



Manifestations Of The Holy Spirit Throughout Human History

By: Larry Douglas

Our understanding of the Holy Spirit is limited by our finite human minds and by the revelation of God, but our faith teaches clearly that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity, that He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and that He accomplishes His (God's) will anywhere and at any time, with power and authority that is so awesome, no one and no thing can withstand it.

The early Hebrews understood that God "spoke" all things into existence, as if the Holy Spirit proceeded from the "mouth" of God, accomplishing whatever His supernatural intellect would conceive. It should be no surprise then, that our first earthly biblical encounter with the Spirit's power speaks of a mighty wind, "The Breath of God" which formed the young Earth and, among other things, gave life to Adam's human form.

In the Old Testament Book of Exodus we are treated to a magnificent display of God's power in the form of a "Pillar of Cloud" by day and a "Pillar of Fire" by night, which was said to "never fail" leading the Israelites out of Egypt, protecting and nurturing the Holy Nation all the way to the Promised Land.

While this "Glory Cloud" figures most prominently and is most clearly and explicitly described during the forty-year period the Israelites spent "*Moseying around*" (my characterization) in the desert, it is by no means the only time God made use of this extraordinary, supernatural phenomenon to manifest His power and glory in our temporal existence.

Necessary Exegesis

"Exegesis" is a process where we "infer" a logical meaning or probable "cause/effect" relationship from diverse events contained in Holy Scripture, when no "direct" linkage is seemingly made in the text.

To gain a clearer understanding of all the biblical events in which the "**Glory Cloud**" likely (implicitly) makes an appearance, we must analyze all the data reported in Scripture, evaluate the exact type of spiritual "phenomenon" that actually occurred, and then, "connect the dots" (so to speak).

This may bother some biblical "literalists". Others may have a hard time accepting some of my conclusions, based on the limited direct "evidence" available. That being said, I apologize in advance for offending anyone's delicate sensibilities, but maintain that the benefit of the exercise certainly makes the effort worthwhile. Examine this diverse collection of biblical texts for yourself. Doing so, I guarantee you'll come away with a better appreciation of God's awesome presence, His abiding love, constant provision, and His immensely powerful, glorious, and (hopefully, now slightly less) mysterious ways.

Many Events - One Spirit of God

Here's a compilation of virtually all the biblical "events" in which the "**Glory Cloud**" in this writer's opinion, is either *implicitly* or *explicitly* manifest:

When God first divided light from darkness at the dawn of creation:

Genesis 1:1 - 4 In the beginning God created heaven, and earth. And the earth was void and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the waters. **And God said: Be light made. And light was made. And God saw the light that it was good; and he divided the light from the darkness.**

Note: The sun, moon, and stars did not yet exist! God was then (and still is) the light of the world, in all His glory.

When God warned Adam not to eat the forbidden fruit, and later, after the deed was done:

Genesis 2:15 - 17 **And the Lord God took man, and put him into the paradise of pleasure, to dress it, and to keep it. And he commanded him**, saying: Of every tree of paradise thou shalt eat: But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat. For in what day soever thou shalt eat of it, thou shalt die the death.

Genesis 3:16 - 19 **To the woman also he said:** I will multiply thy sorrows, and thy conceptions: in sorrow shalt thou bring forth children, and thou shalt be under thy husband's power, and he shall have dominion over thee. And to Adam he said: Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee, that thou shouldst not eat, cursed is the earth in thy work: with labour and toil shalt thou eat thereof all the days of thy life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herbs of the earth. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return to the earth out of which thou wast taken: for dust thou art, and into dust thou shalt return.

Note: The understanding of the Church in this matter is that neither the fallen angels or Adam could have actually seen the "Face of God", for anyone who sees God as He is would no longer have any desire to sin.

When God confronted Cain about the murder of his brother, Abel:

Genesis 4:8 - 10 And Cain said to Abel his brother: Let us go forth abroad. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and slew him. **And the Lord said to Cain: Where is thy brother Abel?** And he answered: I know not: am I my brother's keeper? And he said to him: What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth to me from the earth.

When God commanded Noah to make the Ark, and later, when God made His Covenant with Noah and put a rainbow in the sky:

Genesis 9:8 - 13 **Thus also said God to Noah**, and to his sons with him: Behold I will establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you: And with every living soul that is with you, as well in all birds, as in cattle and beasts of the earth, that are come forth out of the ark, and in all the beasts of the earth. I will establish my covenant with you, and all flesh shall be no more destroyed with the waters of a flood, neither shall there be from henceforth a flood to waste the earth. And God said: **This is the sign of the covenant which I give between me and you, and to every living soul that is with you, for perpetual generations. I will set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be the sign of a covenant between me and between the earth.**

When God confused the languages at Babel:

Genesis 11:5 - 9 And **the Lord came down to see the city** and the tower, which the children of Adam were building. And he said: Behold, it is one people, and all have one tongue: and they have begun to do this, neither will they leave off from their designs, till they accomplish them in deed. Come ye, therefore, let us go down, and there confound their tongue, that they may not understand one another's speech. And so the Lord scattered them from that place into all lands, and they ceased to build the city. **And therefore the name thereof was called Babel, because there the language of the whole earth was confounded: and from thence the Lord scattered them abroad upon the face of all countries.**

When God made a Covenant with Abraham:

Genesis 15:17 - 18 And when the sun was set, there arose **a dark mist, and there appeared a smoking furnace, and a lamp of fire** passing between those divisions. That day God made a covenant with Abram, saying: To thy seed will I give this land, from the river to Egypt even to the great river Euphrates.

At the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah:

Genesis 19:24 - 25 **And the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven.** And he destroyed these cities, and all the country about, all the inhabitants of the cities, and all things that spring from the earth.

Throughout the times of the Egyptian plagues, the Exodus and the desert wanderings:

Exodus 9:23 - 24 And Moses stretched forth his rod towards heaven, **and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and lightnings running along the ground: and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt.** And the hail and fire mixed with it drove on together: and it was of so great bigness, as never before was seen in the whole land of Egypt since that nation was founded.

Throughout the times of the Egyptian plagues, the Exodus and the desert wanderings - continued:

Exodus 13:21 - 22 And the Lord went before them to shew the way, **by day in a pillar of a cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire; that he might be the guide of their journey at both times.** There never failed the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, before the people.

Exodus 14:19 - 21 And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, removing, went behind them: and together with him **the pillar of the cloud, leaving the forefront, stood behind, between the Egyptians' camp and the camp of Israel:** and it was a dark cloud, and enlightening the night, so that they could not come at one another all the night. And when Moses had stretched forth his hand over the sea, the Lord took it away by a strong and burning wind blowing all the night, and turned it into dry ground: and the water was divided.

Exodus 16:4 And the Lord said to Moses: Behold **I will rain bread from heaven for you;** let the people go forth, and gather what is sufficient for every day: that I may prove them whether they will walk in my law, or not.

Exodus 19:9 The Lord said to him: **Lo, now will I come to thee in the darkness of a cloud,** that the people may hear me speaking to thee, and may believe thee for ever.

Exodus 19:18 - 19 **And all Mount Sinai was on a smoke: because the Lord was come down upon it in fire, and the smoke arose from it as out of a furnace: and all the mount was terrible.** And the sound of the trumpet grew by degrees louder and louder, and was drawn out to a greater length: Moses spoke, and God answered him.

Exodus 24:15 - 18 **And when Moses was gone up, a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the Lord dwelt upon Sinai, covering it with a cloud six days: and the seventh day he called him out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord, was like a burning fire upon the top of the mount, in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses entering into the midst of the cloud, went up into the mountain: And he was there forty days and forty nights.**

Exodus 33:8 - 11 And when Moses went forth to the tabernacle, all the people rose up, and every one stood in the door of his pavilion, and they beheld the back of Moses, till he went into the tabernacle. **And when he was gone into the tabernacle of the covenant, the pillar of the cloud came down, and stood at the door, and he spoke with Moses. And all saw that the pillar of the cloud stood at the door of the tabernacle. And they stood and worshipped at the doors of their tent. And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man is wont to speak to his friend.**

