



God's Shekinah Glory

Manifestation of His Presence

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Definitions

- **Glory** – A general term for God's manifest excellence. This term refers to the outshining of God's character in the beauty of nature or the activity of God's people.
- **Shekinah Glory** – A specific term referring to God's special presence in the tabernacle and temple. God dwells among his people in a glory cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.



Glory in the General Sense
Psalm 19:1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

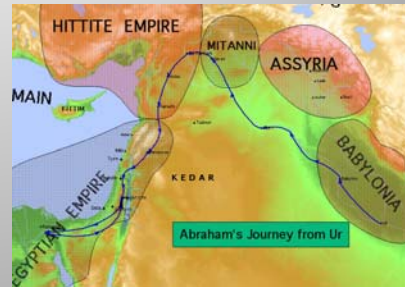


Glory in the Specialized Sense
God manifests his localized presence in specific places.



God's Glory Appears to Abraham in Ur.

Acts 7:2-3 – *And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’*



God's Glory Appears to Abraham Again in Canaan.

Genesis 15:17-18 – *When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land...”*



God's Glory Appears to Moses at the Burning Bush.

Exodus 3:2-4 – *And the angel of the Lord appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and...the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight...." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*



God's Glory During the Exodus

Exodus 13:21 – *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.*

The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.



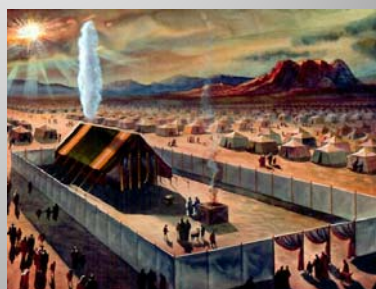
God's Glory protects during the Crossing of the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:19-20 – *Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.*



God's Glory and The Tabernacle

Numbers 9:15-23 – *On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night.*



God's Glory and The Ark of the Covenant

Isaiah 37:16 – “O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.



Psalms 80:1 – Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth.

The lower tip of the Glory Cloud would have touched the lid of the Mercy Seat.

God's Glory and The Movement of the People

Numbers 9:17-18 – And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. At the command of the Lord the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the Lord they camped.



God's Glory and Power

Exodus 40:33-35 – And he erected the...tabernacle..., so Moses finished the work.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.



But what happened when the Ark was captured?

A Pattern – God's glory can depart!

1 Samuel 4:21-22 – And [Eli's daughter-in-law] named [her] child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband [who died]. And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."



***The Philistines capture the ark.
They place it in their temple beside their god.***

1 Sam. 5:1-2 – *When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon*



God's glory-power is still dominant.

1 Samuel 5:2-3 – *Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord.*

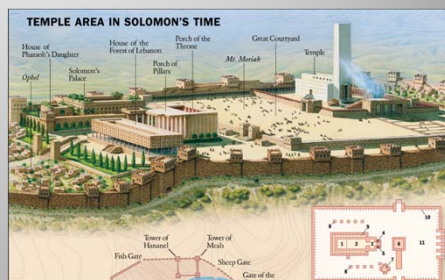


A Short History of the Tabernacle

- **Wilderness**: The tabernacle is built at the foot of Mt. Sinai (Num. 10:11). Their worship was often hypocritical (Amos 5:25).
- **Conquest**: The tabernacle is pitched first near Gilgal then moved to Shiloh.
- **Judges/Samuel**: The Ark is lost in battle. It travels through Philistine territory for 7 months before being returned to Beth-shemesh. The Ark is housed in Kiriath-jearim. By 1 Sam. 21:1, it is at Nob, then moved to Gibeon.
- **United Monarchy**: David takes the Ark to Jerusalem, to the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite on Mt. Moriah. Later, Solomon builds a temple to house the Ark.

God's Glory and Solomon's Temple

2 Chronicles 7:1-2 – 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. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house.

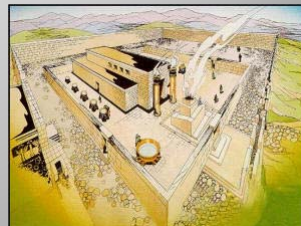


See also, 1 Kings 8:4-14.

God's Glory Departs under the kings.

Phase 1: The glory cloud leaves the Holy of Holies.

Ezekiel 9:3 – *Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house.*



Ezekiel 10:4 – *And the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the Lord.*

God's Glory Departs under the kings.

Phase 2: The glory cloud goes to the east gate door.

Ezekiel 10:18-19 – *Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.*

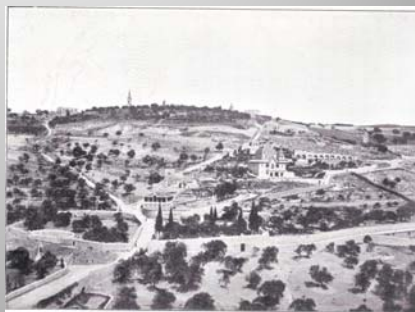


And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out.... And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

God's Glory Departs under the kings.

Phase 3: God's glory goes up to the Mt. of Olives.

Ezekiel 11:22-23 – *Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain [Mt. of Olives] that is on the east side of the city.*



But God promises his glory will return in the latter days (Eze. 11:17-20; 43:2-5).

After the exile God's glory did not return.

Haggai 2:3-5 – *'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? Yet now be strong....*

Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.



The temple treasures were carried away by Nebuchadnezzar, and then returned after the exile.

Fast-Forward to New Testament Times!

c.a. 440 BC to 4 AD

Jesus is the new expression of God's Shekinah-Glory

John 1:14 – *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ["tabernacled" among us], and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*



God's Glory is Revealed in the Transfiguration

Mark 9:2a – *After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.*

Appearing on a mountain similar to Sinai.

Mark 9:2b-3 – *He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.*

Appearing as a pillar of fire.

Mark 9:7 – *And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."*

Appearing as a cloud of glory.

God's Glory and Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4 – When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Wind is similar to the activity around Sinai.

And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

Divided tongues are similar to pillar of fire.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit

Body is similar to tabernacle and temple.

God's glory and persecution

Acts 7:55-56 – But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."



God's Glory in the Face of Christ

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*



God's Glory in Heaven

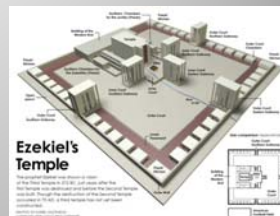
Revelation 21:3 – *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.*



God's Glory Fills the Whole Earth?

Numbers 14:21 – *But truly, as I live...all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.*

Ezekiel 43:2-5 – *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. And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city,... As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.*



What do we do with this?

1 Cor. 10:31 – *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Cor. 6:20 – *You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

1 Peter 4:16 – *If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*



A Biblical Study of God's Glory



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Select References

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