

THE  
GODHEAD  
AND  
WHAT THE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST (TL)  
TEACHES

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# INTRO

**“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;”**  
**Colossians 2:2**

When a person begins the journey of reading and understanding the Godhead, it can be a very challenging undertaking. Too many verses seem to contradict each other. Others seemingly speak of multiple identities, yet use one proper title. Yet others still seem to speak of several separate entities with separate wills.

Is there one God? Are there multiple Gods? Is there only one will? Or are there separate wills? If God appears to somebody, will He appear only as one, or could he appear as two separate beings?

We will try to answer these and other questions by bringing together the Scriptures and letting them tell us what is true.

We always need to keep in our thoughts that the purpose of understanding the Godhead better is not so we can better debate with our neighbor, but rather so we can better worship and praise our God.

**“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”**

**Psalms 100**

**“Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise. For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”**

**Psalms 33:1-9**

I believe that we can achieve understanding concerning the Godhead, through the basic and simple teachings of the Scriptures.



**“It was on the morning of a beautiful day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally. ...**

**... I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun; which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two personages (whose brightness and glory defy all description) standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, (pointing to the other), ‘This is my beloved son, hear him.’”**

Joseph Smith Jr., spring of 1820







# WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY

**“For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:”**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**



## God the Father, with human like qualities

For the purpose of the human senses.

“Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: **And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.** And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: **and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Ché-bar;** and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. And he said unto me, **Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever,** and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.”

Ezekiel 43:1-7

In this passage the prophet Ezekiel is being shown a temple and the Glory of the God of Israel enters in through the gate at the east and takes up residence in the temple and makes it His habitation, for ever. As is also promised in Revelations 22:3. When he moves and speaks, its as a noise of many waters. Yet he tells Ezekiel that the house that he is seeing is the, “place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet”, using, for Ezekiel's benefit, terms which insinuate or give a mental imagery of human like qualities.

## The Father is not the Son

Although the Son may be called “the Father”

“And there shall be no more curse: but **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it;** and his servants shall serve him:”

Revelations 22:3

It goes on to explain to us in Ezekiel that there is also a prince, which would be the Lamb or Christ. Using again words that both set apart and distinguish the Son.

**“Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the Lord unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut. It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.”**

Ezekiel 44:1-3

There is a gate that only the Father passes through, the prince may sit in the way, but must enter through another gate. We know from Revelations that Christ is this prince.

**“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”**

Revelations 1:5

### **In the likeness of a man, yet very different**

As apposed to the Son which was as a son of man

The other important piece that Ezekiel gives us in Ezekiel 43 is that this vision of the Father is the same as what he had by the river of Ché-bar, which is found in chapter one. Thus, giving us a description of the Father as seen through the eyes of the prophet Ezekiel.

**“And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads **was the likeness of a****

throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne as the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. **This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.** And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”  
Ezekiel 1:24-28

We compare this imagery to the image that the brother of Jared saw in the Book of Mormon.

“Seest thou that ye are created after Mine own image? **Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after Mine own image;** Behold, this body which ye now behold is the body of My Spirit; And man have I created after the body of My Spirit; **And even as I appear unto thee to be in the Spirit, will I appear unto My people in the flesh.**”  
Ether 1:80-81





# AS IT IS WRITTEN, “THE BEGINNING”

## Who is Jesus Christ?

Simply stated, “Alpha and Omega”

“... These things saith the A-men, the faithful and true witness,  
**the beginning of the creation of God;”**

Revelations 3:14

As it is written, Christ was the beginning of the creation of the Father. Thus, having a beginning. As Christ himself tells us.

“I am **Alpha** and Omega, **the beginning** and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelations 1:8

## He is the Father

By way of the creation

The Apostle Paul goes on to tell us in his own words that not only was Christ the beginning but also that the Father had an eternal purpose in His creation, that we might have access, with confidence by faith, to God. Also that all creation would come into being by the power of the Father, through Christ.

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ**: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, **According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.** Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. **For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;”

Ephesians 3:9-15

As also the Apostle John and Helaman witness, everything was made by and through Christ Jesus. Which is why he is often called the Father in the scriptures.

“**All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”

John 1:3,10

“And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **the Father of heaven, and of earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning;** and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name.”

Helaman 5:66

### He is the Condescension of God

As in bestowing honors and favors upon one of lesser stature or status

As Paul well stated, one of the primary purposes of the Father in bringing his Son into being, was that we might have access, because of the fall, to Him. Thus, Christ stands as a mediator or advocate between us and the Father.

