

Room for the Glory

2 Chronicles 7:1–3 • NRSV

Introduction

What happens when God shows up? In 2 Chronicles 7, the dedication of Solomon’s temple ends not with a speech or a ceremony, but with fire from heaven and the overwhelming presence of God’s glory. The people don’t need to be told what to do — they fall to their faces and worship. This passage invites us to ask a deeper question: Are we making room for the glory of God in our lives, our worship, and our community?

Scripture

2 Chronicles 7:1–3 (NRSV)

“When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple...

When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, ‘For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.’”

Discussion

- Describe a moment in your life — in worship, in nature, or elsewhere — where you felt an undeniable sense of God’s presence. What was that like?
- When you think about “the glory of God,” what comes to mind? How would you describe it to someone unfamiliar with the idea?

Going Deeper¹

- Read 2 Chronicles 7:1–3. What stands out to you in this passage?
- Solomon had just finished a long, elaborate prayer of dedication. Why do you think God’s response came after prayer? What does that tell us about the role of prayer in making room for God’s presence?
- The glory of the Lord “filled” the temple. What does it mean for a space — or a life — to be filled with God’s glory? What might need to be emptied first?
- The people’s immediate response was to bow down and worship, saying “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” Why do you think that was their instinctive response? What does that reveal about genuine worship?
- This passage describes a corporate, shared encounter with God. How important is community in experiencing God’s glory? What is different about encountering God together versus alone?

Application

- What is your big takeaway from this text?
- Is there anything in your life — a habit, a distraction, a mindset — that may be crowding out room for God’s presence? What would it look like to address that this week?

- Do you know someone who seems to consistently “make room” for God in their life? What is it about how they live that reflects that?
- What is one specific way you can posture yourself — through prayer, worship, Scripture, or silence — to be more open to God’s glory this week?
- How can we be in prayer for you?

¹ Scripture references are from the NRSV.