

2 Chronicles 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

The people's response to divine glory: 'And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.' Seeing God's glory produced immediate worship - bowing (kara), worshiping (hishtachavu), and praising (yadah). Their confession 'he is good; for his mercy endureth forever' became Israel's characteristic praise refrain. This demonstrates that encountering God's glory naturally produces humble worship and thanksgiving. The gospel produces similar response - seeing Christ's glory (John 1:14) leads to worship and proclamation of His goodness.

Historical Context

The entire assembly's unified worship (c. 960 BCE) following the fire and glory created a defining moment in Israel's history. This mass recognition of God's presence and praise established patterns for subsequent generations of worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. When did you last encounter God's glory in a way that produced spontaneous worship and thanksgiving?
2. How can corporate worship recapture the sense of encountering God's presence that leads to bowing in humble adoration?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל לַיְלָא H3605	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל H1121	וַיֵּרְאוּ H3478	בָּרָךְ דָּת רָאִים H7200	בָּרָךְ דָּת H3381	הָאֵשׁ H784
And when	all the children	of Israel	saw	came down	how the fire
וְכָב וְדָוָה H3519	לִיהוָה H3068	עַל H5921	הַבַּיִת H1004	וַיִּכְרְעוּ H3766	
and the glory	of the LORD	upon the house	they bowed		
אִפְּסֵיהֶם H639	אֶרְצָה H776	עַל H5921	הַרְצָפָה H7531	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ H7812	
themselves with their faces	to the ground	upon the pavement	and worshipped		
וְהִדּוּ H3034	לִיהוָה H3068	כִּי H3588	טוֹב H2896	כִּי H3588	לְעוֹלָם H5769
and praised	of the LORD	saying	For he is good	endureth for ever	
חֲסִידוֹ H2617					
for his mercy					

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 5:13 (Grace): It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

2 Chronicles 20:21 (Grace): And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Isaiah 63:7 (Resurrection): I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

Luke 1:50 (Grace): And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Exodus 4:31 (Worship): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Ezra 3:11 (Grace): And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.