

2 Chronicles 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

Analysis

The climax of temple dedication: 'So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.' The divine glory (kavod YHWH) so overwhelmed the space that priests couldn't function. This manifestation validated the temple as God's dwelling place, echoing the tabernacle's dedication (Exodus 40:34-35). The inability to minister shows that divine presence transcends human activity - God's glory isn't produced by ritual but sovereignly given. This anticipates the greater glory when God's fullness dwells bodily in Christ (Colossians 2:9) and through the Spirit in believers corporately (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Historical Context

This dramatic moment (c. 960 BCE) marked Israel's worship reaching its zenith. The Shekinah glory's visible manifestation, though eventually departing due to sin (Ezekiel 10), established the temple's legitimacy and shaped Israel's theology of divine presence for centuries.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When have you experienced God's presence so powerfully that normal religious activity seemed secondary?
2. How does understanding that God's glory now fills the church (not a building) change your view of corporate worship?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	יכל	וְלֹא	לְעָם	וְלֹא	לְשָׁרֶת	מִפְנֵי	הַעֲנָה
H3808	could	So that the priests	not stand	to minister	by reason	of the cloud	
	H3201	H3548	H5975	H8334	H6440	H6051	
כִּי	מַלְאָךְ	כְּבוֹד	יְהֹוָה	אֵת	בֵּית	בְּאֱלֹהִים:	
H3588	had filled	for the glory	of the LORD	H853	the house	of God	
	H4390	H3519	H3068		H1004	H430	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:35 (Glory): And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1 Kings 8:11 (Glory): So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:2 (Glory): And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

Revelation 15:8 (Glory): And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plaques of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Ezekiel 10:4 (Glory): Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory.

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

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