that: God is holy, God wants his people to be holy, and our sin stands in the way of relationship with Him. Symbolizing that barrier, the curtain in the temple was described as 60' high and about 4" thick. This curtain ripped in two as Jesus breathed his last but *no human hands touched it*. Do you fully understand that Jesus' final sacrifice opened the way to be forgiven, to become holy, to be in a relationship forever with the God who loves you deeply? The minute you believe, it changes everything.

29 | Fri – Dressing to meet a king | Read [Galatians 3:26-27](#) / [Isaiah 61:10 \(a prophecy\)](#)

To enter the Holy Place, the priest had to be spiritually clean, dressed in special clothes which included an ephod, breastpiece, robe, woven tunic, turban and sash (Ex. 28), precious stones set on the breastpiece, and engraved seal **Holy to the Lord** on the turban. According to Isaiah and Paul, how do we need to dress in order to enter into God's presence? And where is that entrance (Ps. 100:4)? Do these verses change your perspective in any way?

30 | Sat – What you find in God's presence | Read [Jeremiah 29:13](#)

Because of Jesus, you can enter God's presence at any time. Here are a few of the promises in Isaiah regarding what you will find there: perfect peace -26:3, a solid foundation for life-33:6, strength when weary-40:29, freedom from fear-41:10, an expunged record-43:25, direction for your life-48:17, comfort in difficulty-51:12. And a personal promise from Jesus when you come to him: rest for your soul -Matt.11:28-30. What are you waiting for?