

Exodus 40:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Analysis

THE CLIMAX: 'Then a cloud covered the tent...and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle' (וַיָּכֹבֵד הָעָנָן...וְכֹבֵד יְהוָה מְלָא) vayekhas he'anah...ukhevod YHWH male). The cloud (עֲנָן, anan) manifests divine presence (Exodus 13:21-22; 19:9; 24:15-18); the glory (כֹּבֵד, kavod, weighty, glorious presence) indicates God's full dwelling. The verb מָלָא (male, filled) means filled completely—every space indwelt. This fulfills God's Exodus purpose: deliver Israel to dwell among them (Exodus 29:45-46). The glory's filling parallels Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:10-11), Christ's incarnation (John 1:14, ἐσκήνωσεν, tabernacled), and Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4).

Historical Context

The glory cloud's descent crowned nearly one year at Sinai (Exodus 19:1 to 40:17). This visible divine presence, guiding Israel's travels (v. 36-38), demonstrated God fulfilling covenant promises—He would be their God, dwelling among them (Exodus 6:7; 29:45). The cloud's covering and glory's filling were simultaneous, showing external and internal divine presence.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's glory filling the tabernacle fulfill His Exodus purpose to dwell among His redeemed people?
2. What does the progression—Sinai theophany, tabernacle glory, Solomon's temple, Christ's incarnation, Pentecost—reveal about God's dwelling purpose?

Interlinear Text

וְכָבֵד	וְכָבֵד	אַתָּה	אֶת	הַלְּאֵלָה	מִזְבֵּחַ	מִזְבֵּחַ	וְכָבֵד
covered	Then a cloud	H853	the tent	of the congregation	and the glory		
H3680	H6051		H168	H4150		H3519	
הַמִּשְׁקָן	אַתָּה	מִלְּאָכִילָה					
of the LORD	filled	H853	the tabernacle				
H3068	H4390		H4908				

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 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.

Exodus 14:24 (References Lord): And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

Exodus 29:43 (Glory): And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.

Exodus 33:9 (Temple): And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

Leviticus 16:2 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Revelation 21:3 (Temple): And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Isaiah 6:4 (Parallel theme): And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

2 Chronicles 5:13 (References Lord): 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;

Haggai 2:7 (Glory): And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.