

# Encountering God

## God's invitation to you

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**Encountering God through biblical teachings.**

## **Introduction**

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Hello, My name is David Peñate. I am currently in my final year of Theology and Ministry and this month I am going to take you through the monthly bible readings. This month we are going to journey together and discover how to encounter God. In other words, we are going to uncover how to experience God in our lives. God invites everyone into a loving relationship with Him and His ultimate purpose is to be deeply involved in our life. Therefore lets take a look at God's vision for our lives and how we can encounter God through the Bible.

**Week 4, June 22-30.**

## Day 22 - Thursday 22<sup>th</sup> of June: “The 3 R’s”

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**Suggested Readings:** Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Exodus 20:8-11.

***“And He said to them, the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath ”***

(Mark 2:27)

God after He had finished all of His creation instituted and rested on the seventh day. God not only rested on the Seventh day of creation but in contrast to all the other days, on the seventh day God blessed the seventh day. God not only made a special and differentiate day from the rest, He blessed it. The blessing on the seventh day implied that it was thereby declared to be special object of divine favor and a day that would bring blessing to His creation. More specifically God declared a blessing on humans, whom where created in the image of God. God created a day in which you and me could pause from all labors and struggles and rest and spend time with the creator God. In the New Testament Jesus emphasizes this this point when he declares that God for the benefit of man created the Sabbath day. It is a day when we can come to him and experience Him without any distraction. It is a day in which we can encounter God’s:

Restoration: Let God work in your personal life, invite him in.

Re-connection: God’s wants to connect with you at a personal level.

Rehabilitation: God seeks to rehabilitate you back into the character of God.

- **How do you experience God on the Sabbath? What brings you closer to the creator**
- **Why do you think the Sabbath day rest is a great idea?**

## Day 23 - Friday 23<sup>th</sup> of June: “Commanded to Care”

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**Suggested readings:** Genesis 1:12; Romans 15: 26-27; Matthew 23:23.

***“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you”.***

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

At creation God shared His creation and possessions with humans and He continues to be the true owner of the world. However, because of sin humans gave up the dominion God had given humanity, but at the cross Jesus reclaimed as His own that which humanity had surrendered to Satan at the fall. But God has now appointed his people to serve as stewards of His possessions. God has entrusted you and me to care for what his has given us. God has given us the honor and responsibility of caring for his creation and through it encountering God at a deeper level, God has given us the will and the responsibility of caring for:

1. Our bodies: We are to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength. (Luke 10:27)
  2. Abilities: cultivate the gifts God has given each of us for the glory of God.
  3. Time: We glorify God with our wise use of time. “Whatever you do work at it with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23)
  4. Material possessions: knowing that God as blessed us with many needs in life, including creation.
- **How does caring for our Bodies grow our relationship with God?**
  - **How is been stewards of the environment important for us?**

## Day 24– Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of June: “Called to be Different”

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**Suggested Readings:** Romans 12: 1-2; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 3 John 2.

***“For you were brought at a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”***

(1 Corinthians 6:20)

The apostle Paul appeals to all *“I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove which is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12: 1-2). God invites every person to stand out in the world, to follow the example of Jesus Christ, to not look at the world for advice but to seek God who will transform the mind and heart of every person to seek him. We should adopt a different lifestyle, not for the sake of being different, but because God has called us to live by the principle of Jesus Christ. *“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19). Thus, God seeks for all of us to practice good habits, to be renewed in spirit and mind. We experience God when we adhere to God’s calling for us to be different, to seek good and not evil, to seek things that help others and things that bring peace to our lives. Today, friends, I invite you to seek God by prayer, that he may bring to your mind the things we must change in our lives that through it we may experience God at a deeper level.

- **Of what things is the Holy Spirit convincing you to change?**
- **What does it mean to you that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit?**

## Day 25- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of June: “Eden”

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**Suggested Readings:** Genesis 2:18-25; John 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Exodus 20:12.

