

December 14th



“He found no room in the Holy of Holies that shone with gold, precious stones, pure silk and silver. He is not born in the midst of gold and riches, but in the midst of dung, in a stable where our sins were filthier than the dung. He is born on a dunghill in order to lift up those who come from it...”

—Jerome (AD 5th c.), attrib.

Advent | 2025

—THE CONTRASTS OF CHRISTMAS —

“THE TEMPLE & THE MANGER”

Setting the Stage:

John 1:14; Luke 2:6-14

The Old Testament Background

- Although the Lord had intended to dwell among His people, the sin of our first parents meant that they were driven out from His _____.

Gen. 3:23-24—²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- The restored presence of the Lord among His people becomes associated with the display of His _____.

(1) *In His _____ for Israel.*

Exod. 16:7,10—⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord...¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

Exod. 24:16-17—¹⁶ The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

(2) *In the dedication of the _____.*

Exod. 40:34-36—³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out.

(3) *In the dedication of the _____.*

1 Kings 8:10-11—¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

- The removal of God’s glory from the temple was a picture of His _____ upon Israel.

Ezek. 10:4, 18-19—¹⁸ Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. ¹⁹ And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth...And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

- The prophets anticipated that the glory of the Lord would once again be _____ among His people.

Isa. 6:1-2—¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

Ezek. 43:4-5—⁴ As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Key Points: The _____ of Israel was that the Lord would accomplish His promised _____ through Messiah and would again dwell in their midst.

The Historical Background

The Temple:

The High Priest:

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- **The restored presence of the Lord among His people becomes associated with the display of His glory.**

(1) In His provision for Israel.

Exod. 16:7,10—⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord...¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

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- **The removal of God’s glory from the temple was a picture of His judgment upon Israel.**

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- **The prophets anticipated that the glory of the Lord would once again be displayed among His people.**

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Key Points: The hope of Israel was that the Lord would accomplish His promised salvation through Messiah and would again dwell in their midst.

The Historical Background

The Temple:

The High Priest:

