

Lord, Let Your Glory Fall – 2 Chronicles 5:11-14

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Outrageous Costs*

1. Remember the story that came out several years ago about the outrageous cost of military items?
2. There was the \$640 toilet seat, the \$27 bolt, & the \$7,600 hot beverage dispenser, AKA the coffee-maker.
3. Several news sources jumped on the story, decrying the terrible waste of tax-money.
4. Ah – but what they *didn't* tell us was that the items in question weren't your typical toilet seat, coffee-maker, or bolts. [\[1\]](#)
 - a. The toilet was installed on a P3 Orion which flies for long periods over the ocean looking for submarines.
 - 1) If you've been on an airliner, you know the toilet isn't the massive heavy porcelain model you have at home.
 - 2) It's an ultra-lightweight, one-piece injection molded unit with the plumbing built in.
 - 3) A \$640 price tag sounds pretty cheap!
 - b. The \$27 bolts held together the nose-gear of the A3 attack plane which Congress decided to keep in service for several years past its planned decommissioning date.
 - 1) Because of that, they had to order about a hundred new of the specially made bolts.
 - 2) They could have been mass produced to reduce the cost to a more reasonable figure of a buck-fifty, but they would have had to order 10,000.
 - 3) It was a lot cheaper to order a hundred at \$27.
 - c. As for the \$7,600 hot-beverage dispenser – what the reporters didn't tell us is that it was installed in the cockpit of the C-5 cargo plane which makes super-long flights all over the world.
 - 1) It's a good idea to provide coffee to the flight crew for these long flights
 - 2) Because it's on an airplane, it needs to be lightweight, & able to brew coffee at ultra-high elevations.
 - 3) It needs to be enclosed so that hot liquid doesn't spill all over in turbulence.
 - 4) Considering the extreme engineering requirements of such a device, \$7,600 is a good deal.
5. While journalists are supposed to be *unbiased* in their reporting, the fact is, bias often creeps in to color a story.
6. What would you say if I told you about a government building project that measured only 90' by 30' but costs *\$15 billion*?
 - a. That roughly the size of this room, but longer & narrower. \$15 billion!!
 - b. We'd probably be outraged at the exorbitant expense of such a building.
7. That's about how about how much it cost to build the temple.

- a. It was 90 ft. long, 30 ft. high & wide.
 - b. But since it was made of special wood, silver & gold, it cost about \$15 billion.
8. Every penny spent on the temple was worth it because the temple served a unique purpose – it was where God *manifested His presence*.

B. The Temple Dedicated

1. As we come to our text, after 11 years, the construction of the temple is complete.
2. Solomon had the priests bring the furnishings of the tabernacle from the high place at Gibeon & install them in the new temple.
3. With all the priests & leaders of the people gathered round, he then sent some priests to collect the ark, the most important piece of furniture.
4. They carried it into the holy of holies & set it down, then departed from the sacred place.
5. Then we read . . .

II. TEXT

A. Vs. 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),

1. Solomon's father, King David, had divided the priests into 2 dozen groups & put them on a rotating schedule.
2. But an event as grand as the dedication of the temple would see all of them serving.

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—*

3. David had also organized some of the priests into a worship corps.
4. They were all there, standing in the large open space in front of the temple, next to the massive bronze altar.

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.

5. With the ark in place, the worship leaders raised their song to the Lord.
 - a. As often happens, it took a little while for the musicians & singers to *blend*,
 - b. But there came a point when the Spirit of God *united* them.
 - c. *In that moment* the music went from mere songs to real worship.

6. They moved into communion with God, **declaring** His astounding goodness & **basking in** his **steadfast loyal love**, which is what the Hebrew word translated as “mercy” means.
7. It was **then** something momentous happened—the Shekinah, that shining cloud that had led Israel through the wilderness reappeared & filled the temple.
8. When **Moses** dedicated the tabernacle 500 years before, God had shown His acceptance of it by sending the Shekinah to rest above the ark.
9. Here at the dedication of the new temple, everyone understood this arrival of God’s glory signaled His **approval** of it.

