

Psalm 22

The Presence of God in our Lives

The Glory Cloud

Exodus 3:2, 4-6 – The Burning Bush

² The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.

⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The fire in the burning bush is a representation of God's presence. This imagery will appear again in the NT.

Exodus 19:9-25 – Mount Saini

⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear when I speak with you and will always believe you." ¹⁶ On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn, so that all the people in the camp shuddered. ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the Lord came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

The Glory Cloud: dense, thick, smoke, fire in the midst, completely enveloped and caused the whole mountain to shake.

Exodus 20:1-21 – Mount Saini

¹⁸ All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the ram's horn, and the mountain surrounded by smoke. When the people saw it they trembled and stood at a distance. ²¹ And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the total darkness where God was.

The Glory Cloud: smoke and total darkness

Exodus 40:34-38 – Tabernacle

³⁴ The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey. ³⁷ If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey.

The Glory Cloud: covered, rested, over, of the Lord and fire inside.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 – Temple

¹³ The trumpeters and singers joined together to praise and thank the Lord with one voice. They raised their voices, accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, in praise to the Lord: For he is good; his faithful love endures forever. The temple, the Lord's temple, was filled with a cloud. ¹⁴ And because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the Lord filled God's temple.

The Glory Cloud: fills, cloud and filled.

1 Kings 8:10-11 – Temple

¹⁰ When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the Lord's temple, ¹¹ and because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

The Glory Cloud: filled, cloud and filled.

Where is the Glory Cloud in the New Testament?

How could something, like the Glory Cloud, be so instrumental in the life of the OT saints suddenly disappear in the NT? If you read Matthew 27 carefully and then Acts 2 you actually do see the Glory Cloud in the NT.

Matthew 27:45 – Cross

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness came over the whole land.

What is this darkness? Could this be the Glory Cloud?

Matthew 27:46 – Explains the Darkness

⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lemá sabachtháni?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

In this verse, that seems strange and out of place, Jesus explains the darkness. Psalm 22 handout.

Matthew 27:51 – Shows the Glory Cloud has left

⁵¹ Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

The curtain of the sanctuary was placed there to separate the holy place from the Holy of holies. Side note: the curtain was 30 feet high and 30 feet wide.

The Holy of Holies is where the Glory Cloud, presence of God, dwelled. The significance of the curtain being torn is to show us that the Glory Cloud, presence of God, had left the temple. So, where did it go? To the cross.

After the cross, where has the Glory Cloud gone?

When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. ³They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. ⁴Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.

If you remember back in Exodus some of the defining characteristics of the Glory Cloud was fire, it covered the mountain and it caused the mountain to shake. Why are those details important to remember? Because what we seen on Pentecost is “fire” coming, filling the whole house and a violent wind occurred.

Just as the Glory Cloud represented the presence of God...the tongues of fire on Pentecost represent the presence of God. The Glory Cloud, presence of God, is now filling believers just like the Glory Cloud filled the tabernacle and the temple in the OT.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – We are the temple of God

¹⁹Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

Other passages in the NT explain further that God the Holy Spirit now dwells in believers. And God specifically uses the phrase “temple of the Holy Spirit” to compare the Glory Cloud filling the Holy of holies in the temple.

2 Corinthians 6:16 – We are the temple of the Living God

¹⁶And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, as God said: I will dwell and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Here it is assumed that believers understand that they are the temple of God. The Glory Cloud, presence of God, now dwells in the temple (body) of believers.

