

2 Chronicles 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD,
because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

Analysis

And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Divine acceptance with conditional covenant warnings. The Chronicler presents Solomon's faithfulness in temple building and worship as paradigmatic for post-exilic Israel. Unlike the Kings account which includes Solomon's failures, Chronicles emphasizes his positive example during his faithful years.

Theologically, the passage demonstrates that wholehearted seeking of God results in His manifest blessing and presence. The temple construction and dedication represent the climax of God's dwelling with Israel, foreshadowing the incarnation when God would dwell among humanity in Christ. The elaborate preparations and careful adherence to divine pattern emphasize that worship must occur on God's terms.

Cross-references to the tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17), and Messianic prophecies illuminate how Solomon's temple points toward Christ as the true meeting place between God and humanity. The material glory of Solomon's kingdom anticipates the greater glory of the Messianic age.

Historical Context

The reign of Solomon (970-930 BCE) represents Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity. The temple construction began in Solomon's fourth year (966 BCE), exactly 480 years after the Exodus according to 1 Kings 6:1. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective (450-400 BCE), emphasizing themes relevant to the restored community: temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Archaeological evidence confirms Solomon's extensive building projects and international trade relationships. The temple's design incorporated Phoenician architectural elements, evidenced by parallel structures discovered in Syria and Lebanon. Solomon's alliance with Hiram of Tyre provided both materials (Lebanese cedar) and craftsmen for the construction.

The post-exilic audience, having returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple, needed encouragement that God's presence and blessing could be restored through faithful worship. The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as paradigmatic—when leaders and people seek God wholeheartedly, He dwells among them and prospers them.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen understanding of God's presence as the source of true blessing and success?
2. What does this passage teach about the importance of following God's prescribed patterns in worship and service?
3. How does Solomon's example in God's Glory Fills Temple point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	יָכֹלוּ	הַכֹּהֲנִים	לָבֹא	אֶל	בֵּית	יְהוָה:	כִּי
H3808	could	And the priests	not enter	H413	house	of the LORD	H3588
	H3201	H3548	H935		H1004	H3068	
מִלֵּא	כְבוֹד	יְהוָה:	אֶת	בֵּית	יְהוָה:		
had filled	because the glory	of the LORD	H853	house	of the LORD		
H4390	H3519	H3068		H1004	H3068		

Additional Cross-References

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 plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

2 Chronicles 5:14 (Glory): 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.

Exodus 24:17 (Glory): And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.