

Glory Glory Church United?

In 1999 a whole indoor stadium was filled with people celebrating and singing. Inside the Manchester Indoor Arena, the Manchester United Football team held three cups in the air. They were champions of Britain, Europe and winners of the prestigious FA cup. The Fans were singing glory glory Man united and in every newspaper and Fans bedroom wall were pictures of the team glorying in their success.

However since that time, their fame has diminished, their ability has declined, and their Glory has began to depart. What is happening in the natural is also a picture of the spiritual:

I also am convinced that this is the same for the body of Christ, here in the UK. As a life-long Manchester United supporter and a struggling Christian for 17 years, I reluctantly and sadly say that the decline of Man United is very similar to that of God's people. I believe because of this decline and departing of Glory, God is now warning us and wanting us to wake up. The following article has been written to distribute, to challenge and spur us on to see and experience God's Glory, as it should be.

Prophetic

I currently attend a bi monthly Christian training course. As part of our training we have to give a short presentation. The person who gave me the date for my turn just came out with "I look forward to hearing a prophetic word." So several months ago I asked God what he wanted to say. He led me to **Ezekiel 10** and **11**. The heading read in the new international version "**The Glory departs from the temple**"

I studied and sought God to the meaning of this. The conclusion that I came to was God is warning the people of God; his Glory is departing from the body of Christ. The Pastor who leads the course confirmed this message was from God

Ezekiel 10:18 "And the glory of Jehovah went from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubs."

Ezekiel 19 then describes how God's Glory is at the east Gate of the temple in Jerusalem. He has gradually moved away from the Holy of Holies/ inner court of the temple. Also in this chapter we read of cherubim, wheels and coals of fire.

Ezekiel 10 is a commentary of what is happening in the spiritual realms to God's people. The next chapter, **Ezekiel 11** is the fulfilment/parallel happenings of what is occurring in the physical realm.

Ezekiel 11 when studied reveals to us some vital attitudes and behaviours shown by God's people that have resulted in the very sad event of the Glory departing.

What does The Glory of God mean? One definition is "**This term denotes the very essence of God manifested in the physical realm. God has declared that He desires to dwell on earth in the midst of His people.**" The result of this Glory is joy abundant, love overflowing, darkness expelled, multitudes saved, mass healing of the broken hearted, people experiencing heartfelt conviction, and the real presence of God. The New Testament declares we are all living stones that are meant to be built together forming a living temple where God's Glory can dwell.

Lets set the scene: Because of disobedience, God's people were in captivity in the land of Babylon. The people of God were away from their promised land. Ezekiel was called to be a prophet at the beginning of this captivity. So in **Ezekiel chapter 11**: God is judging those leaders and people who are left behind in Jerusalem: The message version says it like this: GOD said, "**Son of man, these are the men who draw up blueprints for sin, who think up new programs for evil in this city.**"

Ezek 11:3 then explains what these evil plans are: "It is not near; let us build houses; this city is the pot, and we are the flesh." The Contemporary English version puts it this way. Ezek 11:3: They say things like, 'Let's build more houses. This city is like a cooking pot over a fire, and we are the meat, but at least the pot keeps us from being burned in the fire.' God sees their thoughts. The attitudes he considers evil are...

Complacency/ Spiritual Arrogance:

The people are in Jerusalem, the heart and centre of worship in God's promised land. They have seen God's hand of judgement, his refining fire around Israel, where Gods people have been taken captivity to Babylon. Yet they feel safe. They feel they are the choice morsels in the pot, feeling the heat but they reckon they are not going to get burned. They in fact think they can and teach others that its okay to continue to settle, have families, build houses and continue to live comfortable lives. They say it is not near!! God's judgement is far away. The names of some of the leaders give us an idea of the double-mindedness in God's people. In **Ezek 11:1** Jaazaniah the son of Azur is mentioned as one of these leaders: Jaazaniah means "Jehovah hears!" This leader lived a contradictory life. In **Ezekiel 8**, Ezekiel is given a vision where he sees Jaazaniah worshipping false idols in Gods temple. Also another leader is mentioned. Pelatiah the son of Benaiah. Pelatiah

means let the Lord deliver/ help to escape. The Fausset bible dictionary refers to this verse saying God's people regarded Pelatiah as a mainstay of the city. Yet how deceived and asleep these leaders were. How we so easily put our hope in our selves, previous acts of God and glories. The Glory departs, we don't know it all because we become complacent. Saul and Samson were two anointed men of God who rebelled and the glory departed from their lives. The mainstays we rely on fall apart. Later on in **Ezek 11:13** Pelatiah is struck down dead.

