

GLORY OF THE LORD

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In the Old Testament, *glory* has two primary meanings when used in reference to the God of Israel. The first is God’s honor or reputation. This is the usage in verses such as Isaiah 48:11, where the Lord says, “For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.” Note here how the Lord associates His glory with His name. (*Name* also refers to honor or reputation in the Old Testament.)

The other primary meaning of *glory* is the visible presence of the Lord. His presence is described in various ways in the Old Testament, including as a pillar of fire or a pillar of cloud (Exodus 13:21–22), as a cloud (Exodus 40:34), and as smoke (Isaiah 6:1–4). Using *glory* to refer to God’s visible presence is a practice that continued into New Testament times and beyond. At Jesus’s birth, the glory of the Lord shone around the angels (Luke 2:9). When Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith during the First Vision, the pillar of light that They appeared in is a modern example of the glory of the Lord as His presence. In the 1835 account of the First Vision, Joseph Smith even described seeing a pillar of fire.

Related verses

Moses 1:2, 11–14, 39

Exodus 16:6–10

Exodus 24:25–18

Exodus 29:42–45

Exodus 40:34–38

Leviticus 9:5–7

Numbers 14:15–22
1 Kings 8:11
1 Chronicles 16:7–36
Psalm 19:1–5
Psalm 79:5–9
Isaiah 6:1–4
Isaiah 42:8–9
Isaiah 60:1–7
Jeremiah 14:20–22
Ezekiel 1:26–28
Ezekiel 10:1–7, 17–22
Ezekiel 43:1–5
Zechariah 2:5
Luke 2:9

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