



Big Idea:
Pray that we will increasingly know God's presence and see His glory.

1.) Israel's experience ENLIGHTENS our own (v. 1).

- Israel's journey with Moses gives insights into our journey in Christ, because we are on similar missions (Romans 15:4).
- Like Israel, we have been given a glorious purpose from God in accordance with His promise.

2.) Our purpose is only accomplished by God's PRESENCE and POWER (v. 2-3).

- Like Israel, our only hope for success is that God would be with us and go before us.
- God rightly refused to bless Israel's indifference and idolatry with His active presence.

3.) The ABSENCE of God is the greatest of tragedies (v. 3-6).

- The utmost devastation that came upon Israel was God's declaration that He would no longer go with them.

- As rebellious and confused as these Israelites were, they knew that this was a total disaster.
- Although God is **OMNIPRESENT** He has every prerogative to act differently in different situations (Jeremiah 23:24).
- There are untold numbers of God's redeemed people who routinely gather without God's active presence.

4.) The presence of God is what makes the church **DISTINCT** (v. 7-17).

- As much as the Israelites recognized the catastrophe of God's withdrawal, Moses felt it all the more acutely.
- Moses so desperately longed to be in God's utmost presence that he simply refused to accept the verdict of God's absence.
- Do we have the **ZEAL** of Moses for the manifest presence of God?
- The manifest presence of God was everything made Israel unique among all the other peoples of the earth (v. 16).
- The thing that makes us distinct from every other institution is the manifest presence of God by the Holy Spirit.

5.) Plead with God to show us His **GLORY** (v. 18-23).

- Of all the things you could possibly want, none are as awesome as the glory of God.
- God wants us to be in His presence and glory (Colossians 1:27, 2 Corinthians 4:6).
- If we lack what God longs to give us and what we sincerely long to see, then we do not have because we are not **ASKING** (James 4:2).
- Let us join together to pray that God will grant us His manifest presence and show us His glory!