**“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”**  
1 Timothy 2:5

(Mediator: v. 1. to be in an intermediate position or lactation. 2.to be an intermediary or conciliator between persons or sides. Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third college edition.)

**“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”**  
1 John 2:1

(Advocate: v. 1. a person who pleads another’s cause; specif., a lawyer. 2. a person who speaks or writes in support of something. Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third college edition.)

### He is the only Savior

†

Thus, because Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, death reigned on all men. But by one man’s obedience, Jesus Christ, we have a hope in that we can be reconciled to God. Because he is our mediator or advocate.

**“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”**

Romans 5:5-11



“But notwithstanding He being holy, He showeth unto the children of men that according to the **flesh He humbleth Himself before the Father**, And witnesseth unto the Father that He would be obedient unto Him in keeping His commandments; Wherefore, after that He was baptized with water, **the Holy Ghost descended upon Him in the form of a dove**. And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path and the narrowness of the gate by which thy should enter, He having set the example before them; And He saith unto the children of men: ‘Follow thou Me.’ Wherefore my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father?”

2 Nephi 13:9-14

“Yea, even so He shall be led, crucified and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, **the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father.**”

Mosiah 8:34

### He is heir

Yet sits on the right hand

As this last verse tells us, there were two wills, the Fathers and the Sons, but because the Son was willing to give up his own will and do the will of the Father and because of his death and resurrection, God has made him heir of all things, and he is our King until all be put under his feet. At which point he will give everything back to the Father.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art**

my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"

Hebrews 1:1-5

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

1 Corinthians 15:20-25

### He is King and Prince

and Servant

As Son, we can see that the Father has given him all authority and power, thus indicating to us a chain of command, so to speak. The Son being subject to the Father, and all of us being subject to the Son.

"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

John 5:19-23

“For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

1 Corinthians 15:27-28

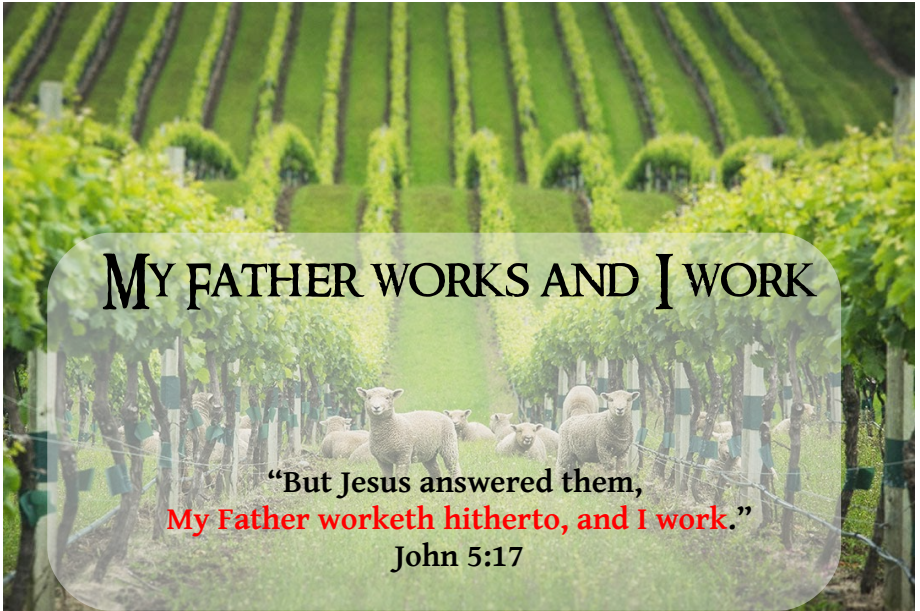
“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

1 Peter 3:22

And because of all of this Christ then becomes our King our Prince of peace, our Prince of life, the only Potentate. Why? Because the Fathers wills it so.

“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.”

1 Timothy 6:15-16



## MY FATHER WORKS AND I WORK

“But Jesus answered them,  
**My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”**

John 5:17

### Workers in the Vineyard

Together as master and servant or father and son

Considering this statement by Jesus Christ lets explore a couple of parables, that he also gave us, that might shed some light on this.

“For behold, thus saith the Lord: ‘I will liken thee, O house of Israel, like unto a tame olive tree which a man took and nourished in his vineyard, and it grew and waxed old and began to decay. And it came to pass that the **Master of the vineyard** went forth and He saw that His olive tree began to decay’; And He saith: ‘I will prune it and dig about it and nourish it, that perhaps it may shoot forth young and tender branches and it perish not.’ **And it came to pass that He pruned it and digged about it and nourished it according to His word.**” Jacob 3:31-33

Who is the Master of the vineyard?