Revelation 21:3-4 – In the Presence of God forever

³Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

A day is coming where we will physically dwell in God's presence. No more “symbols” of His presence. We will see His presence with our own eyes.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – The Results of Christ's Resurrection

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! ¹⁸Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, “Be

reconciled to God.”²¹ He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Through Christ we become reconciled to God. Reconciliation is an amazing doctrine. To think that a sinner can, not only, be made right with God but also become the righteousness of Christ.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ has done more than we can ever imagine this side of eternity. From the burning bush to the flames of fire at Pentecost we’ve only seen representations of God’s presence. But a day is coming when we will see God face to face. On that day we will be overwhelmed with the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (CSB): *Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand² and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.*

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (CSB): *¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, “There is no resurrection of the dead”?¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.¹⁵ Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised.¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.²² For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God has always been present with His people?
- ❖ Knowing that God the Father drew near to God the Son on the cross...how does that impact how you view that scene?
- ❖ How valuable is it for believers to remember that God is present with us today?
- ❖ How should God’s presence with His people impact our attitudes and actions?
- ❖ What are some ways we can acknowledge God’s presence in our lives?
- ❖ One day we will see our God face to face. How does that impact your hope today?
- ❖ How are embracing your ministry of reconciliation that has been given to you by God?

Psalm 22 (CSB)

¹My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? – Title Sentence

- Chapter and verse divisions didn't come into use until the 1200-1300s. So, how did people refer to sections of Scripture before chapters and verses? They quoted the first sentence to reference a Psalm or section of Scripture. Therefore, when Jesus is on the cross, He's referring the people, not to a singular verse, but to the entirety of what we call Psalm 22.

*Why are you so far from my deliverance
and from my words of groaning?*

*²My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
by night, yet I have no rest.*

Describing how a circumstance appears.

While on the cross, many thought hope was lost for Jesus.

³But you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

*⁴Our ancestors trusted in you;
they trusted, and you rescued them.*

*⁵They cried to you and were set free;
they trusted in you and were not disgraced.*

Describing the Reality of God.

God is holy, enthroned,
trusted, rescuer.

*⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by people.*

*⁷Everyone who sees me mocks me;
they sneer and shake their heads:*

*⁸"He relies on the Lord; let him save him;
let the Lord rescue him, since he takes pleasure in him."*

Description of how the world sees Him.

The people around the cross scorned
Jesus and mock Him.

*⁹It was you who brought me out of the womb,
making me secure at my mother's breast.*

*¹⁰I was given over to you at birth;
you have been my God from my mother's womb.*

*¹¹Don't be far from me, because distress is near
and there's no one to help.*

Description of current circumstance.

¹²Many bulls surround me; strong ones of Bashan encircle me.

¹³They open their mouths against me—lions, mauling and roaring.

*¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are disjointed;
my heart is like wax, melting within me.*

*¹⁵My strength is dried up like baked clay;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.*

*You put me into the dust of death. ¹⁶For dogs have surrounded me;
a gang of evildoers has closed in on me; they pierced my hands and my feet.*

¹⁷I can count all my bones; people look and stare at me.

*¹⁸They divided my garments among themselves,
and they cast lots for my clothing.*

Describing the reality of
the circumstance.

It appears that the
enemy has won the day.

¹⁹ But you, Lord, don't be far away.
My strength, come quickly to help me.
²⁰ Rescue my life from the sword,
my only life from the power of these dogs.
²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth,
from the horns of wild oxen.
You answered me!
²² I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
I will praise you in the assembly.
²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
All you descendants of Israel, revere him!

The Real cry for help
Jesus' cry was
completely answered.

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred
the torment of the oppressed.
He did not hide his face from him
but listened when he cried to him for help.

The Central Passage of Psalm 22

God the Father drew near to God the Son. Which
explains the darkness being the Glory Cloud.

²⁵ I will give praise in the great assembly
because of you;
I will fulfill my vows
before those who fear you.
²⁶ The humble will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord will praise him.
May your hearts live forever!

The Results of God drawing near
Just like the woman at the well.
All you drink will never thirst
again.

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember
and turn to the Lord.
All the families of the nations
will bow down before you,
²⁸ for kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules the nations.
²⁹ All who prosper on earth will eat and bow down;
all those who go down to the dust
will kneel before him—
even the one who cannot preserve his life.
³⁰ Their descendants will serve him;
the next generation will be told about the Lord.
³¹ They will come and declare his righteousness;
to a people yet to be born
they will declare what he has done.

Earthly reign
Jesus will reign.