B. The Glory

1. The author Ezra tells us something interesting in v. 14.
2. When the glory of God appeared, the priests who were busy with their priestly tasks had to stop.
3. The glory of God overwhelmed them & brought an end to their labor.
4. The word for glory in Hebrew is **kawbode**, the root of which means **weight**, as in *heaviness*.
 - a. When we think of “**glory**” we tend to think of **light**, of something bright & shining.
 - b. And that is certainly the way the Shekinah is described, as a kind of localized bundle or cloud of light.
5. But we catch a hint of what **effect** the Shekinah had on those who encountered it **here** in the reaction of the priests.
 - a. There was a **weightiness** to it, a sense of **substance** so deep, so **moving**, they had to stop what they were doing.
 - b. Later we read the priests had to **leave** the area around where God’s glory was manifested.
 - c. Its weight **moved** them – **literally**.
6. Think of it this way: When most people think of the **spiritual** realm, it seems kind of ethereal & light.
 - a. It’s wispy, flighty.
 - b. The spiritual realm is populated by faeries, feathers & angels that float on the lightest breeze.
 - c. The physical world is the “**Real** world”. It has **substance**, it’s **solid**.
 - d. That’s why many people don’t little consideration to the spiritual; they consider it **insubstantial**.
7. The fact is → When God shows up in His glory, it’s only then things are put in their proper perspective.
 - a. The spiritual realm is understood as the higher & **more real** world.
 - b. The weight of God’s presence is so great it **displaces** the physical – that’s why the priests stopped what they were doing & left the temple.
 - c. **They** felt like balloons being pushed aside by a gentle but firm hand.

C. When They Were One

1. There are a couple lessons to glean from this, this morning.
2. **First** is to note **WHEN** the glory of God appeared.
3. V. 13 says –
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

4. The writer wants to make it clear that the *harmony* of the worshipers paved the way for the manifestation of God's glory.
 - a. Not just a harmony of sound, but their *unity of heart*.
 - b. There was no cold-calculation on their part to all agree to get on the same page about worship or doctrine.
 - c. They weren't *trying to be one* by looking at each other & figuring out how to get closer to one another.
 - d. Rather, they were one because they were all aiming at the same thing – God!
 - e. It was a spontaneous moment when the hearts & minds of all 120 of them was captured by the Spirit of God.
 - f. And God in His grace showed up in a *visible* way.

5. There are many movements & campaigns trying to unite the Church.
 - a. Some groups are revising doctrine to remove barriers.
 - 1) Others are engaging in reconciliation, trying to heal old wounds.
 - b. It's all a lot of looking at each other & trying to figure out how we can get closer.
 - c. That kind of effort may make people feel good that they're trying to unite but it will never bring about the *kind* of unity God is looking for.
 - d. What He's after is a unity that comes from hearts that are turned to Him.
 - e. **THAT** kind of unity is what prepares the way for His glory, a manifestation of His presence that changes everything!
6. Churches & groups have to stage campaigns & programs only when there's no glory!
7. If the glory of God was manifested, there'd be no need for them.
8. Here's what this means for us – one of the most important things we can do as a fellowship is to worship God – together!
 - a. **When** we worship, each of us must bring every thought captive to Christ & focus solely on Him.
 - b. As we put Him in the highest place, declare His goodness & basking in His steadfast love, then we're in the unity God is looking for from His people.
 - c. And He will come.
 - d. Not in the Shekinah, not in the cloud of light that filled the temple but He **WILL** manifest His presence among us in a way that is no less real, no less *weighty*.
9. **Only** those who *often* worship God in spirit & truth are those who live *substantial* lives – lives of substance – because God places His glory, spiritual gravitas, *on* them.

