

necessarily that it just happened; it might have been that they hadn't been observing it, but it certainly suggests that. It looks a little bit in that direction. In Num. 31:15 we read ^(ref?) there that Moses and Joshua went shortly before Moses died, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, and the Lord appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud. And the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle. That would give the impression that it had not been all the time that way. It came then for the importance of this particular revelation. Now the possibility of this, that this was ~~an~~ an intermittent thing, rather than a constant thing, is not denied by the statement in Neh. 9 which might ~~xxxx~~ at first sight seem to deny it. In Neh. 9:12 we read that Neh^o said, "Moreover, thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way in which they should go." This does not necessarily say that all the way the Lord led them that way, and verse 19 says, "Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither ~~the~~ the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way in which they should go." And this word, "depart" there, as used, does not mean necessarily that it was always present, ~~that it~~ "departed not," but that God did not cease to use this method (not clear). So it is altogether possible that the cloud appeared only at special times, rather than that this was occurring all the time. Now another possibility, which I'll call ~~xxx~~ "b" there,

b. Perhaps the cloud was sometimes invisible, except to the eye of faith. There are these two possibilities about it. It seems to me that one or maybe both of them must be true, in view of these other statements about the way in which the Lord led the ~~people~~ people during this long wilderness journey.

Now we go on to -