Throughout the times of the Egyptian plagues, the Exodus and the desert wanderings - continued:

Exodus 40:34 - 38 (40:32) **The cloud covered the tabernacle of the testimony, and the glory of the Lord filled it. Neither could Moses go into the tabernacle of the covenant, the cloud covering all things, and the majesty of the Lord shining, for the cloud had covered all. If at any time the cloud removed from the tabernacle, the children of Israel went forward by their troops: If it hung over, they remained in the same place. For the cloud of the Lord hung over the tabernacle by day, and a fire by night, in the sight of all the children of Israel throughout all their mansions.**

Leviticus 9:22 -24 And stretching forth his hands to the people, he blessed them. And so the victims for sin, and the holocausts, and the peace offerings being finished, he came down. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the testimony, and afterwards came forth and blessed the people. **And the glory of the Lord appeared to all the multitude. And, behold, a fire, coming forth from the Lord, devoured the holocaust, and the fat that was upon the altar: which when the multitude saw,** they praised the Lord, falling on their faces.

Numbers 12:5 -7 **The Lord came down in a pillar of the cloud, and stood in the entry of the tabernacle** calling to Aaron and Mary. And when they were come, He said to them: Hear my words: if there be among you a prophet of the Lord, I will appear to him in a vision, or I will speak to him in a dream. But it is not so with my servant Moses who is most faithful in all my house:

Numbers 12:8 - 11 **For I speak to him mouth to mouth: and plainly, and not by riddles and figures doth he see the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak ill of my servant Moses?** And being angry with them he went away: **The cloud also that was over the tabernacle departed:** and behold Mary appeared white as snow with a leprosy. And when Aaron had looked on her, and saw her all covered with leprosy, He said to Moses: I beseech thee, my lord, lay not upon us this sin, which we have foolishly committed ...

Numbers 16:31 - 35 And immediately as he had made an end of speaking, the earth broke asunder under their feet: And opening her mouth, devoured them with their tents and all their substance. And they went down alive into hell, the ground closing upon them, and they perished from among the people. But all Israel, that was standing round about, fled at the cry of them that were perishing: saying: Lest perhaps the earth swallow us up also. **And a fire coming out from the Lord, destroyed the two hundred and fifty men that offered the incense.**

Deuteronomy 9:3 Thou shalt know therefore this day that the Lord thy God himself will pass over before thee, **a devouring and consuming fire**, to destroy and extirpate and bring them to nothing before thy face quickly, as he hath spoken to thee.

Taking possession of the Promised Land:

Joshua 6:20 - 21 So all the people making a shout, and the trumpets sounding, when the voice and the sound thundered in the ears of the multitude, the walls forthwith fell down: and every man went up by the place that was over against him: and they took the city, And killed all that were in it, man and woman, young and old.

Joshua 10:11 - 13 And when they were fleeing from the children of Israel, and were in the descent of Bethoron, **the Lord cast down upon them great stones from heaven, as far as Azeca: and many more were killed with the hailstones, than were slain by the swords of the children of Israel**, Then Josue spoke to the Lord, in the day that he delivered the Amorrhite in the sight of the children of Israel, and he said before them: **Move not, O sun, toward Gabaon, nor thou, O moon, toward the valley of Ajalon. And the sun and the moon stood still, till the people revenged themselves of their enemies.**

At the future location of the first temple, when King David purchased the land:

1Chronicles 21:25 - 26 So David gave to Ornan for the place, six hundred sicles of gold of just weight. And he built there an altar to the Lord: and he offered holocausts, and peace offerings, **and he called upon the Lord, and he heard him by sending fire from heaven upon the altar of the holocaust.**

At the dedication of the first Temple (Solomon's Temple) in Jerusalem:

1Kings 8:10 - 12 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the sanctuary, that **a cloud filled the house of the Lord, And the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord. Then Solomon said: The Lord said that he would dwell in a cloud.**

