



December 17, 2019

Dear Ones in Christ,

There are times in the history of man as recorded in the Scriptures when God appeared to His servants in most unusual ways: as when He appeared to Jacob in Genesis 32, or as He appeared to Moses in the burning bush in Exodus 3. At other times, He manifested His Presence to individuals, or even to the nation as a whole, when the glory came.

In the time of the Exodus Moses was given instructions for the Tabernacle. In Exodus 40:1-33 he finished the work of preparing the Tabernacle as the center of worship and the place where the Lord would meet with His people. Verses 34 and 35 tell us that "a cloud covered the tent of the congregation and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle."

Several hundred years later in the days of Solomon, son of David, the Lord gave to Solomon the privilege and honor of building the first Temple. First Kings 8:10-11 records the beginning of the ministry in the Temple. "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."

Still later "in the year that King Uzziah died" the prophet Isaiah saw a vision that captured and changed his life. He saw "also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the Temple." Above it were seraphim – holy angelic beings, "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."

Some seven centuries more passed by, and on a Judean hillside one night, while shepherds watched their flock, "the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them." Also "with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Shortly thereafter, Simeon would identify Jesus as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Some thirty years later, the apostle John in the first chapter of his Gospel record would declare "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Let us resist the temptation to view this blessed occasion as a Federal holiday, or a feast day, or even as a day with family. Rather let us see it as it is -- "THE DAY WHEN THE GLORY CAME" and man might have the matchless privilege of coming to know the only True God, for the Incarnate Glory said in His earthly ministry, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

To each of you, may you have a glorious and blessed Christmas and a Christ-centered New Year!

Yours in the service of the King.

*Stanley and Maxime Clout*

