

RESTORING THE GLORY **APRIL 18, 2018**

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we discussed how God's work involved both faith and power. Our faith is to be in the power of God that saves, heals, delivers, protects and provides all we need to succeed in life. Faith we know comes from the Word and power is associated with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was anointed with Holy Ghost power before beginning His ministry. The Disciples were instructed to be endued with power from on high before beginning their work. The early church operated in a power that turned the world upside down. Today, it seems as though the church has state-of-the-art buildings, educated preachers, modern programs and productions, but falls short when it comes to the glory and power of God.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLORY OF GOD - 1 SAMUEL 4:21-22

1. It can mean the difference between victory and defeat.
 - A. Kabod means weighty or heavy glory. Ichabod means the glory has departed. **1 SAMUEL 4:3-7** – Disobedience caused the glory to depart and brought defeat to Israel.
 - B. The Ark represented God's presence, glory and power that would manifest in different ways. Without it, they were like Samson without hair – powerless and defeated.
 - C. Israel learned that having the Ark didn't guarantee victory.

2. Significance of the torn veil. **MATTHEW 27:50-54**
 - A. Over time, the Ark was placed in the Temple behind a curtain 60 feet high, 30 feet wide and four inches thick. It's believed it took 300 priests to move it. Only the High Priest could enter that room once a year. God dwelt on earth among men in the Jewish Temple.
 - B. "Behold" wow, be amazed, astonished and look. As the priests were killing the sacrificial animals Jesus died and the veil was ripped from top to bottom, the Ark was exposed and the glory departed the room. The earth quaked, huge rocks were split and graves were opened. What did the High Priest think?
 - C. God moved out of the Jewish Temple, the Levitical Priesthood was no longer necessary to approach God, and God is now available to all the nations of the earth, not just Israel. Judaism became powerless!
1 SAMUEL 6:19-20

TODAY'S TEMPLE – ACTS 7:44-50

1. On the day of Pentecost, a new temple was built.
 - A. **1 CORINTHIANS 3:16, 6:19-20, 2 CORINTHIANS 6:16** – Individually and collectively, the church is the Temple of God. **ACTS 4:29-33, 5:12-15**
 - B. What the church needs today is not bigger buildings, more programs, better songs, more money, but for us to be jealous for God's Glory. Wigglesworth said "The way into the glory is for the flesh being torn away from the world and separated unto God."

2. Today's church is looking for something new but God is saying repent, return to me with all your heart, to the Gospel, to the cross, to the Blood, to holiness, to the Word, to love, to soul winning and making disciples.
 - A. Doing these things will restore Kabod to the church individually and collectively and **EPH. 3:20-21** will be fulfilled.

CONCLUSION:

It's not about the New Year's prophecies, promises and predictions that many have made that will bring the glory back. It's getting hungry and thirsty for the divine presence and doing what is necessary to promote it.

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