

the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8). He spoke with Moses at the door of the tabernacle (Exodus 33:9-11). He promised to manifest His presence in the temple (II Chronicles 20:709). Satan is spoken of as going forth from His presence (Job 1:12, 2:7). The psalmist urges his hearers to come before His presence with singing (Psalm 100:2). Jonah is said to have fled from the presence of the Lord (Jonah 1:3, 10). Christ told His disciples to pray to their Father who is in heaven (Matthew 6:9). And Christ is Himself spoken of as having entered into heaven, to appear in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24).

#### The Problem of Properly Relating these Two Truths

The Scriptures teach that God is everywhere present. In respect of His being or essential nature, He is no more present in one place than in another. Yet the Scriptures also teach that God manifests His omnipresent presence by revealing Himself to and among men and in the external universe. The God who is always present makes His presence known by His acts of self-disclosure.

It is at this very point that great carefulness must be maintained. The special, specific, or local manifestations may not be interpreted to exclude God's omnipresence (which is unchanged at or during the time of such manifestations); and God's omnipresence may not be interpreted in such a way as to swallow up His special, specific, or local manifestations. However, it would appear that whenever God manifests Himself locally, He does so in a sense in which He does not at that time manifest Himself throughout the universe. If this were not so, it would seem that the language of local manifestation would be meaningless.