

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 10 – The Glory of God Departed!

April 1, 2025

The glory of God departed? How? Why?

The book of Ezekiel opens with the thirtieth year of Ezekiel's life when God called him into ministry. Ezekiel was 25 years old when he and his wife (mentioned in Eze. 24:15-27) were among 10,000 Jewish people taken captive to Babylon.

We read in Eze. 1:4 that as Ezekiel looked to the north, he noticed an approaching thunderstorm. In the storm we read of a big cloud, strong winds, and flashing lightning – depicting judgment. In Eze. 1:26 Ezekiel saw the likeness of a throne. We see God's throne room in Rev. 4 & 5 prior to judgment being released (Rev. 6-19)!!

In Ezekiel we read of another order of angelic beings (seen as four living creatures in Eze. 1 and identified as cherubim in Eze. 10).

Summary: the cherubim have special access to God and are bearers of God's throne-chariot (Eze. 1:5-8; I Chron. 28:18 – the cherubim above the ark are called the chariot [!?!]). WHY does God have a chariot? It's been suggested that the chariot going in four directions in the first chapter of Ezekiel depicts God's judgment moving where He is to judge.

Eze. 8:1 – The hand of the Lord fell upon Ezekiel and the Spirit lifted this prophet up and brought him in visions of God to Jerusalem. As Ezekiel was transported to Jerusalem (Eze. 3:14; 11:1, 24; 37:1; 43:5), his physical body remained in Babylon.

The prophet “landed” at the entrance to the north gate of the inner court of the temple. Beside the north entrance to the inner court was the idol that provokes to jealousy/the idol of jealousy (Eze. 8:5). God was being provoked to jealousy because foreign gods – idols were receiving honor and worship from those in Judah/in Jerusalem at the temple. God alone is worthy of worship!

Eze. 8:4-10 - *And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there.* God revealed to Ezekiel that great abominations were occurring in God's house, which God called “My sanctuary” (v. 6). These great abominations are noted in v. 10 – *every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.* And so we read of... the departure of the glory of God!

The glory of God filling the tabernacle in the wilderness in Moses' day (Ex. 40:34-38), and filling the temple in Solomon's day (I Kings 8:10-11)...depicting God's favor/God's approval...God's presence!

The withdrawal of God's presence in Ezekiel's day marks a reversal of His divine favor, highlighting the severity of Israel's disobedience.

Eze. 9:3 - The glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple. The departure of the glory of the Lord from Israel is of significant impact; therefore, Ezekiel traces it carefully in its different stages (Eze. 9:3; 10:18-19; 11:23 – read stages of departure).

Eze. 11:23 - *And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.* In Ezekiel's vision, we are left viewing the glory of the LORD hovering over the Mt. of Olives. Did God pause on the Mt. of Olives? Why?

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In Zech. 9:9 we read, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.* The King of the Jews, Jesus, began His entrance to Jerusalem on the mountain...the Mt. of Olives...on the east side of the city of Jerusalem.

Proclamation Day - Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt of a donkey. Here we see "Messiah the Prince," as Daniel had described (Dan. 9:25) And, what a perfect time to proclaim Himself. Jerusalem was crowded with Jewish people. Why? In Deut. 16:16 we read that God told all Jewish men in the known world to appear before Him in Jerusalem three times each year - at the Feast of Passover, at the Feast of Weeks (which the Church knows as Pentecost), and at the Feast of Tabernacles. Jewish men often traveled to Jerusalem for these feasts with their families (Lk. 2:41-42). The Jewish population at Passover swelled to 2.5M.

The day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey was the day that Jewish people called "Lamb Selection Day" – the 10th day of the first month on the Jewish religious calendar. Exodus 12:1-5 tells us that at the first Passover in Egypt, God had commanded the Jewish people to take a lamb into each home on the 10th day of the first month. The lamb had to be a male of the first year, without spot/without blemish. Each family was to scrutinize their lamb to ensure that it was spotless! The lamb was inspected for 4 days and then if it met the criteria – no blemishes – it was slain on the 14th day of the first month – on the first day of Passover.

In the years following the first Passover in Egypt, the Israelites picked the lamb for their families on "Lamb Selection Day." All the pilgrims anxiously made their way into Jerusalem either with their lambs brought from home or they SELECTED a lamb from those sold in the temple! On the 10th day of the first month, the lambs that were going to be sacrificed in the Temple for Passover were brought into Jerusalem – to be selected/to be chosen. Jesus rode into Jerusalem...asking without words, "Will you choose Me as your Passover Lamb?"

John 12:12 tells us that the people took palm branches and went out to meet Jesus. Is that how Jewish people celebrated Passover? NO! God had instructed the children of Israel to gather branches for the Feast of Tabernacles when Jewish people were told to make booths (temporary dwelling places) for the purpose of looking forward to the time when God would dwell with

His people (Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:15). “To Tabernacle” means “to dwell.” The Feast of Tabernacles, which is the last feast God gave Israel, looks forward to the Millennial Kingdom...the Kingdom of God on earth when God will dwell with man...when the Messiah will reign from the throne of DAVID in Jerusalem (Ex. 25:8; Lev. 23:40; Luke 1:31-33).

