

The Pattern of the Glory of Yahweh Throughout the Centuries



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The main pattern for the glory of Yahweh can be traced and divided into various stages: 1. In the Garden of Eden. 2. Before and during the Exodus event. 3. During the reign of King Solomon. 4. In the days of Yeshua. 5. In the Book of Acts after the Pentecost.

The narrative began in the Garden of Eden. It has long been Yahweh's desire to dwell with mankind. Before Adam and Eve had committed their offenses, Yahweh was daily in their midst. His kingly presence will always be accompanied by a visible array of glory emanating from His being. Yahweh carried this glory, but it also became a part of Adam and Eve's spiritual makeup. The Bible tells us “*And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*” (Gen 2:25) Delitzsch writes, “*Their bodies were the clothing of their internal glory; and **their internal glory** was the **clothing of their nakedness**”¹ Therefore, their bodies were covered by an array of glory, and because of this “covering,” they were able to stand in Yahweh's presence and converse with Him. However, this all changed after their trespasses against Him.*

Genesis 3 states that right after they have rebelled against Yahweh, their beautiful outer layers of glory were immediately stripped from them. “*They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*” (Gen 3:8) And then, Adam answered, “*He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."*” Adam tangibly felt the departure of Yahweh's glory and felt “naked.” What comes next is not a surprise - both were cast out of the Garden of Eden, forever forbidden from the splendor in the garden and the glory of Yahweh.

Thousands of years later, the glory of Yahweh was once again accessible to man. When Moses encountered the burning bush on Mt. Sinai, he had visually “seen” the glory manifested on a tree with a fire-like appearance. Moses' immediate reaction was to bow down, prostrate on the ground. We can see

1(Delitzsch) , Pulpet Commentary. Genesis 2:25. Biblehub.

this type of reaction from humans in many subsequent encounters. Whenever the Bible mentions the presence of the glory, it meant people had merited Yahweh's favor, whether it was an individual, a community, or the entire Jewish nation. On the contrary, when the glory departed from the nation, it meant the nation was about to face judgment or displeasure due to their sins and offenses against Yahweh. This divine encounter had a profound impact for Moses as well as his people. The glory of Yahweh was once again, approachable to His people.

During the Exodus event, the glory was resting upon the Israelites acting as their escort and shield. It came in the form of clouds hovering and guiding the entire nation out of the hands of the Egyptians. It was visually recognized by the entire Israelite congregation; the glory of the Lord came in a cloud formation. *“It came about as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.”* (Exo 16:10). In this instance, the clouds were resting “upon” them, but the glory stayed hidden from their sight. The reason being, if they saw the glory with their own eyes, they would not be able to stand in its presence and perish. However, the Lord always desires to draw near to His people, *“so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever.”* Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.” (Exo 19:9)

From what one can gather in the Bible, the glory of the Lord seems to change its form in various circumstances, from bright clouds to fiery flames, from dwelling in the Holy of Holies and even attaching itself to gently rest upon the face of Moses. It is from these two words, “dwelling” and “resting upon” that a discernible pattern emerges. There were many important times where the glory “dwelt” upon the nation of Israel, where it acted as a sign of Yahweh's approval towards His people. There was also a devastating time when the glory “departed” from the nation causing its demise and subsequent judgment.

Later, after the Exodus event, Moses was commissioned to build a permanent residence for Yahweh. After the completion of the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord had its first permanent residence

inside the Holy of Holies. In this instance, the glory stayed hidden behind the veil. Only Moses and Aaron were able to enter and see it with their own eyes. No other Israelite was granted this permission. However, a major change was taking place, the glory of the Lord was no longer hidden in the clouds, but now appeared in a permanent location regularly. In other words, the glory “came down” from the clouds and “moved in” to the tabernacle. For a newborn nation, this was quite a shock. They did not know how to cope with this absolute power existing in their midst and were terrified by it. However, there was a higher purpose for this structure which took place right after their miraculous escape from the hands of Pharaoh. Yahweh had given precise instructions to Moses telling him to arrange all the furniture for the tabernacle in a human-like pattern. From the Altar of Sacrifice to the Mercy Seat, all were to be arranged in the form of a person. Why was this important? It is this same precise “pattern” which holds the key to unlock the mystery of the first appearance of Yeshua some 1000 years later.

Later in the Bible, King Solomon followed Moses' footsteps. He also built a house for the permanent residence for Yahweh, albeit much grander and elaborate. We read about it amid the time when King Solomon made his first sacrificial offerings and petitions upon the grand opening of the newly built sanctuary. *“Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house”* (2 Chr. 7:1-2). This "sudden" heavenly appearance made every one of the priests *“...[bow] down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD...”* (2 Chr. 7:3). The reasoning for pinning their faces to the ground were 1) The glory “filled” the house, and 2) It descended in a type of flame. The blending of the two framed an overwhelming power that brought all who were in its presence quickly to the ground, including Solomon. However, Yahweh was not impressed with Solomon's building skills. Later we read from Paul's sermon at Mars Hill that Yahweh does not “dwell in houses built by hands” (Acts 17:24-25)

As time passed by, the nation of Israel entered her darkest time in history. The glory of the Lord

had departed from the nation and ensuing destruction followed almost immediately. Ezekiel 8-11 uncovers how the presence of Yahweh left Solomon's temple because of the gross sins that were taking place in the grounds. Before Yahweh left, Ezekiel was brought to the Temple to witness why Yahweh's presence was leaving. He testified to what the nation's leaders were doing in secret, who thought they could hide their deeds from Yahweh. He (Ezekiel) had witnessed the idolatry taking place in secret and how the nation's leaders were worshiping objects of abomination inside the holy temple. Yahweh asked Ezekiel, "*Have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness*" (Ezekiel 8:12). After witnessing the slaughter and judgment in the spiritual realms, Ezekiel cried out inquiring God, "*Ah, Lord God! Will You make a complete end of the remnant of Israel?*" (Ezekiel 11:12). Yahweh responded by promising a day of restoration, in spite of the fact that they were being judged. Yahweh will bring them back to the land and put a "New Spirit in them". They will be given a "heart of flesh", they will then be "My people." Even though the events seemed bleak for the nation, Yahweh had not given up on them.

We fast forward another 400 years to when the glory of Yahweh is once again returned. When Yeshua appeared on the scene, John wrote, "*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14) This time, glory came but in a human form - in Yeshua. This event triggered another new chapter and a new era for the nation of Israel and the rest of mankind. The Book of Acts has delineated that there was a new "presence" of this indwelling-glory in the form of the Holy Spirit available to every believer who put their faith in Christ. After this life-transforming event, all believers now have the privilege to become the temple of the Holy Spirit, and are able to have this glorious presence "dwelling" within our own human bodies.

The pattern that has been unfolding throughout the centuries is evident. Yahweh had this planned out thousands of years ago, and it was His ingenious design all along. He wants to dwell with His children, to have them to be part of His glorious inheritance. Like a good father, He loves them and

cherishes them. He is even willing to give them His most precious possession – Himself, in a form of a glorious presence. As we have taken the long route (for few thousand years), from the Garden of Eden to the tabernacle, to the Temple of Solomon and finally, the glory of Yahweh resting within His people, this is indeed the mystery of the ages that will continue to unfurl.