

CLOUDS

By Bill Pugh

Like us, clouds have many moods. Really dark clouds symbolise darkness and coming rain. Some clouds signal a coming storm. Winds come and drive the clouds away, and we have blue skies and sunshine. Spring and summer arrive according to nature's seasons.

On their journey to the Promised Land, the Israelites were protected and guided by an overreaching cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night.

God was with them all the time and all the way, on the Mount of Transfiguration. God spoke to Peter, James and John, out of a covering cloud.

Jesus was transfigured before them, his clothes dazzling white and his face shining like the sun.

God spoke out of the cloud and said, *"This is my son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased, listen to him."*

Sometimes clouds make us sad and gloomy, according to our moods. Yet above the clouds shine the sun, moon and the twinkling stars, taking their turn in heaven's cycle.

When the clouds are lifted and the sun shines we know all is well.

And there is more. The Psalmist put it this way:

*"O Lord my God, you are very great,
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as in a garment.*

*You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on
the waters, you make the clouds your
chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers."*

Psalm 104:1-4.

Reflection:

There is no limit for our living, moving and ever-present God, who can, and will, drive away the gloom and clouds of our depression and cause the sun to break through and shine for each of us.

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