***The Power of the Theophany***

In Exodus 20:1, all the people perceived the thunder, lightning flashes, sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; the people saw this at a distance, and they trembled.

This made them overwhelmed.  
The sound of God’s voice, the trumpet, was too much.  
They pleaded God to stop talking to them directly.  
“Then they said to Moses, ‘speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us or we will die” (v. 19).

Here is when Moses became mediator between God and Israel. So “people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was” (v. 21).

From there on, God continued giving the people instructions on how to live. The commandments emphasized exclusive love for God, and how to relate to each other.  
We see Jesus here in Matt. 5 and 22:40.

We must see God in His manifold wisdom.