

# Exodus 40:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

## Analysis

EXODUS CONCLUDES: 'The cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all...Israel, throughout all their journeys.' The cloud-by-day/fire-by-night pattern continues the pillar that led Israel from Egypt (Exodus 13:21-22), demonstrating covenant continuity—the God who redeemed is the God who indwells. The phrase 'in the sight of all' (לְעֵינֵי כָל, le'einei khol) emphasizes visible assurance—God's presence wasn't hidden or theoretical but manifestly present. This perpetual guidance 'throughout all their journeys' assures believers that God accompanies His people through every season, trial, and triumph until reaching the promised inheritance.

## Historical Context

Exodus began with Israel in Egyptian bondage (ch 1) and concludes with God dwelling among them in manifest glory—complete redemption from slavery to sanctuary. The book's arc (bondage → deliverance → law → covenant → dwelling) establishes the pattern repeated throughout redemptive history, culminating in Christ and consummated in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:3, 'the tabernacle of God is with men').

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Exodus concluding with God's manifest presence fulfilling His promise to dwell among them encourage believers today?
2. What does the cloud/fire's perpetual guidance 'throughout all their journeys' reveal about God's faithfulness in every season of life?

## Interlinear Text

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H3588	כִּי	עַל	בְּמִשְׁכָּן	וּמִבְּנָה	אָשָׁר
	For the cloud	of the LORD	was upon the tabernacle	by day	and fire
H6051		H3068	H4908	H3119	H784
H1961	תָּהָיו	לִפְנֵי	בֵּית	לִשְׁבָּא	
	was on it by night	in the sight	of all the house	of Israel	
H3915	H0	H5869	H3605	H1004	H3478

בְּכָל מָסְעֵיהֶם:  
throughout all their journeys

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:14** (Parallel theme): In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

**Numbers 9:15** (Temple): And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

**Exodus 13:21** (References Lord): And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

**Psalms 105:39** (Parallel theme): He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

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