

Nov 02, 2014



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
If created things are so utterly lovely, how gloriously beautiful must be He who made them! — Antony of Padua

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
For the beauty of each hour Hill and vale and tree and flower, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise. - Pierpoint

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.
(Ps 145:5 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Oct 25, 2012)

Series: Sustaining Hope

UNIT: Visions of Grandeur

NEXT WEEK

GOD'S GLORY FILLS THE TEMPLE PT 2
(Ezekiel 43:1-12)

God's Glory Fills the Temple Pt 1 Ezekiel 43:1-12

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson describes how **God's Glory Fills the Temple** and how Israel's disobedience led to God's departure and how their obedience led to His return. The **study's aim** is to grasp the severity of keeping God at a distance from us by sinning and neglecting our relationship with Him. The **study's application** is to ensure that we walk in fellowship with God and do all we can to protect the relationship we have in Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

In a vision, Ezekiel was taken on a journey. He had the opportunity to see the Lord's temple—not as it currently was but as it should be. In Ezekiel's time, the temple was full of sin and abominations that were displeasing to God. The Lord was telling the prophet that He was about to clean His house. God said to Ezekiel, "Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, . . . and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them" (Ezek. 43:10-11). God will not share His glory with another. Our God is holy. Our God is worthy of all the honor and the praise that we can offer Him. He is the King of kings. He is the Lord of lords. Our God is gracious and merciful, but He will not be mocked. He gave His most precious possession when He sent His Son to pay the price for our sins; therefore, He has high expectations of us. When His love captures our hearts, we no longer view His standard as a restriction or an obligation; rather, we live righteously out of our love for Him. There can be no new beginning without an ending. Just as the sunrise in the east announces the beginning of a new day, so the entrance of the glory of the Lord through the East Gate offers us hope for change. Ezekiel said, "So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house" (Ezek. 43:5). There must be a point of entrance for everything in our lives. Sometimes we look back and can pinpoint the moment that we opened the door to sin, to pain, and to the lies of the enemy. If we can open the door to the enemy of our souls, then we can also open a door in our heart to God. Jesus, speaking to believers in Revelation 3:20, says that He is standing at that door and knocking. He is waiting for us to open the door. Once we open the door to His glory in our lives, we can be forever transformed. "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 Cor. 3:18). The glory of the Lord came into the temple through the East Gate. The glory of the Lord comes into the temple of our lives when we confess our sins, let go of unforgiveness and bitterness, and trust Him to work everything out for our good. **Lord, come and cleanse us. Renew a right spirit within us (Ps 51:10), and allow Your glory to overtake us.**

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

1. The more we see of God's glory, the more we are humbled by Him (Ezek. 43:1-3)
2. The Lord always dwells with His people, no matter where they are (vss. 4-5)
3. We should be as desirous of living with God as He is of dwelling with us (vss. 6-7)
4. The holiness of God demands that His people separate themselves from sin (vss. 8-9)
5. Prophecy serves as a rebuke to lackadaisical attitudes toward serving God (vss. 10-11)
6. Holiness characterizes God and all He does, and it should mark His people (vs. 12)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE APPROACH OF THE GLORY (EZEK 43:1-5)

Sound of the glory (1-2)

Sounds like thunder (Ps 29:3)

Sounds like wings of the Cherubim (Ezek 10:5)

Sounds like a still small voice (1 Kings 19:11-14)

Sounds like loud rumbling (Ezek 3:12-13)

Sounds like harps (Rev 14:1-2)

Vision of the glory (3-4)

Visions of God's glory like glowing metal full of fire (Ezek 1:27-28)

Visions of God's glory like a bright cloud (Matt 17:5)

Visions of God's glory like a rainbow in the clouds (Ezek 1:28)

Visions of God's glory with Cherubim and Seraphs surrounding (Isa 6:1-3)

Spirit of glory (5)

The Spirit of glory provides power to witness (Acts 1:8)

The Spirit of glory is a gift from God (Acts 2:38)

The Spirit of glory speaks through His servants (Acts 4:25)

The Spirit of glory strengthens and encourages (Acts 9:31)

The Spirit of glory baptizes (Acts 11:16)

The Spirit of glory sanctifies (Rom 15:16)

THE EXPLANATION OF THE GLORY (EZEK 43:6-8)

Holiness of the glory (6-7)

Holy because His glory fills the earth (Isa 6:3)

Holy because He is majestic in His Holiness (Ex 15:11)

Holy because the heavens declare His Holiness (Ps 19:1)

Holy because He is Almighty and Everlasting (Rev 4:8)

Holy because He is holiness (1 Peter 1:15)

Holy because He is perfect (Matt 5:48)

Defilement that separated the glory (7-8)

Defilement comes from planning iniquity (Mic 2:1)

Defilement comes from our own evil desires, not from being forced to do anything (James 1:13-15)

Defilement comes from pretending to be clean, but at the same time being actually defiled (James 3:9-10)

All defilement starts with some desire from within (James 4:1-3)

THE CHALLENGE OF THE GLORY (EZEK 43:9-12)

Challenge to abandon unfaithfulness (9-10)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it causes our own actions to recoil on us (Ps 7:15-16)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it is caused by bad choices (Prov 1:29-31)

Abandon unfaithfulness because we cannot do evil and still be in the will of God (Jer 18:9-10)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it proves that we don't know God (Titus 1:16)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it proves we are stubborn and have forsaken God's word (Jer 9:13-14)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it violates God's covenant (Deut 17:2-5)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it dishonors God (Rom 2:23-24)

Abandon unfaithfulness because it shows that we have forgotten all God has done for us (Heb 8:9)

Challenge to be obedient to God's Will (11-12)

Obedient to ensure of going the right way (Isa 30:21)

Obedient so that God will make the way lighted and smooth (Isa 42:16)

Obedient to receive the promise of success (Isa 1:19)

Obedient to receive the promise of life and being a child of God (Rom 8:12-14)

Obedient in every detail (1 Sam 15:14-26)

Obedient in spite of setbacks and the complaints of others (Ex 6:9-12)