***“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”***  
(Proverbs 22:6)

The Garden of Eden was the center and climax of God’s creation; it was the most glorious gift even to humanity. In Eden humanity dwelled in perfect peace and harmony with God, in Eden God gave humanity a home where they could fulfill their wilderness dreams without any opposition. Everything instituted by God in Eden was perfect and had a beneficial purpose for humanity. In Eden one of the greatest institutions was commenced by God, that being, the institution of marriage and family. In Eden a family already existed, this family involved an intimate relationship between humanity and God. However, God demanded humanity to replicate the structure of the family so that humanity could experience the joy and company of one another with God at the center of their family. God created the family, the family is meant to be a place of great happiness. However, because of sin the family can also be a scene of terrible hurt. But God set the home as a primary setting for the restoration of the image of God in humanity. Within the family, father, mother and children can express themselves fully, meeting each other’s needs for belonging, love and intimacy. In the family is where we can restore the image of God, in showing love for one another, and if so, we will be able to show God’s character to our wider family: the world.

- **If you are a parent, how important do you think making God the center of your family is?**
- **How can you restore the image of God through the family?**

## Day 26- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of June: “Ministry in Heaven”

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**Suggested Readings:** Hebrews 8:1-5; Daniel 7:9-27; Revelation 14:6-7, 20:12.

***“But Christ came as High Priest of good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation”***  
(Hebrews 9:11)

*“And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them”* (Exodus 25:8). God commanded Moses and the Israelites to build a sanctuary so that God could dwell with them. Here God was to show His people what Jesus would do later on for humanity. God commanded His people that daily they were to bring a sacrifice to the alter, so that the offering, usually a Lamb, would take on their sins and be sacrificed for the sins of every individual. That poor innocent Lamb which had no fault at all would die to take the sins of the people. In the same way the innocent lamb was scarified, so it would be with Jesus. John the Baptist in the New Testament describes it this way when he saw Jesus:

*“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29).

Jesus was that poor innocent Lamb who came into this world to die for the sins of all the world, Jesus came to take the punishment and die for your and my sins. And because of Jesus’ death we are assured forgiveness for our sins, because unlike the sinful human taking on the role of Priest in the earthly sanctuary. Jesus, the sinless man, is now our High priest in Heaven interceding for each and every one of us. Friends, Jesus invites you today to come to Him and seek his forgiveness for your sins, all you have to do is repent, because Jesus already paid the price of sin for you.

- **Does it bring you any comfort to know that Jesus is currently interceding for right now in heaven?**
- **What does “Jesus” being described as a Lamb mean to you?**

## Day 27- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of June: “Come Lord Jesus, Come”

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**Suggested Readings:** Hebrews 9:28; Matthew 24; Revelation 1:7, 14:14-20.

***“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”***

(Titus 2:13)

What is your greatest hope in life? Is it to best and fairest in your field of work? To do well at school? To have a stable future? Whatever your hope may be its all good and well, but did you know that God invites all of us to have a greater hope than anything this world can offer us? The second coming of Jesus Christ is the blessed hope, which God invites all of us to have. The coming of Jesus will be literal, personal, visible and a universal spectacle- it is the grand climax of the gospel of Jesus. One day Jesus will come, at midnight in the earth’s darkest hour, God will manifest His power to deliver you and me from this world. The Bible describes it this way:

*“A loud voice” comes out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “it is done!”*  
(Revelation 16:17).

For many centuries people have considered the return of Jesus as “the Blessed hope”. All who love Christ look forward eagerly to the day when they will be able to share face-to-face and fellowship with Him. In that moment, in a twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52), we will be changed forever. No more pain, suffering, disaster or death, Jesus will come and rescue us from this wretched world and transform everything to perfect peace and harmony, and most importantly we get to meet our Lord and savior- Jesus Christ.

