

Ezekiel 44:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face.

Analysis

Ezekiel's response to God's glory—"I looked, and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face"—demonstrates proper reaction to divine majesty. The Hebrew קָבוֹד (kavod, 'glory') connotes weightiness, splendor, overwhelming presence. Ezekiel's prostration expresses reverence, humility, and awe. This isn't casual observation but transformative encounter. The house's filling recalls Solomon's temple dedication when glory filled the temple so densely that priests couldn't minister (1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14). Reformed theology emphasizes that genuine encounter with God produces humility, not presumption. Isaiah, Daniel, and John similarly fell prostrate before divine glory (Isaiah 6:5, Daniel 10:9, Revelation 1:17). Worship without awe indicates spiritual blindness.

Historical Context

God's glory filling Solomon's temple marked divine approval and presence (2 Chronicles 7:1-3). That glory later departed due to Israel's sin (Ezekiel 10:18-19, 11:22-23)—tragic but necessary. This vision (Ezekiel 43:2-5) promised glory's return after exile's purging. The filling demonstrates God's acceptance of the restored temple and renewed relationship. The Hebrew concept of glory combines visible manifestation (cloud, fire) and intrinsic divine majesty. Ancient Near Eastern temples claimed divine presence, but Israel's God actually appeared in confirming glory. The New Testament shows glory in Christ—"we beheld his glory"

(John 1:14); in the church—'the glory of the LORD has risen upon you' (Isaiah 60:1-2); and ultimately in heaven—'the city had no need of the sun... for the glory of God did lighten it' (Revelation 21:23).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When did you last fall on your face before God's glory versus approaching Him casually?
2. How does Ezekiel's response challenge contemporary worship's entertainment focus rather than awe-filled reverence?
3. What would change in your life if God's glory 'filled your house' (life, family, church) as it filled the temple?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יִתְּ פָּנִים:	אַל	בְּאָפָון	שֵׁעָר	דָּרְכָה	וַיִּבְיאָהָנִי	וְיִבְיאָהָנִי	וְיִבְיאָהָנִי	וְיִבְיאָהָנִי
Then brought	he me the way	gate	of the north	H413	before	the house		
H935	H1870	H8179	H6828		H6440	H1004		
בְּ יִתְּ אַתְּ רָאָה	וְיִהְיֶה הַ	מִלְאָה	וְיִהְיֶה הַ	כְּבוֹד	וְיִהְיֶה הַ	אַתְּ	בְּ יִתְּ	בְּ יִתְּ
and I looked	H2009	filled	H4390	and behold the glory	H3519	of the LORD	H853	the house
H7200							H1004	
בְּ יִתְּ הַ	וְיִהְיֶה הַ	אַל	תִּאָפֵל	אַל	פָּנִים:			
of the LORD	and I fell	H413	before	H6440				
H3068	H5307							

Additional Cross-References

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:

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 40:20 (Parallel theme): And the gate of the outward court that looked toward the north, he measured the length thereof, and the breadth thereof.

Ezekiel 40:40 (Parallel theme): And at the side without, as one goeth up to the entry of the north gate, were two tables; and on the other side, which was at the porch of the gate, were two tables.

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.