From the Exodus to the Golden Calf: Jesus Watching with Grace

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1. Jesus as the Divine Leader in the Wilderness

Jesus was leading the isolated people from the command center in the fire and in the cloud, guiding them from slavery into the Promised Land.

Later, I will share more about why I say this was a divine command center where great things happened.

Jesus was there as the Lord of Hosts, with His entire heavenly army surrounding Him.

The fire and the cloud were manifestations of Jesus in His power, glory, and holiness.

These are foundational statements I'm giving at the beginning—not to promote strange ideas, but to correct many wrong doctrines.

I will show you through Scripture that this is absolutely true.

2. The Pillar of Cloud and Fire in Exodus

Exodus 13:21–22 says: "So they took their journey from Sukkoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a

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pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people."

We must remember this remarkable truth: God provided light so they could walk continuously.

Consider the size of this group—I've calculated it carefully.

Scripture says there were 600,000 men of fighting age, plus women, plus children, plus a mixed multitude of others who weren't part of Israel but had also been slaves and chose to follow them.

Altogether, they numbered at least two million people—plus all their livestock.

3. The Magnitude of the Light Provided by Jesus

The fire and light were so intense that they illuminated an area equivalent to 280 international soccer fields.

One person needs about 1 to 1.5 square meters to stand comfortably in a crowd or walk in formation.

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Two million people would occupy roughly 2 million square meters—again, equal to 280 full-size soccer fields.

Imagine the brilliance required to light such a vast space!

A single stadium uses massive lighting for just one field—but here, Jesus illuminated 280 fields at once.

Why? Because the glory of Jesus has no limits.

4. Jesus as the Light of the World

John 8:12: "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." Jesus brings light into our lives wherever we go.

5. Jesus as the Eternal Light

He is the everlasting Light—from the beginning to the end. John 1:4–5 declares: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

This carries a double meaning: spiritually, darkness cannot extinguish the light of Christ; and naturally,

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whenever you turn on a lamp—or when the sun rises—darkness must flee.

6. Jesus as the Saving Light (John 12:46)

John 12:46 affirms: "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness."

7. Jesus as the Lamp of the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:23–24 describes the New Jerusalem: "The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and the Lamb is its lamp. By its light the nations will walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

In eternity, Jesus Himself—the Lamb—will be the source of all light, shining with unimaginable brilliance.

8. Jesus as King of Kings and Seven-Star General

We must remember that Jesus is the great King—the King of Kings.

It's vital to understand that when He led Israel out of Egypt, He did so as a mighty seven-star General.

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Normally, generals have two or three stars, but I use "seven-star" because seven is the biblical number of completeness and fullness—nothing is lacking.

Jesus covers everything, for He is Yahweh Sabaoth—the Lord of Hosts.

Therefore, we must see Jesus as the Light, the King, the Supreme General, and the Lord of Hosts.

9. Jesus' Unique Battle Plan at the Red Sea

This truth becomes even more powerful when we examine the Red Sea crossing in Exodus 14.

There, Jesus orchestrated a unique battle strategy to destroy the enemy's entire army in a single divine maneuver.

And just as He had a battle plan for Israel, He has one for your life—to utterly destroy every enemy that opposes you.

10. God's Strategic Command to Camp by the Sea

The Lord told Moses: "Speak to the children of Israel that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon.

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You shall camp before it by the sea."

Why camp there?

When you study the geography, you'll see they entered a narrow valley with high mountains on both sides—no escape to the left or right.

They reached a beach that was nearly enclosed by cliffs, forming a natural bay.

The Red Sea blocked their path ahead, and Pharaoh's army closed in behind.

Pharaoh said, "They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has shut them in."

He knew they were trapped—no escape by sea, no escape through the mountains.

11. God Hardens Pharaoh's Heart for His Glory

God declared: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart so that he will pursue them, and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord."

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And they did exactly as the Lord commanded.

The same principle applies to your life: when you walk with Jesus, He takes your battles—not just to save you, but to display His power to the enemy.

He says, "This is My child—My friend—My son. Do not touch him.

I will show you what happens when you dare oppose those who belong to Me."

12. Pharaoh's Regret and Mobilization

When it was told to Pharaoh that the people had fled, his heart and the hearts of his servants turned against them.

They said, "Why have we done this? Why have we let Israel go from serving us?"

Suddenly, no one was making their morning coffee, cleaning their homes, or tending their animals.