D. His Temple

1. The *Second* thing to glean from this passage is how all of this points to what the *NT* says about the temple.
2. In 1 Cor. 6 the Apostle Paul writes –
¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in

your spirit, which are God's.

3. This was a radical thing for a Jew like Paul to say.
 - a. For religious Jews, the temple was **beyond** sacred!
 - b. It was considered blasphemous to even **say** anything derogatory about it.
 - c. Jesus got in trouble with the authorities because He made a comment about destroying the temple,
 - 1) Though he was speaking about His body, they misunderstood Him.
 - 2) And twisted His words into a cause for having him apprehended.
 - d. The point is – that's how fussy they were about the temple.
4. Yet here's Paul, a **rabbi**, saying the **real temple** of God isn't a marble building in Jerusalem, it's the body of the believer.
 - a. Because a temple is a sacred, holy place where God dwells,
 - b. We must exercise diligent care in **how** we use & what we do with our bodies.
5. God showed His acceptance & approval of Solomon's temple by inhabiting it.
6. God shows His acceptance of us the same way, by coming to dwell within us.
7. And just as Solomon's temple was incredibly **valuable** – so are we!
8. As v. 29 says, God's put a price on us – the Cross tells us how much.
9. The most precious substance in the history of the universe was the blood that flowed in Jesus' veins, but it was shed for our redemption & we now belong to Him.

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10. You can go to the craft store & buy a canvas, some oil paints, & a brush for about \$50.
 - a. Then you can go home, dip the brush in the paint & spread it on the canvas.
 - b. If you're lucky, you'll end up with something you might think about hanging on the wall.
 - c. If you're **really** lucky, someone might offer you a couple hundred bucks for it.
 11. A Dutchman named Vincent did that 120 years ago, & one of his paintings called *Iris* sold at an auction at *Southeby's* in London for \$54 million! ^[2]
 12. Why so much money for just oil paint & canvas?
 13. Because in the hand of a master it becomes a precious thing of beauty.

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14. It's been estimated by biologists that if the chemicals that make up your body were separated, bottled, & sold, you'd fetch about \$15. Not much.
 15. Yet, The Master has taken those components & shaped them into a body **He** values.
 - a. He values you so much, He paid the ultimate price to rescue you from sin & death.
 - b. Then just as He sent his glorious presence to inhabit Solomon's temple, His Spirit enters you!
 - c. **WE** who've put our trust in Jesus are the temple of the Holy Spirit!

III. CONCLUSION

A. Collectively

1. We are temples **individually & collectively**.
2. God made this clear by manifesting His presence that day when the people

were one in worship.

3. In Ephesians 2 we read –

¹⁹ You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

4. Peter adds to this image in 1 Peter 2 when he says –

⁴ [We come to Jesus] as to a living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

5. There is a unique & special manifestation of God when His people gather to worship Him.

6. The Body of Christ *collectively* becomes the temple He inhabits.

7. Remember what Jesus said, “Where 2 or 3 of you are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of you.”^[3]

B. Communion

1. We’re going to take communion now – were we remember the price Jesus paid for us.

2. As you come & take the bread & cup, stop to consider how much God loves & values you!

3. **Bask** in His steadfast love – soak in it.

a. A few years ago I went into the Perfume Store at the mall in Camarillo, the scents were pungent.

b. There was no one else in the store at the time so I asked the woman behind the counter if the smell got to her.

1) She said some times it did.

2) But she said that long after she got off & was out & around town, the scent of perfume filled her clothes & hair.

4. Christian, bask in the love of God today. Soak in it till it fills every pore.

5. So immerse yourself in His precious love that as you leave here, the scent of that love emanates from all you do & say.

6. And then, let’s lift our hearts & voices to declare God’s goodness.

7. Don’t aim at unity – aim at God.

8. As we do that together – God is well pleased to send His glory.

^[1] <http://www.fredoneverything.net/Turse.shtml>

^[2] (in 1987)

^[3] Matthews 18:20