

## God is present with his people

1 Kings 8:1-11



1



2

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

1 Kings 8:10-11

The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions. All the Levites who were musicians – Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives – stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: 'He is good; his love endures for ever.'

Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

2 Chronicles 5:11-14

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1. God is present in his goodness

2. God is present in his love

3. God is present in his glory

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## 1. God is present... in his goodness



5

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing-floor and your winepress... For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

Deuteronomy 16:13,15



Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you  
what the Lord has done.

6

Thy goodness to me has been wonderful. At no moment of the day have I lacked Thy gracious care. At no moment have I been called upon to stand in my own strength alone. When I was too busy with my petty concerns to remember Thee, Thou with a universe to govern wert not too busy to remember me.

(John Baillie)

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## 2. God is present... in his love



8

love = hesed = covenant love, faithfulness

There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.  
1 Kings 8:9



9

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.  
Exodus 19:4-6

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.  
Hebrews 9:15



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### 3. God is present... in his glory



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shekinah glory = manifested glory  
glory = kabod = heaviness, or weight, or worthiness

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.  
Exodus 13:21-22

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.  
Exodus 40:34-35

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At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push in to conscious awareness of His presence.

(A.W. Tozer quoted in *Epiphanies of the Ordinary* by Charlie Cleverly)

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory.  
John 17:24

