

THE SHEKINAH

WHAT IS IT?

Reading: **Exodus 13:17 - 22**

Introduction

- Word '*Shekinah*' does not appear in the Bible but the concept does.
- '*Shekinah*' comes from Hebrew verb '*shakha*' meaning '*that which dwells.*'
- Definition: A supernatural cloud which was God's immediate presence with His people.
- The God of glory dwelling in a cloud, dwelling amongst His people.

1 The Shekinah Cloud Of Glory In The Old Testament

- [Exodus 13:21 - 22].
- The cloud was visible.
- It appeared as a pillar (plume) of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- The Shekinah was God's compass for His people. [Exodus 40:36/37].
- It was also God's protection for His people. [Exodus 33:9].
- It was also a cloud of instruction for His people. [Exodus 33:9] & [Psalm 99:7].
- It went with them for the whole journey of 40 years.
- The Shekinah came down in the temple at its dedication. [1 Kings 8:10].

2 The Shekinah In The Life/Ministry Of Christ

- It accompanied the heralding angels when they announced birth of Christ to the shepherds. [Luke 2:8/9].
- It presented itself on the mount of transfiguration of Jesus. [Matthew 17].
- It presented itself at the '*Ascension of Jesus*' in [Acts 1:9].
- The Shekinah accompanies Israel out of Egypt and now it accompanies Christ out of this world.

3 The Shekinah In The Future

- Jesus often spoke of it in connection with His Second Coming.
- Consider [Luke 21:27], [Matthew 24:30] and [Revelation 1: 7].

4 Closing Thoughts

- In [1 Samuel 4 & 5] the ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines.
- It was on the lid of the ark the '*Shekinah*' would come down.
- Phinehas' wife bore a son called '*Ichabod*' which means '*the glory (the Shekinah) has gone.*'
- The church needs the Shekinah back.
- What the Cloud was to Israel in the wilderness: leading, protecting and instructing, the Lord Jesus is to His people today.

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