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GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE AND GLORY

Part 1

We know that God is omnipresent [everywhere at the same time], but we do not ordinarily see His presence with our physical senses. However, there are times, places, or situations where God will manifest His presence and it is seen.

To manifest means to clearly show, so that something can be actually seen by your natural eyes or sensed by your physical senses, such as to smell.

There are three main ways in which God will manifest His presence. They are by fire, by a cloud of smoke, or by a sweet odor.

When Israel left Egypt and entered the wilderness, God was with them day and night. The Hebrews had spent 430 years in pagan Egypt and had forgotten their God Yahweh. [Jehovah] He showed them his presence was with them in a cloud [smoke] which was over them by day and by fire overhead at night. In this manner, they could physically see His presence with them. It showed forth [manifested] his glory and his presence.

This is seen in several Old Testament passages of scripture. For example, in the wilderness at the tabernacle of the congregation. It was located on the outskirts of Israel's camp. It happened when Moses entered through a cloud of smoke when he would enter the tabernacle. Joshua went in with him and lingered there after Moses went out so he could be in the presence of God's glory.

When Solomon dedicated the newly built temple, God also manifested his presence in a cloud when the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [1 Kings 8:10-11] The presence [glory] of God was so strong that the priests could not stand up to minister. [slain in the Spirit by the manifest glory of God.]

Even today, that glory cloud [or smoke] appears at times when God chooses when his people come together in unity. An example occurred in Africa where German evangelist Rheinhardt Bonnke was preaching. He was in a large outdoor stadium that held tens of thousands of people. There was a small, isolated section with several hundred lepers. As he preached, a cloud of smoke appeared over the lepers, and they were all instantly healed of leprosy. It was the manifest presence and glory of the Lord over them.

When God's glory is manifested, there can be no sin, or disease or any kind of malady. His glory brings purification.

We will continue this series on God's manifest presence and glory as we search other biblical examples.