

of the Lord to watch the cloud. And that the cloud went ahead of them and these men looked and saw where the cloud rested over a place in this disagreeable country they were going through for three days here, and the cloud would rest and these men by the ark would see it and then they would blow the trumpets and tell the whole assembly which -- how far they were now from the place they were to stop or where the place was, because the information came from the cloud but it came to the men around the ark and then the men by the ark blew the trumpet and let them all know. And so in that way the cloud was showing and also the ark through the people who were around it were showing. Now that's a very ingenious way to explain it. Maybe it's true but I'm a bit skeptical. But at least there is the Lord's presence manifested through the ark and the Lord was leading as to where they should find their resting place in this very difficult country that was involved in the first 3 days after leaving Sinai.

Now someone has suggested a ~~contrast~~ contradiction: that we read up above in vs. 12 that they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sinai and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran, And down here we read, They departed from the Mt. of the Lord. So we have the account of the ark going twice over here. We have the account before. We have the account here. And of course the critics say, Yes. one's one document. ~~The other~~ ^{One is} is the other. They both tell about the departure. But we know that in the Script. it's quite a common thing to tell a thing 2 or 3 times. To tell it with certain detail and perhaps tell it again with different detail. Like with so many of our newspaper articles. They will tell the whole story in one sentence and then they will start at the beginning and tell it all over again. Thus you'll have it told twice but there's no contradiction. ~~It~~ It may be told for different reasons: once to give you a rapid summary. once to give it in detail. and then perhaps another time for a different reason. So we don't need to say that there's a contradiction in the fact that it is told twice, but we should be aware of the situation. That was No. 1 - The problem of this verse.

2. The Cloud, ^{as} a sign of God's presence. I think I've already dealt with that sufficiently.

G. Moses' Prayer. vs. 35-36 "And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered, and let them