This subtle sin of self-righteousness and pride declares we are superior to others in the body of Christ. We think we do things the right way, "**God surely can't work in those people because they have this problem e.t.c**" This brings disunity. This divides. This attitude declares our ways are higher than God's ways. Our thoughts higher than his. It is very easy to form Holy huddles or comfortable ghettos of relationships, cliques and nationalities. The New Testament church was dynamic. Forever growing, changing, loving the variety of multitudes that joined it. They constantly experienced new wine of the Holy Spirit being poured into the flexible, receptive, willing and open new wine skins

There is an arrogance and complacency that leads to a church culture that makes our services inaccessible and culturally irrelevant. We insist that the ways the truth is **transmitted** can't change. We limit God. We want the lost to become culturally like us, instead of Paul's attitude of becoming like a Jew to win the Jews and becoming like a gentile to win the gentile.

Complacency or spiritual sleep leads to Luke-warmness. If we are on passionate and on fire, we long for the presence of God. We cry to God for souls to be saved. We constantly look for opportunities to Love. It's abhorrent to God if we are lukewarm, complacent and arrogant. He says in Revelation he will spit us out, cast, vomit us out .of his mouth (**Rev 3:16**). In Jesus' body he wants nothing that will make him sick. It's the body's natural reaction to vomit that is harmful. The band, Casting crowns an American worship band sing the following

We are the body, why aren't his arms reaching?

Why aren't his hands healing? Why aren't his words teaching?

If we are the body, why aren't his feet going?

Why is his love not showing?

Amos the minor prophet with a big heart says "**Woe to you who are complacent in**

Zion and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost Nation" (Amos 6v1:NIV)

Ezekiel 16v49 (AMP) "This was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, over-abundance of food, prosperous ease and idleness were hers and her daughters: neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."

James 1v27 says Pure and undefiled religion is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world"

Jesus reminds us to remember Lot's wife, who looked back to Sodom and turned to salt. He says **Luke 17v28-33** "So also as it was in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but the day Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from the heaven and destroyed them all....

Remember Lot's wife. Whoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it, and whoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

King David who did evil in the sight to God cried out that God's presence would not depart from him"

Priorities in the wrong order. The leaders advice was "Build houses!" In **Luke 15v4** Jesus declared that if one sheep were lost, he would leave the 99 to go and find it. Is it the tendency of the church to focus mainly the preaching, prayers, and resources on the 99? The Church needs building, encouraging and ministering to but with the result of helping reach the other lost sheep! Jesus heartbeat was for the lost. He was all about reaching for those that are scattered. Mission, evangelism. If you were asked what is the main reason we should evangelize what would you answer be? There are lots of reasons why we should do it. The main reason though is that every lost person means God is not getting the Glory in that life. People trapped by the devil rob God of his glory. Our heartbeat should be going out to the lost, be lights and salt so that men may give Glory to God. Jesus said GO! Isaiah prayed send me! We also need to wait on God to be filled and empowered to bring an anointing and presence of God that will set the captives free. Every believer is to be sent into the mission field (our streets, places of work, homes, communities) and to be a fisher of men. Are we a Samaritan Church? Do we go out of our way to serve, minister to and help the people of a different class/race/dress sense/age group/occupation/ interests that have gone down and have been battered, bruised and robbed by the chief thief the devil? Or are we a church that is like the Levite priest that walks by and wants to do the religious church thing?

The glory is departing because the church has failed to have top of its list the great commission, to make disciples,

cast out devils, heal the sick and broken hearted. (Matthew 28v18-20, mark 16v15-17)

Pride:

Ezekiel 5 says in the modern King James Bible: "And the Spirit of Jehovah fell on me, and said to me, Speak: So says Jehovah: So you have said, O house of Israel, for I Myself know the elevations of your spirit"

Pride is an abomination to God. Elevating our own importance and needs above others is a serious thing. It is very easy to fall in to it. We also have a tendency to elevate Godly men and women to "untouchable/superior/more important status. In the drive to honor our leaders we elevate them to an unreasonable level. This leads to idolatry. God will not give his glory to another! Hence when we do this elevating his Glory has to depart. I must decrease so God will increase.

Idol worship causes the Glory to depart.

Jer 2v11 "Has a nation changed their gods who are yet no gods? But my people have changed their Glory for that which does not profit.

Be amazed, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be completely desolated, says Jehovah.

For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, to hew out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

How self-dependent we are! We need to come to the living waters.