The Jewish people at Passover were laying branches on the ground before Jesus. Jesus, in His journey to Jerusalem, was sending a message to the people – He came to die! And, they were hailing Him as KING...the One Who would DWELL with them as King in the Kingdom of God on earth – the Messianic Kingdom which they hoped would be at that time – at the time of Jesus! The Jewish people longed for the Messiah to overthrow Rome!

Luke 19:11 tells us that when they were nearing Jerusalem, the disciples thought that the Kingdom of God would appear immediately. There was no thought of the cross even though Jesus had told them He would be crucified (Matt. 16:21-23). It is here, in the journey to Jerusalem, that Jesus shared a parable with a kingdom theme (Lk. 19:12ff). Jesus told them of

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a nobleman who went into a “far country” (heaven) to receive a Kingdom. He told them that this nobleman would RETURN.

In Matt. 21:1-2 we read that at the Mount of Olives on the east side of the Mt. of Olives... sound familiar? The glory of God in Ezekiel’s day had ascended the Mt. of Olives. At the east side of the Mt. of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead to unloose TWO donkeys - a donkey and its colt - for His final entrance. The female adult donkey is known as “athown” in the Hebrew which means “to continue, permanence, chieftain, hard, mighty, rough, strength, and strong”. These are words for a leader. The donkey mentioned in the Gospels is the Eastern variety. This animal was much desired and known for its patience, gentleness, intelligence, submission, and great power of endurance. It was an animal of peace whereas the horse was an animal for war. The Hebrew word for the male colt is “chamor”. It comes from the root word, “chamar”. Chamar means, “foul, red, and trouble”. Jesus could have ridden on either of the animals, the adult or the colt...but Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem on the colt instead of the mother donkey. This colt was not yet broken – having been described as “on which no one has ever sat” (Lk. 19:30; Mk. 11:2). The CREATOR rode on the not yet broken colt! Of course, the text does not tell us that the colt resisted!

This colt represented “foul and trouble” describing what awaited Jesus and also represented the sins of the world that Jesus would bear. The colt was also described as “red”... perhaps speaking of the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God. Whereas the adult donkey represented a FUTURE event. Remember that one of the definitions of the adult donkey was “to continue”. This adult donkey foretold the second entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to begin the Millennium.

Jesus’ followers were exuberant – lining the roadway with their cloaks and palm branches – making a smooth path. “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Blessed is the King of

Israel! Hosanna in the highest.” “Hosanna” – hosha’na in Hebrew – means, “Save now!” (Psa. 118:25)

The glory of God departed through the east gate to the Mount of Olives. On “Lamb Selection Day,” Jesus, the glory of God, returned to the Mt. of Olives enroute to Jerusalem.

Jesus rode into His family – to be scrutinized by them for 4 days. AND, they found Him to be blameless – without blemish!! WHO found Jesus to be blameless? Herod, Pilate (Matt. 27:24b - *I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. Lk. 23:14-15* - *I have found no fault in this Man, neither did Herod*) the Sanhedrin (Matt. 26:59 - *Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death*); the thief on the cross (Lk. 23:40-42 - *this Man has done nothing wrong*); Judas (Matt. 27:4 - *I have sinned by betraying innocent blood*).

AND SO, Jesus...being found blameless.... On the 14th day of the first month, at 9 a.m. in the morning, AS the animal Passover lambs that were spotless were brought into the Temple to be slain, our perfect, spotless

Passover Lamb, Jesus, was nailed to a wooden cross. And, at 3 p.m., as the last animal Passover lamb was killed in the Temple, Jesus cried out on the cross, “It is finished”...and He gave up His spirit.

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In His death, Jesus had succeeded BEYOND anyone’s imagination. Jesus had conquered sin and death...death, the greatest oppressor (Heb. 2:14). Through His death and resurrection He gives us, those who believe Him - LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE.

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On that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, we hear Him crying out to His people, In Matt. 23:37-39 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more **till** you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem was triumphant – for the moment...(from a human perspective). Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is forever triumphant from God’s perspective! And, it cost God everything!

The Glory of God Returns

Jesus will return – in the future – at His physical Second Coming. The path of God’s departure through the east gate to the Mt. of Olives foreshadows the future return of God’s glory. In Messianic prophecy, Jesus’ feet will stand on the Mt. of Olives (Zech. 14:4). And He will establish the Millennial Kingdom and reign for 1,000 years seated on King David’s throne from Jerusalem – the Kingdom of God on earth – and Satan will be bound during Jesus’ reign on earth!

Eze. 43:1-5 - *Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the*

sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.³ It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. ⁴ And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. ⁵ The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Rev. 21:1-4 - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'

Rev. 22:1-5 - And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

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The new heaven and new earth/the New Jerusalem will be a place where God's people enjoy an eternal reign, serving God, in contrast to the limited duration of the Millennium. It will never end. RESTORATION!

QUESTIONS

What was new?

How has God impacted your life?