2Chroncles 7:1 - 5 And when Solomon had made an end of his prayer, **fire came down from heaven, and consumed the holocausts and the victims: and the majesty of the Lord filled the house. Neither could the priests enter into the temple of the Lord, because the majesty of the Lord had filled the temple of the Lord. Moreover all the children of Israel saw the fire coming down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house: and falling down with their faces to the ground, upon the stone pavement, they adored and praised the Lord: because he is good, because his mercy endureth for ever.** And the king and all the people sacrificed victims before the Lord. And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen, and one hundred and twenty thousand rams: and the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

With the great Prophet (Elias) Elijah:

1Kings 18:36 - 38 And when it was now time to offer the holocaust, Elias, the prophet, came near and said: O Lord God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Israel, show this day that thou art the God of Israel, and I thy servant, and that according to thy commandment I have done all these things. Hear me, O Lord, hear me: that this people may learn that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart again. **Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the holocaust, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.**

With the great Prophet (Elias) Elijah - continued:

2Kings 1:10 And Elias answering, said to the captain of fifty: If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume thee, and thy fifty. **And there came down fire from heaven and consumed him, and the fifty that were with him.**

2Kings 2:11 And as they went on, walking and talking together, behold, a fiery chariot and fiery horses parted them both asunder: **and Elias went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**

In the Book of Esther, appearing to Mardochai in a dream:

Esther (11:5 - 11) And this was his dream: **Behold there were voices, and tumults, and thunders, and earthquakes, and a disturbance upon the earth. And behold two great dragons came forth ready to fight one against another. And at their cry all nations were stirred up to fight against the nation of the just. And that was a day of darkness and danger, of tribulation and distress, and great fear upon the earth.** And the nation of the just was troubled fearing their own evils, and was prepared for death. And they cried to God: and as they were crying, a little fountain grew into a very great river, and abounded into many waters. The light and the sun rose up, and the humble were exalted, and they devoured the glorious.

Remembered in 2nd Maccabees, when it was time to rebuild the Temple:

2ndMaccabees 1:20 - 36 But when many years had passed, and it pleased God that Nehemias should be sent by the king of Persia, he sent some of the posterity of those priests that had hid it, to seek for the fire: and as they told us, they found no fire, but thick water. Then he bade them draw it up, and bring it to him: and the priest, Nehemias, commanded the sacrifices that were laid on, to be sprinkled with the same water, both the wood, and the things that were laid upon it. **And when this was done, and the time came that the sun shone out, which before was in a cloud, there was a great fire kindled, so that all wondered.** And all the priests made prayer, while the sacrifice was consuming, Jonathan beginning, and the rest answering. And the prayer of Nehemias was after this manner: O Lord God, Creator of all things, dreadful and strong, just and merciful, who alone art the good king, Who alone art gracious, who alone art just, and almighty, and eternal, who deliverest Israel from all evil, who didst choose the fathers, and didst sanctify them: Receive the sacrifice for all thy people Israel, and preserve thy own portion, and sanctify it. Gather together our scattered people, deliver them that are slaves to the Gentiles, and look upon them that are despised and abhorred: that the Gentiles may know that thou art our God Punish them that oppress us, and that treat us injuriously with pride. Establish thy people in thy holy place, as Moses hath spoken. And the priests sung hymns till the sacrifice was consumed. **And when the sacrifice was consumed, Nehemias commanded the water that was left to be poured out upon the great stones. Which being done, there was kindled a flame from them: but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar.** And when this matter became public, it was told to the king of Persia, that in the place where the priests that were led away, had hid the fire, there appeared water, with which Nehemias and they that were with him had purified the sacrifices.

