

Ezekiel 43:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.

Analysis

In Ezekiel's temple vision, he witnesses God's glory returning: 'And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.' The glory that departed the temple (10:18-19, 11:23) now returns from the east—the same direction it departed. The 'noise of many waters' describes the thunderous sound accompanying divine presence (compare Revelation 1:15, 14:2, 19:6). The earth shining with God's glory depicts overwhelming radiance transforming the environment. This vision parallels Christ's transfiguration (Matthew 17:2) and anticipates the New Jerusalem needing no sun because God's glory illuminates it (Revelation 21:23). The return of glory validates restoration—God's presence with His people is fully restored.

Historical Context

God's glory departed the temple before Jerusalem's destruction (chapters 8-11), around 592 BC. The vision of glory's return came later in Ezekiel's ministry (circa 573 BC, Ezekiel 40:1). This assured exiles that despite the temple's physical destruction (586 BC), God would return to dwell with His people. The second temple, built by returned exiles (completed 516 BC), lacked the visible glory cloud that filled Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:10-11), disappointing many (Haggai 2:3). Yet prophets assured that future glory would exceed former glory (Haggai 2:9). Ultimate fulfillment came when Jesus (God's glory incarnate, John 1:14) entered

the second temple, and supremely when the Spirit filled the church at Pentecost (Acts 2), making believers God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of God's glory returning after judgment encourage you during seasons when His presence seems absent?
2. In what ways do you see God's glory dwelling with His people fulfilled in Christ and the church?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 18:1 (Glory): And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power: and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Isaiah 6:3 (Glory): And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ezekiel 11:23 (Glory): And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.

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.

Ezekiel 10:4 (Glory): Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory.

Revelation 1:15 (Parallel theme): And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Ezekiel 3:23 (Glory): 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.

Ezekiel 1:24 (Parallel theme): And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Revelation 14:2 (Parallel theme): And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Revelation 21:23 (Glory): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.