

2 Chronicles 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Analysis

The dramatic theophany 'when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house' validates both the temple and Solomon's reign through visible divine approval. Fire from heaven consuming sacrifice signifies God's acceptance (cf. Leviticus 9:24, 1 Kings 18:38). The consuming fire symbolizes God's holy wrath satisfied by substitutionary sacrifice - pointing to Christ bearing God's wrath on the cross. The glory filling the house demonstrates God's covenant presence. This dramatic moment cannot be repeated through human effort; it's pure divine initiative.

Historical Context

This spectacular manifestation (c. 960 BCE) marked the temple as God's chosen dwelling place. Subsequent worship would continue in this sanctified space, but this unique authentication established the temple's legitimacy for centuries.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does fire consuming the sacrifice point to Christ's complete satisfaction of God's wrath toward sin?
2. What difference does it make that God's glory now dwells in believers individually and the church corporately, rather than a physical temple?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל זֶה	שְׁלֹמֹה	לְהִתְפַּלֵּל ל	וְהָאֵשׁ	יָרְדָה
had made an end	Now when Solomon	of praying	the fire	came down
H3615	H8010	H6419	H784	H3381
מִהַשָּׁמַיִם	וַתֹּאכַל	הַעֹלָה	וְהַזִּבְחִים	וְכָבֹד
from heaven	and consumed	the burnt offering	and the sacrifices	and the glory
H8064	H398	H5930	H2077	H3519
יְהוָה	אֶת	מִלֵּא	הַבַּיִת:	
of the LORD	filled	H853	the house	
H3068	H4390		H1004	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:38 (Sacrifice): Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Chronicles 21:26 (Sacrifice): And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

1 Kings 18:24 (References Lord): And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

Genesis 15:17 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

Ezekiel 44:4 (Glory): Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face.

Ezekiel 43:5 (Glory): So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Judges 6:21 (References Lord): Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.