Remembered in 2nd Maccabees - continued:

2ndMaccabees 2:4 - 14 It was also contained in the same writing, how the prophet, being warned by God, commanded that the tabernacle and the ark should accompany him, till he came forth to the mountain where Moses went up, and saw the inheritance of God. And when Jeremias came thither he found a hollow cave: and he carried in thither the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door. Then some of them that followed him, came up to mark the place: but they could not find it. And when Jeremias perceived it, he blamed them, saying: The place shall be unknown, till God gather together the congregation of the people, and receive them to mercy. **And then the Lord will shew these things, and the majesty of the Lord shall appear, and there shall be a cloud as it was also shewed to Moses,**

2ndMaccabees 8 - 14 and he shewed it when Solomon prayed that the place might be sanctified to the great God. For he treated wisdom in a magnificent manner: and like a wise man, he offered the sacrifice of the dedication, and of the finishing of the temple. **And as Moses prayed to the Lord, and fire came down from heaven, and consumed the holocaust: so Solomon also prayed, and fire came down from heaven and consumed the holocaust.** And Moses said: Because the sin offering was not eaten, it was consumed. So Solomon also celebrated the dedication eight days. And these same things were set down in the memoirs, and commentaries of Nehemias: and how he made a library, and gathered together out of the countries, the books both of the prophets, and of David, and the epistles of the kings, and concerning the holy gifts. And in like manner Judas also gathered together all such things as were lost by the war we had, and they are in our possession.

Spoken of in the Book of Job:

Job 26:9 **He withholdeth the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud over it.**

Remembered in the Psalms:

Psalms 78:12 - 14 Wonderful things did he do in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Tanis. He divided the sea and brought them through: and he made the waters to stand as in a vessel. **And he conducted them with a cloud by day: and all the night with a light of fire.**

Psalms 78:23 -32 **And he had commanded the clouds from above, and had opened the doors of heaven. And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them the bread of heaven.** Man ate the bread of angels: he sent them provisions in abundance. He removed the south wind from heaven: and by his power brought in the southwest wind. And he rained upon them flesh as dust: and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea. And they fell in the midst of their camp, round about their pavilions. So they did eat, and were filled exceedingly, and he gave them their desire: they were not defrauded of that which they craved. As yet their meat was in their mouth: And the wrath of God came upon them.

Remembered in the Psalms - continued:

Psalms 99:6 - 8 Moses and Aaron among his priests: and Samuel among them that call upon his name. **They called upon the Lord, and he heard them: He spoke to them in the pillar of the cloud.** They kept his testimonies, and the commandment which he gave them. Thou didst hear them, O Lord our God: thou wast a merciful God to them, and taking vengeance on all their inventions.

Psalms 105:27 - 42 He gave them power to shew them signs, and his wonders in the land of Cham. He sent darkness, and made it obscure: and grieved not his words. He turned their waters into blood, and destroyed their fish. Their land brought forth frogs, in the inner chambers of their kings. He spoke, and there came divers sorts of flies and sciniphs in all their coasts. He gave them hail for rain, a burning fire in the land. And he destroyed their vineyards and their fig trees: and he broke in pieces the trees of their coasts. He spoke, and the locust came, and the bruchus, of which there was no number. And they devoured all the grass in their land, and consumed all the fruit of their ground. And he slew all the firstborn in their land: the firstfruits of all their labour. And he brought them out with silver and gold: and there was not among their tribes one that was feeble. Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them lay upon them. **He spread a cloud for their protection, and fire to give them light in the night.** They asked, and the quail came: and he filled them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock, and waters flowed: rivers ran down in the dry land. Because he remembered his holy word, which he had spoken to his servant Abraham.

In the Book of Wisdom:

Wisdom 19:7 - 8 **For a cloud overshadowed their camps and where water was before, dry land appeared, and in the Red Sea a way without hindrance, and out of the great deep a springing field:** Through which all the nation passed which was protected with thy hand, seeing thy miracles and wonders.

