

APPROACHING YAHWEH ACCORDING TO EX 24:1

Ex 24:1 And to Mosheh He said, “Come up to Yahweh, you and Aharon, Nadav and Avihu, and seventy of the elders of Yisrael, and you shall bow yourselves from a distance.

IN THIS VERSE WE FIND THE FOLLOWING MEANINGFUL WORDS AND NAMES:

MOSHEH (REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE, ON THE VERGE OF APPROACHING THE ALMIGHTY)

1 **עלה** (ALAH) COME UP

To be able to approach Yahweh, we need to leave our comfort zones, our fears, our obsession with earthly matters, our resistance to change, and COME UP to where He dwells. This “place” is different from where we live, especially with regards to values like meaning in life, steadiness righteousness, kindness, integrity, favour and trustworthiness.

2 **אהרן** (AHARON) MOUNTAIN OF STRENGTH;
POSSIBLY ALSO: TO REJOICE GREATLY

Approaching Yahweh begins with the discovery that He is our mountain of strength, combined with an honest desire to invest in Him as the greatest joy of one’s life.

3 **נדב** (NADAV) TO OFFER (ONESELF) FREELY

Without the willingness to offer oneself (and offer up those things and attitudes that may possible act as stumbling blocks in one’s life), no person can truly come into the presence of Yahweh.

4 **אביהו** (AVIHU) MY FATHER IS HE

The most central and uplifting moment in the process of approaching Yahweh, is that personal and intimate encounter with a Person unlike anyone else you have met before – an encounter that uncontrollably releases the words “My Father is He” from your lips.

5 **שבעים זקנים** (SHIV’IM ZEKANIM) SEVENTY ELDERS;
FROM: SHAVA – “FULLNESS” & ZAKAN – “AGE”

Coming of age or becoming older, does not have any lasting meaning in this life, unless the person who has to deal with “age”, knows what it means to approach the One who is called the Ancient of Days, the One who radiates the ultimate fullness, completeness and splendour. With Him we can combine our age with “fullness” – in such a way that others will not regard us as “the elderly” who have become weaker, but “the elders”, who have become wiser.

6 **שחתי** (SHACHAH) BOW YOURSELVES;
TO LIE DOWN FLAT IN REVERENCE

Any person who longs to approach Yahweh, even a leader or an elder, must know how to bow and humble himself or herself – even to the point of lying flat down on the ground, in complete reverence towards the One who is absolutely set-apart from the rest of the world and exalted in his majesty and splendour.

7 **מרחוק** (MERACHOQ) FROM A DISTANCE
(TO BE, OR TO REMOVE, FAR AWAY)

There are times when it is only possible, or appropriate, to behold the Father’s splendour from a distance. But getting to know Him from a distance, only serves to intensify the longing that is expressed in **Ps 73:28** “But as for me, it is good to be near Elohim ... those who are far from You will perish (v27) ... Elohim is my portion forever (v26) ... I have desired no one besides You on earth (v25).”

YAHWEH (THE EXALTED ONE, BUT ALWAYS LONGING FOR HIS PEOPLE TO APPEAR BEFORE HIM)

How is it possible for a man of flesh and blood, like Mosheh, to approach a set-apart and exalted Elohim, like Yahweh?