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

- **How can you experience God, knowing that one-day his coming to rescue you?**
- **Are you eagerly waiting and preparing yourself for Jesus’ second coming?**

## Day 28- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of June: “From death to life”

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**Suggested Readings:** Romans 6:23; 1 Timothy 6:15; Psalms 146:3-4; John 11:11-14.

***“Do not marvel at this: for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice”***

(John 5:28)

The most unpleasant thing about our world is death. Everywhere we look there is pain, suffering, violence and death. The consequence of sin is death; this was the result of humanities disobedience in the Garden of Eden. However, God who alone is immortal, in His great love for humanity, will grant eternal life to you and me. Although we are born mortal and death reigns in this world, the Bible encourages every single one of us to seek immortality (Romans 2:7). In other words, the Bible encourages us to seek Jesus who is the source of immortality.

*“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*

(Romans 6:23)

Through Jesus’ death on the cross, He has abolished death and brought life. If Jesus had not come into this world our human situation would be hopeless, and all who died would have perished eternally. But because of Jesus’ love for humanity, because of Jesus desire for humanity to encounter Him at a deeper level God sent His son for *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will perish but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

- **Will you seek God today knowing that we came down to earth to bring you the gift of eternal life?**
- **Will you encounter God today? And experience His salvation for you?**

## Day 29- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of June: “End to Evil”

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**Suggested Readings:** Revelation 20; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 21:1-5; Ezekiel 28:19-20.

***“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying. Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them, and they shall be His people”***

(Revelation 21:3)

God has promised that sin shall not reign forever, His Sons death has made sure of that. Jesus death on the cross-declared that Jesus had won the battle over sin; He lived a perfect and sinless life and ultimately died for all of our sins. In the Bible we witness God telling us that sin will meet its end, all of the evil, violence, deception, hatred, pain, suffering and death will have an end thanks to Jesus Christ death for you and me. In Revelation 20 the Bible teaches us how God will put an end to sin, after the second coming of Jesus all people throughout the ages that have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and redeemer will be taken up to heaven where they will reign for 1000 years (Revelation 20). During these thousand years all of the redeemed are given the honor by God to accept God’s judgment of all of those people who are not saved. Thus, after the thousand years God comes back down in the New Jerusalem with you and me in it and once and for all puts an end to sin. Satan and his followers are forever banished, not because of God’s will, but because they didn’t want accept Jesus Christ invitation to eternal life. Friends, the Bible makes clear that God will put an end to all that is evil, to all that brings pain and misery. Thankfully God seeks you and me that we will be part of that righteous group of people that will live with God for all eternity, Because God makes all things new.

*“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1).*

- **Will you accept Jesus Christ into your life today?**
- **Aren’t you tired of living in this world? Accept Jesus and experience His salvation, while we wait for His second coming.**

## Day 30- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of June: “The New Earth”

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**Suggested Readings:** 2 Peter 3:13; Isaiah 35, 65:17-25; Matthew 5:5.

***“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And there was no more sea”***

***(Revelation 21:1)***

On the New Earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for you and me to live eternally. All that is good will reign in the New Earth, love, joy and peace will be the norm in the New Earth. In the New Earth God will dwell with all of us, his presence will be the center of our lives. In the New Earth Jesus fulfills the promise He made to His disciples and us “That where I am there you may also be” (John 14:3). The purpose of the incarnation (Jesus becoming man) will have its full fulfillment when humanity and God can finally dwell together.

***“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying. Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them, and they shall be His people”***

***(Revelation 21:3)***

Here the saved have the privilege of living in the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in constant fellowship with them. Friends God desires that you be with Him in the New Earth, that you may get to enjoy a life without the struggles of this world, but instead enjoy the joy, peace, love and personal presence of God. Will you today encounter and experience God? Will you open your heart and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior? It is my prayer that you may get to know God at a deeper level and from it experience God and all the things he has planned for you in this life and the next.

Many Blessing friends.  
Praise and honor be the Lord's.