In the Book of Sirach:

Sirach 24:1 - 7 Wisdom shall praise her own self, and shall be honoured in God, and shall glory in the midst of her people, And shall open her mouth in the churches of the most High, and shall glorify herself in the sight of his power, And in the midst of her own people she shall be exalted, and shall be admired in the holy assembly. And in the multitude of the elect she shall have praise, and among the blessed she shall be blessed, saying: I came out of the mouth of the most High, the firstborn before all creatures: **I made that in the heavens there should rise light that never faileth, and as a cloud I covered all the earth: I dwelt in the highest places, and my throne is in a pillar of a cloud.**

In the Book of Sirach - continued:

Sirach 45:1 - 6 Moses was beloved of God, and men: whose memory is in benediction. He made him like the saints in glory, and magnified him in the fear of his enemies, and with his words he made prodigies to cease. He glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him commandments in the sight of his people, and shewed him his glory. He sanctified him in his faith, and meekness, and chose him out of all flesh. **For he heard him, and his voice, and brought him into a cloud.** And he gave him commandments before his face, and a law of life and instruction, that he might teach Jacob his covenant, and Israel his judgments.

Sirach 50:4 - 14 He took care of his nation, and delivered it from destruction. He prevailed to enlarge the city, and obtained glory in his conversation with the people: and enlarged the entrance of the house and the court. **He shone in his days as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full. And as the sun when it shineth, so did he shine in the temple of God. And as the rainbow giving light in bright clouds,** and as the flower of roses in the days of the spring, and as the lilies that are on the brink of the water, and as the sweet smelling frankincense in the time of summer. As a bright fire, and frankincense burning in the fire. As a massy vessel of gold, adorned with every precious stone. As an olive tree budding forth, and a cypress tree rearing itself on high, when he put on the robe of glory, and was clothed with the perfection of power. When he went up to the holy altar, he honoured the vesture of holiness. And when he took the portions out of the hands of the priests, he himself stood by the altar. And about him was the ring of his brethren: and as the cedar planted in mount Libanus, And as branches of palm trees, they stood round about him, and all the sons of Aaron in their glory.

In the Book of Isaiah:

Isaiah 4:3 - 6 And it shall come to pass, that every one that shall be left in Sion, and that shall remain in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, every one that is written in life in Jerusalem. If the Lord shall wash away the filth of the daughters of Sion, and shall wash away the blood of Jerusalem out of the midst thereof, by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every place of mount Sion, and where he is called upon, **a cloud by day, and a smoke and the brightness of a flaming fire in the night: for over all the glory shall be a protection.** And there shall be a tabernacle for a shade in the daytime from the heat, and for a security and covert from the whirlwind, and from rain.

Isaiah 19:1 - 3 The burden of Egypt. **Behold the Lord will ascend upon a swift cloud, and will enter into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst thereof.** And I will set the Egyptians to fight against the Egyptians: and they shall fight brother against brother, and friend against friend, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall be broken in the bowels thereof, and I will cast down their counsel: and they shall consult their idols, and their diviners, and their wizards, and soothsayers.

In the Book of Isaiah - continued:

Isaiah 25:4 Because thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress: a refuge from the whirlwind, a shadow from the heat. **For the blast of the mighty is like a whirlwind beating against a wall.**

Isaiah 25:5 -7 **Thou shalt bring down the tumult of strangers, as heat in thirst: and as with heat under a burning cloud**, thou shalt make the branch of the mighty to wither away. And the Lord of hosts shall make unto all people in this mountain, a feast of fat things, a feast of wine, of fat things full of marrow, of wine purified from the lees. And he shall destroy in this mountain the face of the bond with which all people were tied, and the web that he began over all nations.

In the Book of Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 1:1 - 5 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, when I was in the midst of the captives by the river Chobar, the heavens were opened, and I saw the visions of God. On the fifth day of the month, the same was the fifth year of the captivity of king Joachin, The word of the Lord came to Ezechiel the priest the son of Buzi in the land of the Chaldeans, by the river Chobar: and the hand of the Lord was there upon him. **And I saw, and behold a whirlwind came out of the north: and a great cloud, and a fire infolding it, and brightness was about it: and out of the midst thereof, that is, out of the midst of the fire, as it were the resemblance of amber: And in the midst thereof the likeness of four living creatures: and this was their appearance: there was the likeness of a man in them.**

Ezekiel 1:26 - 28 And above the firmament that was over their heads, was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of the sapphire stone, and upon the likeness of the throne, was the likeness of the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as it were the resemblance of amber as the appearance of fire within it round about: from his loins and upward, and from his loins downward, I saw as it were the resemblance of fire shining round about. **As the appearance of the rainbow when it is in a cloud on a rainy day: this was the appearance of the brightness round about.**

Ezekiel 10:1 - 4 And I saw and behold in the firmament that was over the heads of the cherubims, there appeared over them as it were the sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. And he spoke to the man, that was clothed with linen, and said: Go in between the wheels that are under the cherubims and fill thy hand with the coals of fire that are between the cherubims, and pour them out upon the city. And he went in, in my sight: **And the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.** And the glory of the Lord was lifted up from above the cherub to the threshold of the house: and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the Lord.