The Egyptians had to work for themselves!

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So Pharaoh prepared his chariot, gathered his people, and took 600 choice chariots—plus all the chariots of Egypt—with officers over each one.

These chariots were large enough to carry a captain and several warriors.

This was not a small force—it was a vast, elite military machine.

Pharaoh was furious, devastated, and determined to crush Israel completely—just like the devil, who seeks total destruction.

13. The Lord Hardens Pharaoh and Israel Goes Out Boldly

The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he pursued the children of Israel.

But Scripture says Israel went out "with boldness."

They walked in freedom, declaring victory—just like a church full of believers shouting, "The devil is under our feet!"

They were confident: "We are free!"

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14. The Egyptians Overtake Israel and Fear Arises

But then Pharaoh's forces—horses, chariots, horsemen, and the entire army—overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

When the Israelites saw the Egyptians marching toward them, they were terrified and cried out to the Lord.

They turned on Moses: "Were there no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?

Why have you dealt with us like this, bringing us out of Egypt?

Didn't we tell you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone so we can serve the Egyptians'?

It would have been better to serve Egypt than to die in the wilderness!"

In Norway, we have a saying: your knees shake like a musical instrument when you're terrified.

That's exactly how they felt.

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15. Moses' Response: Stand Still and See the Salvation of the Lord

This is just like church: when everything is going well, everyone dances and shouts, "Hallelujah!"

But the moment the enemy shows up, everyone runs to the pastor crying, "What do we do now?"

But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.

For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

The battle belongs to the Lord.

We simply trust Him and watch Him move.

16. God's Command to Move Forward Despite Obstacles

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me?

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Tell the children of Israel to go forward!" Think about that: "Go forward"—into deep water, with two million people behind you!

This mirrors many Christians today: when hardship comes, they cry, "God, take it away! Heal me! Bless me!"

But God says, "Move forward in My authority, power, and glory."

We must not collapse over every small trial. The Lord always has a way through—and His plan is to lead us through, not around.

17. God Instructs Moses to Divide the Sea

Then the Lord commanded: "Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it.

The children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so they will follow—and I will gain honor over Pharaoh, his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."

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All honor, praise, and thanksgiving belong to the Lord alone.

18. The Angel of God and the Pillar Move to Protect Israel

Then the Angel of God—who had gone before Israel—moved and went behind them.

The pillar of cloud also shifted from the front and stood behind the camp.

This Angel was no ordinary messenger; He was a commander of the heavenly armies—likely Michael or another high-ranking angel.

Jesus, as the Lord of Hosts, never moves alone.

He is always accompanied by His mighty angelic army.

Now, that army positioned itself between Israel and Egypt.

The cloud brought darkness to the Egyptians but gave light to Israel all night—so the two camps could not come near each other.

19. The Sea Divides and Israel Crosses on Dry Ground

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove back the waters with a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land.

The waters stood like walls on the right and left as the Israelites walked through on dry ground.

Then the Egyptians pursued them—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen—entering the midst of the sea.

20. God Troubles the Egyptian Army at Dawn

In the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and cloud and threw them into confusion.

He removed the wheels of their chariots so they could barely move.

The Egyptians cried out, "Let us flee from Israel! The Lord is fighting for them against us!"

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Clearly, the angels had sabotaged their equipment.

This was a massive army—600 elite chariots plus all the rest—and yet they were helpless.

21. Moses Closes the Sea and Destroys the Enemy

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may return upon the Egyptians, their chariots, and their horsemen."

Notice: Moses had to act.

He lifted his rod to part the sea—and lifted it again to close it.

God uses human obedience as a sign.

This shows how vital it is to listen to His prophetic voice and obey Scripture.

So the waters returned and covered all of Pharaoh's army—chariots, horsemen, soldiers—so that not one of them remained.

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But the Israelites had walked safely on dry ground, with walls of water on either side.

22. Israel's Deliverance and Faith Restored

That day, the Lord saved Israel from the hand of Egypt.
They saw the dead bodies of the Egyptians washed
ashore and witnessed the great work the Lord had done.

Their fear turned to awe, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

From terror to triumph—they saw the impossible become reality. "Is this real?" they must have wondered.

But it was.

23. Application: Jesus' Army Is With Us Today

We learn from this that Jesus' heavenly army is with us today—in daily life and in ministry.

I remember once visiting Harstad, a city in northern Norway, in February.

