

Reflected Glory

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (KJV) Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT) But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away. Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be **mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord**. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

GLORY

Hebrew 'kabowd'

- heavy, weighty (impressive or awe-inspiring in human eyes)

Greek 'doxa'

- honor, worship (majesty associated with God's self-revelation)
- also has the meaning of "reflection" (woman is the glory of the man, woman's long hair is a glory to her)

Since the Ark of the Covenant is most commonly associated with the glory of God, let's study it today to see how we can have God's glory manifested among us.

The custom began immediately upon completion of Israel's tabernacle, as they watched God's pillar of cloud and fire settle over it. When God moved, they would sing ...

- **Numbers 10:35-36** And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

Later, the custom would be associated with the Ark of the Covenant, where God's presence dwelt. David first sang Psalm 68 when he brought the Ark back to Jerusalem, and the song was later immortalized as it was sung annually at the Feast of Pentecost ...

- **Psalm 68:1** Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

THE ARK

- Called Ark of Covenant, Ark of Testimony, Ark of God
- Construction detailed in Exodus 25
- Dimensions: 2 ½ cubits (45") long, 1 ½ cubits (27") wide and high
- Fourth dimension to ark: length X width X height X God!
- Wood overlaid with gold, rings and staves to carry it, mercy seat covered by cherubim, Shekinah presence of God (illuminated the Holy of Holies)
- God in cloud upon it (Lev. 16:2), God spoke from it (Num. 7:89)
- The ark still exists somewhere!
- The impressive thing about the Ark was not its construction, but the glory of God that rested upon it – they wanted God's glory to arise!

CONTENTS

- **MANNA** (what is it? / 40 years provision / taste! / Ex. 16:33-34) - REPRESENTS PROVISION
- **ROD OF AARON** (judgment on Korah's family, 250 offering incense, 14,700 died, Num. 17:10) - REPRESENTS JUDGMENT
- **TABLES OF THE COVENANT** (10 commandments / Ex. 25:16) - REPRESENTS COVENANT

Which was most important? COVENANT! When they sang "Arise oh Lord" it was not so much God's provision or even His judgment that sprang into action, but His covenant! THAT WAS ALWAYS ENOUGH!

At the dedication of the Temple, all that was left in the Ark (after its captivity) was the tables of the covenant – but the glory of God still fell!

1 Kings 8:9-11 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 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; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

2 Chronicles 7:1-2 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What were the people doing when the glory of the Lord filled the Temple? What does that mean to us today?

CONSTRUCTION

Exodus 25:17-24 (KJV) And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of **beaten work** shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubim shall **stretch forth their wings** on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; **toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.** And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and **in the ark thou shalt put the testimony** that I shall give thee. And **there I will meet with thee,** and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Beaten Work

- The hammer blows of life will bend us “Godward” if our responses to life’s challenges are right.
- PAUL AND SILAS WORSHIPPED A HOLE IN THE HEAVENLIES!

Stretch Forth Their Wings

- When the beaten wings of worshippers touch, they create a mercy seat for God!
- UNITY IS CRUCIAL!

Toward The Mercy Seat Shall The Faces Of The Cherubims Be

- We are not looking at each other (or at our faults) – we are looking at the presence of God! (mercy seat, not judgment seat)

In The Ark Thou Shalt Put The Testimony

- God’s glory only rests on His covenant!

There I Will Meet With Thee

Moses’ Prayer

Exodus 33:18-23 (KJV) And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

- MOSES’ PRAYER WAS NOT ANSWERED FOR 1500 YEARS!

Matthew 17:1-3 (KJV) And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Isaiah 6:1-3 (KJV) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

- Human throne must be empty to focus on God’s throne
- Whole earth is full of His glory – angels saw earth THROUGH glory!
- Seraphim means “shiny, fiery ones” – “reflecting angels”
- Holy, Holy, Holy – Hebrews has no superlatives, just repetition
- But what about ...? Holy! But what about ...? Holy! PERSPECTIVE!

Isaiah's Response To God's Glory

Isaiah 6:5-8 (NIV) "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

- Once you get a taste of God's glory you are ruined for anything else!
- The angels couldn't touch the coal off God's altar (used tongs), but it was put on the lips of man – and it loosed Isaiah's tongue!
- The power of God's presence was too hot for angels to handle – but it is given to us as the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 1:12 (KJV) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Isaiah 28:11-12 (KJV) For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

- THE HOLY GHOST IS HOW WE REFLECT GOD'S GLORY!

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT) But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away. Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be **mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord**. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

- THE GLORY OF GOD WILL FILL THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE REFLECT HIS GLORY.
- THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS NOT "COMING DOWN" – THE GLORY OF THE LORD MUST BE "COMING OUT" – OF US!