

Recovering the Shekinah Glory of God



1. The Promise of God's Glory

'For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.' (Hab 2:14)

- a. What an amazing promise! This means that in the last days, there will be an invasion of God's glory on the earth on a global scale. How does the water cover the sea? Is there any dry spot anywhere on the ocean floor? So, in the last days, the flood of God's glory will invade every corner of the earth! Jesus said, *'Harvest is the end of the age.'* (Matt 13:39)
- b. How is God going to fulfil this promise? By partnering with His people – the Church. God will have for Himself a special people who will be walking in spiritual sensitivity and authority, and carry His glory to the ends of the earth. A lukewarm church, compromising church, and the disobedient church will not be able to carry His glory. The weight of God's glory will crush them. The glorious end-time church will be marked by holiness and separation from the world, abandonment of self, and radical obedience to the Lord.

2. What is God doing on the earth today? (Hagg 2:6-9)

- a. God is shaking heaven, the earth, the sea, and the dry land. God is shaking the nations. There are 195 nations on earth today. There is not one nation unshaken. Shaking will only intensify. Jesus spoke of pestilences as a sign of the last days (c.f. Matt 24:7). Why is God doing this? The writer of Hebrews gives us the reason why God is doing this. So that after everything is shaken, only that which cannot be shaken will remain, stay, abide – and emerge (Heb 12:27). God is conditioning the world for the final harvest of souls.
- b. God says, *'and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations.'* (2:7). There are two ways to translate this verse. 'What is desired of all nations will come,' (NIV) or 'the nations will come to the LORD who is the Desire of All Nations' (NKJV). How will the Lord become so desirable to the nations of the earth? God will reveal the beauty and the glory of Jesus Christ in His temple.

Question: Is Jesus Christ the desire of your heart? Are you fascinated with His beauty? (C.f. Song of Songs)

- c. There are three things God is doing for the church as He is shaking the nations:
 - (i) God will fill His temple with His glory (2:7). As God fills His temple with His glory, two other things follow the glory.
 - (ii) *'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts (armies) (2:8)* – The Lord will arise in the battle in the realm of finance, and bless His people so that we can get on with the work of the harvest – There is an intense battle in the realm of finance.
 - (iii) *'And in this place, I will give peace.'* (2:9) The world will be desperately looking for peace - a rare commodity in the last days. But they will not find it in the systems of this world. Do you have peace in your heart? The perfect peace will be found in the house of God. Because the house of God will be filled with His glory, i.e., God's tangible presence. They will find perfect peace in the house of God. 'Shalom' means completeness and wholeness, nothing missing, nothing broken.
 - (iv) God puts a special emphasis on His glory in the last days. *'The glory of the latter temple will be greater than the former.'* The glory of God manifest under the old covenant was glorious. But the glory of God to manifest in the new covenant will be even greater.

Question: Is Jesus Christ the focused desire of your heart? Is your heart fascinated with the glory and the beauty of Jesus? This is how God trains your heart to carry His glory.

3. The Glory Cloud of God in the Old Testament

'Shekinah Glory' in Hebrew etymology: 'Glory' in Hebrew is 'kabod' meaning heavy or weighty. The Hebrew word 'shakan' means 'to settle down to remain', 'to abide' or 'to permanently stay'. Hence, 'Shekinah glory' came to be known as the 'abiding and manifest glory of God.'

- a. What did this Shekinah glory look like?

The first appearance of the phrase, 'the glory of the Lord' was in the wilderness when Israel was complaining against God because they were hungry (Ex 16:7, 10) *'And in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD...they looked toward the wilderness and behold the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.'*

The glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The second appearance was at Mt Sinai (Ex 24:16-17). *'Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it six days...Now the sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.'*

The glory cloud rested on Mt Sinai and its appearance was like a consuming fire. It reminds us of 'the pillar of cloud & the pillar of fire.'

