

VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: The Shekinah Glory

In order to be a light-giving source you must have light as an intrinsic characteristic.

The only light which is intrinsic to the believer is the indwelling of Jesus Christ which we classify from our Old Testament studies by the Hebrew term, Shekinah Glory.

Last year this time we were involved in an extensive study and analysis of the Doctrine of the Shekinah Glory. It began on Sunday, February 13, 1994, first session, and was completed on Tuesday, May 3, 1994; a total of 45 lessons.

In order to amplify the final clause of verse 15, “*among whom you keep shining as light-giving bodies in the Devil’s world,*” we will as briefly as possible review some of the principles of that study.

Review of the Doctrine of the Shekinah Glory

The Holy Spirit permanently takes up residence inside the body of the believer at the moment of salvation, the personal expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and resultant eternal life.

John 14:16 - I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:17 - that is the Holy Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

The primary reason for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is in order for Him to provide a temple for the inner residence of the Shekinah Glory.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Holy Spirit of God dwells in you?

In the Old Testament, there was a special priesthood which functioned in a special building, first the Tabernacle in the wilderness and later the Temple in Jerusalem.

We have studied in the past the Outer Court with the Tabernacle placed inside. Behind the first curtain is the Holy Place and then behind the second curtain is the Holy of Holies. (Transparency-1: Tabernacle diagram)

Inside the Holy of Holies is the Mercy Seat which covers the Ark of the Covenant. On top of the Mercy Seat are two cherub-rank angels. (Transparency: Ark, Mercy Seat, and cherubs)

The presence of Jesus Christ as the God of Israel indwelt the Holy of Holies and resided between the cherubs over the Mercy Seat.

His presence was manifest by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. (Transparency-2: Tabernacle complex with cloud)

The Jews referred to our Lord’s presence in the Tabernacle as *SHAKAN KABODH*: Shekinah Glory.

This is not a Biblical title for our Lord but one given to Him by His people Israel. *Shekinah* means “to dwell,” and *Kabodh* means “glory.” It was the Hebrews’ way of saying that the glory of God lived among them.

They did not come up with this idea on their own. It was revealed to them by the Lord.

Exodus 25:21 - And you [**Moses**] will put the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark and inside the Ark you shall put the commandments I shall give you.

Exodus 25:22 - And there I will meet with you, from above the Mercy Seat, between the cherubs which are on the Ark of the Covenant.

Leviticus 26:11 - I will make My Tabernacle among you and My soul will not reject you.

Leviticus 26:12 - I will also walk among you and be your God and you shall be My people.

In the dispensation of Israel, the Shekinah Glory indwelt the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and the Temple, the light from which Glory shone by day in the form of a cloud and by night in the form of a pillar of fire.

Consequently, in the Age of Israel, divine presence on earth indwelt a sacred building.

In the Church-Age there are no sacred buildings. The divine presence on earth indwells the Temple of the Holy Spirit created at the moment of salvation in the body of the believer.

2 Corinthians 6:16 - We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people [**Leviticus 26:11, Leviticus 26:12**].”

The presence of Jesus Christ among the Israelites as the Shekinah Glory is described in several passages:

Exodus 40:34 - Then the cloud covered the tent of the congregation and the Shekinah Glory filled the Tabernacle.

Numbers 9:15 - Now on the day that the Tabernacle was erected the cloud covered the Tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the Tabernacle, until morning.

Numbers 9:16 - So it was continuously; the cloud would cover it by day and the appearance of fire by night.

Psalms 99:1 - The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble. He is enthroned between the cherubs.

Isaiah 37:16 - The Lord of the Armies, the God of Israel, Who is enthroned between the cherubs.

Hebrews 9:5 - And above the [**Ark**] were the cherubs of the Shekinah Glory overshadowing the Mercy Seat.

At the First Advent, Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory changed His residence from a sacred building to a human body—the Hypostatic Union.

In the Dispensation of the Incarnation, Israel rejected Him as Messiah. Nevertheless, our salvation required that He enter human history as the God-Man Redeemer and Biblical prophecy demanded it.

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall become pregnant, consequently bearing a Son and she will call His name Immanuel [**God with us**].

Therefore, the Shekinah Glory changed residence from a sacred building to a human body. He entered a new Tabernacle of flesh—the Hypostatic Union.

John 1:14 - And the Word [undiminished deity] became flesh [true humanity] and tabernacled among us [Incarnation]. And we observed His glory [Shekinah Glory], the uniquely-born One from the Father [Hypostatic Union], full of grace [*charis*] and doctrine [*aletheia*].

So, in the Incarnation, the Shekinah Glory was no longer observable as a cloud or fire over the Temple but secluded in the human body of our Lord.

This change of residence established a transition between the sacred buildings of the Old Testament and believers' bodies in the New Testament.