

THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILLED THE TEMPLE

Solomon's temple was filled with the glory of the Lord at its dedication. We see this again in Ezekiel's vision of the heavenly temple. God's presence had left the temple in an earlier vision departing Jerusalem and traveling east on a great cherubim chariot of glory (10:18-22; 11:22-24). Now in chapter 43 God's glory returns from the east where God has been a "little sanctuary for them in the countries" where He had sent His people in exile (11:16). Jesus too is filled with *the glory of God* in His *transfiguration* (Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36; 2Ptr 1:16-18; John 1:14). Let's explore these four: the dedication of Solomon's temple, Ezekiel's temple vision, Jesus' transfiguration, and Pentecost.

“As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and *the glory of the LORD filled the temple.* ² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because *the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.* ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and *the glory of the LORD* on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “*For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.*”

Second Chronicles 7:1-3

THE PURPOSE

God gives Ezekiel this vision to *comfort* and *exhort* His people. Let's look at chapter 43.

Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ³ And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. ⁴ As *the glory of the LORD* entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, *the glory of the LORD filled the temple.* (See also Second Chronicles 7:1-3 above.)

⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, ⁷ and he said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, ⁸ by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger. ⁹ Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and *I will dwell in their midst forever.*

¹⁰ “As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, *that they may be ashamed of their iniquities;* and they shall measure the plan. ¹¹ And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, *its whole design;* and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out. ¹² This is the law of the temple: *the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy.* Behold, this is the law of the temple. (43:1-12)

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

God's glory was hidden in the incarnation of Jesus as we have been learning in Philippians (2:6-11). But the curtain was pulled back for a moment on God's holy mountain (2Ptr 1:16-18) with Jesus' three closest disciples.

Matthew—And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a *high mountain* by themselves. ²And *he was transfigured* before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. (Mt 17:1-8)

Mark—And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. (Mk 9:2-8)

Luke—Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen. (Lk 9:28-36)

PENTECOST AS DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it *filled the entire house* where they were sitting. ³And *divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them*. ⁴And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, *devout men from every nation under heaven*. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—*we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.* ¹²And *all were amazed and perplexed*, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” (Acts 2:1-13)