- b. The Lord's presence was in the cloud. The Lord looking through the cloud (Ex. 14:24-25). In the desert, the glory of God provided shade from the heat during the day, and light and warmth from dropping temperature during the night (Ex 13:21-22). At the Red Sea, the glory of God became the source of light and darkness between Israel and the Egyptian army. (Ex 14:19-20)

4. What Glory Cloud meant for God's People

- a. **Protection** from the harsh uninhabitable environment of the desert for 40 years - protection against sunstroke and cold nights. The glory of God was the biggest reverse cycle air conditioner in the middle of the desert, large enough to cater for 2-3 million people (Ex 13:21-22).
- b. **Deliverance** from the Egyptian army who was pursuing them to annihilate them. The glory of the Lord moved from the front to the back of the camp of Israel, and provided light to God's people and darkness to the enemy, so the Egyptians could not attack Israel (Ex 14:19-20).
- c. **Judgement** on the enemies of God's people. The Lord routed the Egyptian army as He looked out of the pillar of fire and cloud (Ex 14:24-25).
- d. **Healing** of bitter water – Marah, *'If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.'* (Ex 15:26)
- e. **Provision** of bread in the morning and meat in the evening enough for 2-3 million people every day for 40 years (Ex 16:10-14).
- f. **Revelation** – Moses received the Ten Commandments and instructions on how to build the tabernacle (Ex 24:16-17).
- g. **Guidance** - People of Israel moved when the glory cloud moved, and they stopped when the glory cloud stopped (Ex 40:36-38).

5. Lessons on the Glory of God

- a. Everything they needed was in the glory cloud of God's presence. There was nothing they lacked so long as the cloud of God's glory was with them. 'El Shaddai' means 'God, more than enough.'
- b. They had to learn to organise their life around the glory of the Lord, not the other way around. *Israelites had to honour the presence of the Lord over comfort and convenience.* Following the Lord is not convenient to our schedule. We do not accommodate God's presence according to our schedule, but we follow God's schedule. Israel camped when the glory cloud rested and they marched when the glory cloud moved (Ex 40:36-38).
- c. Holiness individually and as a group. *'...when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. For the LORD your God moves about your camp to protect you...Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.'* (Deut 23:13)

What kind of people is God looking for? *'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'* (Is 66:1-2)

6. The Glory Cloud in the Old Testament

Represents the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. Israel lost the glory of God through disobedience (Ez 10:1ff), but that glory has returned with Jesus' coming amongst us. E.g., At Mt Transfiguration, '*Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!' (Matt 17:5)*. Then after the resurrection of Jesus, in the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the Pentecost, the believers became the temple of the living God to host the glory of God individually (1 Cor 6:19) and corporately (1 Cor 3:16). '*To them God willed to make known, what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.' (Col 1:27)*

- a. We are living in a time of transition, and the shekinah glory of God will come back into our midst.

A dream by Paul K concerning 2021-2022 as a major transition period in the world.

In a dream, I was on the coastal highway in Israel that connects Haifa and Jerusalem. Suddenly an old prophet of the Lord came out of the bush and spoke to me, 'The day is coming when it will be difficult for the Jews in Israel to meet in synagogues.' (This was 8+ years ago, and it is happening in Israel now because of the pandemic.) I was so alarmed that this could happen in Israel. Europe might be understandable, but Israel? I pressed the old prophet for more detail and a timeline. He did not want to say too much, but he admitted 2021-2022 to be the transitional years that will accelerate the world toward the end-time events for Israel and the church. 2021-2022 is not the end of the world, but it is a major transition period. Sept 2021 – Sept 2022 is Jubilee year.

- b. I am watching the shifts in these areas:

- (i) shaking of the world economy
- (ii) geopolitical power shift (military shifts)
- (iii) civil unrest increasing in the nations of the world

I believe that after this period of transition there will be increasing deception and persecution, but the glory of God will return to His church. We will have everything that we need to get the job done. Already we see that communism and Islam are getting mixed in Europe and the Middle East. The power of the free west is being shaken and will not be able to withstand the rising tide of the world powers.

Who will resist the rising tide of evil? It will be the Church of Jesus Christ rising in glory and divine authority. We need to seek the face of the Lord to recover the glory of God and divine authority in the church. (Ps 110:1-2 C.f. Heb 12:22-24)

'...On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' (Matt 16:18 c.f. 18:18-19).

7. Prophecy by Kenneth E. Hagin - Houston, Texas (1980's)

I am going to take you on into My power. You've only touched the outside realm; just the edge. A few men stepped a little further, and momentarily had a manifestation of divine power in their ministries. Even the dead on many occasions Have been raised, and great miracles of healing have happened.

But no man has ever stepped into that realm to abide and minister.

I'm preparing a group in this day, who without fear and in faith, will step out of the natural. They will step out beyond human mentality; step out beyond the physical senses; step over into the realm of faith; step into the realm of power and glory. And My glory, saith the Lord, shall be made manifest unto thee. And many who will doubt, I'll even visit them. And the visible cloud of the Lord shall even come into visible contact with them. And they'll say, 'Surely the Lord is at work.