

Ezekiel 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face.

Analysis

The 'glory of the LORD' appearing to Ezekiel in the plain mirrors his earlier vision by Chebar, confirming divine consistency. God's glory manifests wherever He chooses, not confined to temple or territory. Ezekiel's falling on his face represents appropriate creature response to Creator glory—worship, awe, and recognition of unworthiness. The repetition of the earlier vision validates its reality and emphasizes God's continued presence with exiles despite Jerusalem's temple being intact but doomed.

Historical Context

This second vision of divine glory (the first in 1:4-28) occurred in the Babylonian plain, far from Jerusalem. Traditional Jewish theology tied God's presence to the temple, yet here His glory manifests in exile territory. This revolutionized understanding of divine presence—God transcends geography. The dating places this around 593 BC, several years before Jerusalem's destruction (586 BC).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1. How does God's glory appearing in Babylon challenge our assumptions about where we can encounter His presence?
2. What does Ezekiel's falling on his face teach us about proper response to encountering God's glory?

וָאֲקוּם	וָאֲצֵא	אֶל	הַבִּקְעָה	וְהִנֵּה	שָׁם
Then I arose	and went forth		into the plain		
H6965	H3318	H413	H1237	H2009	H8033

Ezekiel 1:28 (Glory): As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

Revelation 1:17 (Parallel theme): And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Acts 7:55 (Glory): But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,