

## The Glory of God (Series 2): 6

### The House of His Glory

#### Isaiah 60.1-7

“All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, **And I will glorify the house of My glory.**” (vs7)

So far in our studies on the Glory we have only seen how God moves in His glory, His acts of glory and goodness towards us, It's all been about Him. Now I want to address what our responsibility is to the glory.

We have seen that the word glory means ‘**weighty**’ or ‘**heavy**’. Last time we were studying the ‘Riches of the Glory’ and briefly mentioned that precious metal such as gold or silver are valued by weight.

We have an expression in English which says that a person can be said to be ‘**worth his weight in gold**’ – this is used to talk about the usefulness, helpfulness and value of a person to you, it means that we regard that person highly or hold him in great esteem. That is how we ought to regard the glory of God – with great esteem, it is of great value, of extreme worth. We talk about God being worth-y.

### The House of His Glory

In Exodus we read that God gave Moses instructions for the construction of the tabernacle, for the making of the priestly garments, the holy anointing oil, how he should consecrate the priests for the work of ministry, the offerings that were to be brought, and how they were to conduct themselves around the tabernacle.

After that He promised that He would meet with His people at the tabernacle and sanctify it with His glory.

“**And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and *the tabernacle* shall be sanctified by My glory.**” Exodus 29.43

When we come together we should expect to meet with God and God promises to sanctify His house with His glory. He actually calls His house ‘**the House of My Glory**’ as we read in Isaiah 60.7

#### Exodus 40.33b-35

“...**So Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”**

- God gave Moses detailed instructions for the construction of the tabernacle.
- Moses followed those instructions to the letter (v16) and finished the work that God had told him to do.

- God was faithful to His word – the cloud appeared and covered the tabernacle and the glory of the Lord filled the place.
- Moses did exactly as God had instructed him, when we keep His commandments He manifests Himself to us (John 14.21)  
 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

## 2 Chronicles 5.11-14

“(11) And it came to pass when the priests came out of the *Most Holy Place* (for all the priests who *were* present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), (12) and the Levites *who were* the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets— (13) indeed it came to pass, when 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 music, and praised the LORD, *saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,"* that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, (14) so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.”

- The tabernacle was only meant to be a temporary place.
- Years after God’s people had entered the Promised Land, King David had a great desire to build God a house, a permanent dwelling place. But because of the sin regarding Bathsheba and Uriah, David was prevented from building it. (Many think it was because David was a warrior, but He was acting as God’s representative and protecting His people – the blood was Uriah’s and those who died with him in the battle)
- David could prepare for it but wasn’t allowed to build it, but God did allow Solomon his son, to build it.  
 “(5) Now David said, "Solomon my son *is* young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD *must be* exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death. (6) Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. (7) And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; (8) but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.'" 1 Chronicles 22.5-8

Vs 1 (2 Chronicles 5.1) says that Solomon finished the work of building the House of God.

- He put everything in its place, all the furnishings and the ark.
- Then they came together to praise the Lord with music and song and to meet with Him – then the glory of the Lord filled the place so that the priests could not continue ministering. (see AV – ‘they could not stand to minister’; the glory was so strong that fell prostrate under the power of it).

## 2 Chronicles 7.1-3

“When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshipped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever.””

Solomon prays a prayer of dedication (Ch 6). When Solomon had finished praying the glory of the Lord filled the House a second time, fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the glory was so strong that the priests could not enter the House of God.

(v3) Do you see the connection between the glory filling the house and their regard to it. They praised and worshipped God and the glory was manifest, when that happened they praised again. They bowed down with their faces to the ground.

When the glory falls, that is the time to worship and honour God, and the glory in the house of God. Reverence accompanies the manifestations of the glory.

## Exodus 33.9-10

“And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and *the LORD* talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing *at* the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door”

Do you see the words in vs10, ‘each man’; **2 Chronicles 5.13** says ‘were as one’ – we need to come as one, united. (Psalm 133) – where the brethren dwell together in unity, as one, there the Lord commands the Blessing.

When the glory is manifest it is not a time to talk to one another, clock-watch, thinking of lunch, weather or anything else. It's the time to praise, worship and honour God. It is time to highly regard the glory.

## Haggai 2.3

“*Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?*”

*Is this not in your eyes as nothing* – (oh that's just church! It's only the praise time, just another meeting), When we don't honour the House of His glory, we get ourselves into problems – and we will no longer see the manifestations of the glory.

## Haggai 1.3-14

The House of God was in run down and in ruins, yet the people themselves were living in paneled houses. They had forsaken the House of God, they considered it as nothing (they couldn't be bothered) and their own lives were being affected (vs6).

The attitude of many Christians needs to change in this respect – be on time, joining in, sacrificing, praying, giving our faith to the service, don't just follow a pattern but move

with the leading of the Holy Spirit. When we honour God and respect Him, God will honour that with His glory.

*Consider your ways* (v7) – we must treat His House and the services with respect and honour. Nothing should come before God and His House, not family, friends, shopping, tv, sport, bed – nothing.

What had happened in regard to the temple was exactly what the Lord told Solomon would happen

## **2 Chronicles 7.19-22**

“But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, <sup>(20)</sup> then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. <sup>(21)</sup> "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?' <sup>(22)</sup> Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.' ”

- The people had gone away from the Lord
- Worship and the upkeep of the temple had been neglected
- The temple had become a byword (it is as nothing)