Snow and freezing wind filled the air. I was traveling with a small team, and in our meetings, tremendous signs, wonders, and healings took place.

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My body felt like a furnace—I was radiating heat!

While my team wore heavy winter jackets, I walked in just a T-shirt.

On the drive to the airport, I asked Jesus about this.

It wasn't normal—normally, you'd freeze or get sick.

But then He opened my spiritual eyes, and I saw a vast army of angels surrounding me in the sky.

This mighty host had been with us as we preached, prayed for the sick, and saw multitudes come to Jesus.

24. Water Baptism as a Picture of Red Sea Deliverance

This event has deep meaning for us today. Many don't realize that water baptism is rooted in the Exodus.

Just as Israel passed through the Red Sea—from slavery into freedom—so we pass through baptism: from bondage into the Promised Land of Christ.

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Later, under Joshua, the new generation crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land—again through water.

Baptism symbolizes our deliverance from slavery to sin, evil influences, and demonic control.

We are crucified with Jesus, united with His victory, and led through our own "Red Sea," where every power of the enemy over us is drowned.

Every chain is broken.

25. Baptism as Union with Christ's Death and Resurrection

In baptism, we are buried with Jesus and raised with Him by the same power that resurrected Him from the dead.

"Christ" is the title Jesus received after His resurrection—Jesus the Anointed One, the Risen Lord.

There are many named Jesus, but there is only one Jesus Christ.

When you are baptized, you are raised with Christ.

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From that day, you become a little Christ—a Christian.

To be a true follower of Jesus, you must be raised with Him.

You become one with Him in everything.

26. Jesus as the Lord of Hosts (Yahweh Sabaoth)
Some ask, "But isn't 'Lord of Hosts' a title for God the Father?"

Remember John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Jesus is the eternal Word.

The title "Lord of Hosts" (Yahweh Sabaoth) declares God's supreme authority over all heavenly armies and earthly powers.

When applied to Jesus, it affirms His divine sovereignty, His command over angelic forces, and His ultimate victory over evil—accomplished fully at the cross.

Jesus won the victory over death, sin, and hell. On the cross, He declared, "It is finished!"

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Everything is complete.

27. Old Testament Foundations of "Lord of Hosts"

Consider the Old Testament foundations:

Isaiah 6:3: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory."

This vision of divine holiness is echoed in Revelation, where Jesus is worshiped in the same way.

Isaiah 51:15: "I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar.

The Lord of hosts is His name."

Here, the Lord of Hosts is shown as sovereign over nature and nations—just as Jesus calmed the storm.

Malachi 3:10: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...
Test Me in this," says the Lord of hosts, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you."

Jesus, as Lord of Hosts, invites our trust and obedience—and promises divine provision.

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28. Jesus as King of Glory and Commander of Heaven's Armies

Psalm 24:10 asks, "Who is this King of glory?" and answers, "The Lord of hosts—He is the King of glory."

In the New Testament, Jesus is revealed as that very King.

Revelation 19:11–16 portrays Jesus as the Rider on the white horse, leading the armies of heaven in righteousness and judgment.

On His robe and thigh is written: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

This is the divine Warrior—Jesus, the Lord of Hosts—returning to establish justice.

He will rule not as a helpless infant, but with an iron scepter (Revelation 19:15).

29. Jesus' Authority Over Angelic Armies During His Earthly Ministry

Even during His earthly life, Jesus claimed this authority. In Matthew 26:53, He said, "Do you think I cannot appeal

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to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels?"

He acknowledged His command over heavenly armies—even while submitting to the cross.

30. Jesus as Defender and Deliverer at His Return

Second Thessalonians 1:7 speaks of "the Lord Jesus, revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire."

He returns not only as Savior, but as righteous Judge—accompanied by the heavenly host.

31. Practical Application: Jesus Fights for Us Today

So how does this apply to us?

Is it relevant? Absolutely!

Jesus is not only our Savior—He is our Defender, Healer, Provider, and Best Friend.

He commands angelic armies and fights spiritual battles on our behalf.

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As Michael has taught, we activate this reality through our minds and prayers.

Jesus waits for our cooperation—He will not override our will.

Likewise, the devil cannot touch your life unless you give him permission.

Jesus' authority is unmatched.

His victory is assured—because the battle is already over.

It is finished.

Every power is under His feet—and under ours, as we walk in His authority.