I read a frightening verse about self-seeking/selfish ambition (idolatry) in **James 3:16** "For where jealousy and selfish ambition, there is rebellion and every wicked deed" (Analytical-literal translation). The new King James Translation says, "For where envy and self seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." This self-seeking/self elevation is so subtle yet the consequences are severe. Satan was all about "I" He loves to dwell where "me" is on the throne. We cheaply use the verse "where two or three get together in my name, Jesus is in the midst" If there is self-seeking, and ambition then evil is in the midst. No wonder Jesus wants to vomit the lukewarm people out of his mouth. Does God's manifest his Glorious presence and power when we gather together in his name?

God's response

Ezek 11:7 "Therefore so says the Lord Jehovah: Your slain whom you have laid in her midst, they are the flesh, and this city is the pot. But I will bring you out of her midst. You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you in the border of Israel, and you shall know that I am Jehovah."

God in his care and provision brings the sword. He wants to manifest himself to his people. God has to shake our lives. God is shaking the Church. Psalm 29 is a magnificent prophetic psalm (NIV):v8

"The voice of the Lord shakes the desert: the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh."

Judgment begins with the house of God. Our flesh that is still alive has to be brought out of the pot and into the fire where it is burnt up, executed and left on the cross. John Bevere in his book about offense (the bait of Satan) says there are five reasons for shaking an object:

1. To bring it closer to its foundation.
 2. To remove what is dead.
 3. To harvest what is ripe.
 4. To awaken.
 5. To unify or mix together so it can no longer be separated.
- HOW WE NEED TO BE SHAKEN !!!**

Customs of the nations

God's people were guilty of following the customs, traditions, ordinances and verdicts of secular society.

Ezek 11v12 "and you shall know that I am Jehovah. For you have not walked in my statutes, nor have you done my judgments, but have done after the customs of the nations all around you."

We need to separate ourselves, become a Nazarite Church and realize that the media in particular is polluting our hearts and the hearts of our children. We have to become vigilant and aware of Satan's subtle devices.

In the book of 2Timothy 3v1-4 it says in the last days: "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves (self absorbed, self centred) lovers of money (covetous, money hungry, inordinate desire for wealth), boastful (arrogant, self promoting), proud (stuck up, contemptuous boasters), abusive (profane, blasphemous, scoffing, crude, coarse), disobedient to their parents, ungrateful (unthankful), unholy (irreligious, or not be the kind of people God wants), without love (cruel, unkind, without natural affection), unforgiving (refuse to forgive, truce breakers), slanderous (gossip, trouble makers, accusers), without self control, brutal (fierce), not lovers of the good, (loose in morals and conduct, hate what is good) treacherous (betrayers), rash (reckless) conceited (swollen with pride) lovers of pleasure (lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements) than lovers of God- (combination of various translations)

v5.... having a form of godliness but denying its Power..Have nothing to do with them. (GNB): "They will hold to the outward form of our religion, however,

Contact me for any comments at Messtomessage@hotmail.co.uk I have also written another article/ warning found at <http://pafn.co.uk/gilgal.pdf>

Let us go back a chapter Ezek 10.

Ezek 10v2 And He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in among the wheels, under the cherub,

and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubs, and scatter them on the city. And he went in before me...

It is one of coals of fire. His Judgment cleanses us like in **Isaiah 67**. It humbles us. Because of his great mercy and compassion he disciplines us to make us reflect his Glory.

Judgment begins with the house of God... Satan can make us think discipline is far away, God has turned a blind eye, having the effect of taking away the force and urgency and desperation of the situation we are in.

Before the Glory departs from the temple. The Glory waits at the east gate. This gate is next to the court of people. One commentator suggests that God was waiting for some people to stand in the gap and plead that his terrible event does not happen.

King David who did evil in the sight of God cried out that God's presence would not depart/ be cast/ from him" (Psalm 51 is a prayer the UK church should pray). He committed adultery and the Church today has committed spiritual adultery. God restored him whereas his contemporary Saul never truly repented.

Matthew Henry comments on this passage saying "God removes by degrees from a provoking people and when he is ready to depart in displeasure, would return to them in mercy if they were but a repenting, praying people."

For us to say **Glory Glory Church United:**

2Ch 7:14 *"if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

ch. He started at Willoughby Street, Ebute-Metta, Lagos a housefellowship called, the **Glory of God Fellowship**. Initially there were nine members but before long the fellowship rapidly grew as the news of the miracles that occurred in their midst spread.

<http://home.rccg.org/ChurchHistory/ChurchHistory.htm>