**“Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.”**

**Matthew 21:33-39**

Here we can see that the “Master of the vineyard” is the Father and we can see that he sent his servants the prophets to receive fruits from his vineyard. When the prophets were rejected then the Master of the vineyard sent his son. The son reference here would be Jesus Christ. We can see that the Master of the vineyard worked in His vineyard, and also sent his son to work.

Continuing in the parable of Jacob 3:

**“And it came to pass that the Master of the vineyard saw it and He saith unto His Servant ‘ It grieveth Me that I should lose this tree; Wherefore, go and pluck the branches from a wild olive tree and bring them unto Me, and We will pluck off those main branches which are beginning to wither away, and We will cast them into the fire that they may be burned.”**

**Jacob 3:35-36**

Here we see that the Master of the vineyard sends His Servant or Son to work also, showing us that both the Master and the Servant or the Father and the Son both worked. This is expanded with the next few verses.

Continuing in the parable of Jacob 3:

**“And these will I place in the nethermost part of my vineyard,  
whithersoever I will – it mattereth not unto Thee;”  
Jacob 3:46**

We can see in this verse that not only did both the Father and the Son work, but that not everything that the Father did was of importance or given to know to the Son. Christ said as much in the new testament when he was asked about the time of his second coming.

**“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels  
which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”  
Mark 13:32**

Continuing the parable of Jacob 3 we have another piece in our puzzle:

**“And it came to pass that the Servant saith unto His master: ‘How  
comest Thou hither to plant this tree, or this branch of the tree? For  
behold, it was the poorest spot in all the land of Thy vineyard.’”  
Jacob 3:63**

We can see that even though the Son worked with the Father, he was not privy to all information or even the personal understanding of the Father, as to why he did what he did. We can also see the possessiveness used in this passage as the Son refers to the vineyard and calls it “Thy vineyard”, rather than our or my vineyard. Thus we see a stark difference between the Father and the Son, which is also shown by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, which also shows both the Father and the Son working.

## Master/Servant – Servant/King

Some times it can be downright confusing

“Then cometh the end, when he(Christ) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he(the Father) shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he(Christ) must reign, till he(the Father) hath put all enemies under his(Christ’s) feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he(the Father) hath put all things under his(Christ’s) feet. But when he(the Father) saith all things are put under him(Christ), it is manifest that he(The Father) is excepted(or that he is the exception, being the only thing not under Christ’s feet), which did put all things under him(Christ). And when all things shall be subdued unto him(Christ), then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him(the Father) that put all things under him(Christ), that God may be all in all.”

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

Thus, we also see in this passage the joint work of both the Father and the Son. As the Father is placing everything *except* himself beneath the feet of the Son. Until through his Son all his enemies are subdued. At which point Christ will give it all back to the Father. That God may be all in all.

So we can see that there is an order to all things, as we see laid out in these passages, Master – Servant, Father – Son and Judge – Mediator. And Christ himself told us that he does nothing but what his Father teaches him. Yet non of this diminishes Christ title as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is this and more because the Father decreed it so.

“Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”

John 8:28

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do:** for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

John 5:19

**“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”**

John 5:30



# A GIFT FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON

## A Comforting Witness

In the mouth of 2 or 3

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

John 14:16-18

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

John 15:26

“And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of Me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and Me – And I bear record that the Father commandeth all men everywhere to repent and believe in Me;”

3 Nephi 5:33

We can see by these passages that both the Father and the Son are involved in the giving of this precious and most wonderful gift. And that all three testify of each other. We also can know that this gift is a seal of life on us that shows we belong to the Father and the Son and we are part of their kingdom.

**“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”**

**Ephesians 4:30**

### **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**In conjunction to the fruits**

Through the power of the holy Spirit we receive both gifts and teachings from the Father and the Son. Gifts that can help us help others, and teachings that can enhance our life in the world were we live. That we might learn better how to live in the manner that pleases God, and by default have a more joyous life.

**“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

“And also the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: ‘He that is baptized in My name, to him with the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto Me; Wherefore, follow Me and do the things which y have seen Me do’. Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.

And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost, wherefore they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you: Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after that I have spoken these words, if you cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; Wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.”

2 Nephi 13:15,17; 14:3-6

“But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and putteth off the natural man – and he becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child – submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.”

Mosiah 1:120

## Acting Along side of

One God

In these next passages we can see the Spirit working, along side of the Father and the Son, as a separate entity.

“Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord God; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. **Then the spirit took me up,** and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the Lord from this place.”

Ezekiel 3:10-12

“Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Che-bar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. **So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court;** and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me.”

Ezekiel 43:1-6



