



SURPRISE

Ezekiel

And there it goes . . . [Ezekiel 10]

A. The Glory of God Departs the Temple

The departure of the glory of the Lord begins with the movement of the cherubim and the wheels from the temple to the east gate. This gradual departure was a consequence of the corruption and sin within Jerusalem and Judah. However, there is hope for the return of God's glory in the future, when the nation has been fully cleansed.

B. Jesus and the Glory of God

[1] REVELATION [Disclosure] [John 1:14](#)

[2] DEMONSTRATION [Proof] [Matthew 17:2](#)

[3] ASSOCIATION [Common Pursuit] [John 17:5](#)

[a] DECLARATION [Matthew 3:16-17](#)

[b] RECONCILIATION [Hebrews 1:1-3](#)

[4] MANIFESTATION [Power] [Matthew 24:30](#)

C. What is God going to do? [Ezekiel 43:1-5]

RESTORATION [HOPE]

Ezekiel saw the marvelous glory of God coming from the east, entering the east gate, and completely filling the temple. It caused the entire land to become radiant with God's glory. The sound of its coming was just like the sound of rushing water Ezekiel had heard coming from the cherubim's wings in the previous visions of God's glory (cf. 1:24). God had indeed returned to dwell among his people! [EBC]

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1] In what ways did Jesus demonstrate the glory of God during his earthly ministry? How do the passages in Matthew 17:2 and John 17:5 reveal the glory of God in Jesus?

2] How does the manifestation of God's power in Hebrews 1:1-3 relate to the glory of God? How does Jesus' role as the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature impact our understanding of God's glory?

3] How does the understanding of God's glory challenge our understanding of success, fame, and significance? How can we align our lives with God's glory rather than seeking our own glory?

4] Pray for a deeper understanding of the glory of God and how it impacts our worship, our relationships, and our mission as a Church.

Ezekiel 10:15-20 15 And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal. 16 And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them. 17 When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them.

18 Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. 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. 20 These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the Chebar canal; and I knew that they were cherubim. 21 Each had four faces, and each four wings, and underneath their wings the likeness of human hands. 22 And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the Chebar canal. Each one of them went straight forward.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 17:2 And He was transfigured [metamorphoo - to transform] before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Matthew 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Hebrews 1:1-3 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, . . .

Ezekiel 43:1-5 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.