

The Book of Acts shows that believers of the early church had greater faith than believers in later ages. Why? Jesus taught the early apostles, and they learned how to apply the doctrines under His ministry. But the Gentile apostles that replaced them didn't have a perfect teacher.

Not just this, but the Jewish apostles had an advantage over their Gentile replacements: *"What advantage then hath the Jew...? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God"* [Ro. 6:2]. The *"oracles of God"* is the OT scriptures, the source of our NT doctrines.

Also, the Jewish apostles were addicted to the OT Scriptures. Even with all that Jesus had taught the 12, there was much more to learn. They devoted themselves to this task: *"Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables"* [Acts 6:2].

(In fairness to the saints of the 2nd Church Age, wave after wave of harsh persecution wiped out the more knowledgeable teachers first. This was devastating to the church because the oppression lasted for about 300 years.)

For ever Faith

The lesson of the "mustard seed" is that you have faith or you don't have faith. Little faith is no faith; faith is confidence, and great faith comes through understanding parables. This lesson explains how knowing and understanding parables create permanent faith.

Ex. 19:9: And the LORD said unto Moses, *Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever...."*

In this verse, notice that faith that comes by this thick cloud is *for ever*. Strong defines *for ever* as "the vanishing point" [H5769]. This point is unreachable because the farthest you can see is always a distance ahead. Thus, *for ever* faith reaches all the way to death or the Rapture.

The knowledge that *for ever* faith is unshakable should cause everyone to reach for this kind of confidence, but to get this faith we must reach for the thick cloud.

The Thick Cloud

Respectively, the words *thick* and *cloud* mean "envelope" and "covering" [H5645, H6051]. Envelopes seal things and coverings hide things. When used as a compound word, this *thick-cloud* shows God descending on Mt. Sinai sealed in the covering of a cloud. But why would the invisible God, who no one can see, hide Himself? Could He have done this so that one day He could come out of this cloud and reveal Himself to His people? Read what Jesus said about this:

Joh. 5:46-47: *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

For this to make sense, we only need to remember that Jesus was the person of God in the flesh [Joh. 1:14]. This being so, we should expect to see Him in most, if not all of Moses' writings.

To see Him, however, we need to know some details about the thick cloud. We've seen that the word *thick* means an envelope and we know that parables seal truths within their symbols. The word *thick* also relates to density, i.e., something dense.

Let me make this brief and you can search this out in your studies. This thick cloud represents parables, riddles, proverbs, dark sayings and allegories. That covers most if not all of them.

So then, most symbols in the five books of Moses work to form one of the above descriptions of the thick cloud. It doesn't matter which, the thick-cloud is a parable of parables.

Examples for Study

Adam was a figure of Christ [Ro. 5:14]. Abel's blood foreshadowed Christ's blood [Heb. 12:24]. Abraham was Isaac's father, man, this father and son represent God and Christ. Moses and Aaron respectively represent Christ's outer and inner man.

And Moses' stammering tongue represents the parables that Jesus spoke to the multitudes. [Read "Why Moses Stuttered, FL109 on this website.]