In the Book of Ezekiel - continued:

Ezekiel 30:15 - 19 And I will pour out my indignation upon Pelusium the strength of Egypt, and will cut off the multitude of Alexandria. And I will make a fire in Egypt: Pelusium shall be in pain like a woman in labour, and Alexandria shall be laid waste, and in Memphis there shall be daily distresses. The young men of Heliopolis, and of Bubastus shall fall by the sword, and they themselves shall go into captivity. **And in Taphnis the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the sceptres of Egypt, and the pride of her power shall cease in her: a cloud shall cover her,** and her daughters shall be led into captivity. And I will execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 32:7 - 9 **And I will cover the heavens, when thou shalt be put out, and I will make the stars thereof dark: I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. I will make all the lights of heaven to mourn over thee and I will cause darkness upon thy land,** saith the Lord God, when thy wounded shall fall in the midst of the land, saith the Lord God. And I shall provoke to anger the heart of many people, when I shall have brought in thy destruction among the nations upon the lands, which thou knowest not.

In the Books of Daniel, Joel and Nahum:

Daniel 7:13 -14 **I beheld, therefore, in the vision of the night, and lo, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,** and he came even to the ancient of days: and they presented him before him. And he gave him power, and glory, and a kingdom: and all peoples, tribes, and tongues shall serve him: his power is an everlasting power that shall not be taken away: and his kingdom that shall not be destroyed.

Joel 2:1 - 3 Blow ye the trumpet in Sion, sound an alarm in my holy mountain, let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: because the day of the Lord cometh, because it is nigh at hand. **A day of darkness, and of gloominess, a day of clouds and whirlwinds:** a numerous and strong people as the morning spread upon the mountains: the like to it hath not been from the beginning, nor shall be after it, even to the years of generation and generation. Before the face thereof a devouring fire, and behind it a burning flame: the land is like a garden of pleasure before it, and behind it a desolate wilderness, neither is there any one that can escape it.

Nahum 1:2 - 3 The Lord is a jealous God, and a revenger: the Lord is a revenger, and hath wrath: the Lord taketh vengeance on his adversaries, and he is angry with his enemies. The Lord is patient, and great in power, and will not cleanse and acquit the guilty. **The Lord's ways are in a tempest, and a whirlwind, and clouds are the dust of his feet.**

In the Book of Zephaniah and Zechariah:

Zephaniah 1:14 - 16 The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and exceeding swift: the voice of the day of the Lord is bitter, the mighty man shall there meet with tribulation. That day is a day of wrath, a day of tribulation and distress, a day of calamity and misery, **a day of darkness and obscurity, a day of clouds and whirlwinds**, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high bulwarks.

Zechariah 14:3 - 4 **Then the Lord shall go forth**, and shall fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is over against Jerusalem towards the east: **and the mount of Olives shall be divided in the midst thereof to the east, and to the west with a very great opening, and half of the mountain shall be separated to the north, and half thereof to the south.**

In the Gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 2:1 -2 When Jesus therefore was born in Bethlehem of Juda, in the days of king Herod, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, Saying: Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen **his star** in the East, and are come to adore him.

Matthew 2:9 -10 Who having heard the king, went their way; and behold **the star which they had seen in the East, went before them, until it came and stood over where the child was.** And seeing **the star** they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 17:5 - 6 **And as he was yet speaking, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them.** And lo a voice out of the cloud, saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye him. And the disciples hearing fell upon their face, and were very much afraid.

Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven. And then shall all tribes of the earth mourn: and they shall see **the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven** with much power and majesty.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith to him: Thou hast said it. Nevertheless I say to you, hereafter you shall see **the Son of man sitting on the right hand of the power of God and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour, **there was darkness over the whole earth**, until the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:51 - 54 **And behold the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top even to the bottom: and the earth quaked and the rocks were rent.** And the graves were opened: and many bodies of the saints that had slept arose, And coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, came into the holy city and appeared to many.

In the Gospel of Mark:

Mark 1:9 - 11 And it came to pass, in those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in Jordan. And forthwith coming up out of the water, he **saw the heavens open** and the Spirit as a dove descending and remaining on him. **And there came a voice from heaven: Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.**

Mark 9:7 **And there was a cloud overshadowing them.** And a voice came out of the cloud, saying: This is my most beloved Son. Hear ye him.

Mark 13:24 - 26 But in those days, after that tribulation, **the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light. And the stars of heaven shall be falling down and the powers that are in heaven shall be moved.** And then shall they see **the Son of man coming in the clouds**, with great power and glory.

Mark 14:62 And Jesus said to him: I am. And you shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of the power of God and **coming with the clouds of heaven.**

Mark 15:30 - 33 Save thyself, coming down from the cross. In like manner also the chief priests, mocking, said with the scribes one to another: He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the king of Israel come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him, reviled him. And when the sixth hour was come, **there was darkness over the whole earth** until the ninth hour.

Mark 16:6 Who saith to them: Be not affrighted. you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He is risen:** he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:19 And the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, **was taken up into heaven** and sitteth on the right hand of God.

In the Gospel of Luke:

Luke 1:35 And the angel answering, said to her: **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee.** And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 2:8 - 14 And there were in the same country shepherds watching and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them **and the brightness of God shone round about them:** and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people: For, this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest: and on earth peace to men of good will.**

In the Gospel of Luke - continued:

Luke 3:21 - 22 Now it came to pass, when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also being baptized and praying, **heaven was opened**. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape, as a dove, upon him. And a voice came from heaven: Thou art my beloved Son. In thee I am well pleased.

Luke 9:33 - 35 And it came to pass that, as they were departing from him, Peter saith to Jesus: Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses; and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. **And as he spoke these things, there came a cloud and overshadowed them**. And they were afraid when they entered into the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud; saying: This is my beloved son. Hear him.

Luke 21:25 - 27 And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, by reason of the confusion of the roaring of the sea, and of the waves: Men withering away for fear and expectation of what shall come upon the whole world. For the powers of heaven shall be moved. **And then they shall see the Son of man coming in a cloud**, with great power and majesty.

Luke 23:44 - 45 And it was almost the sixth hour: and **there was darkness over all the earth** until the ninth hour. **And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst**.

Luke 24:1 - 6 And on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled back from the sepulchre. And going in, they found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were astonished in their mind at this, behold, two men stood by them, in shining apparel. And as they were afraid and bowed down their countenance towards the ground, they said unto them: Why seek you the living with the dead? **He is not here, but is risen**.

Mentioned in the Gospel of John:

John 1:49 - 51 Nathanael answered him and said: Rabbi: Thou art the Son of God. Thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said to him: Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, thou believest: greater things than these shalt thou see. And he saith to him: Amen, amen, I say to you, **you shall see the heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man**.

In the Acts of the Apostles, at Christ's Ascension, on Pentecost and at other times:

Acts 1:6 - 11 They therefore who were come together, asked him, saying: Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel? But he said to them: It is not for you to know the time or moments, which the Father hath put in his own power: But you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had said these things, **while they looked on, he was raised up: and a cloud received him out of their sight.** And while they were beholding him going up to heaven, behold two men stood by them in white garments. Who also said: Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come as you have seen him going into heaven.

Acts 2:1 - 6 And when the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place: And suddenly **there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming:** and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues, as it were of fire: and it sat upon every one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost: and they began to speak with divers tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak. Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. **And when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together,** and were confounded in mind, because that every man heard them speak in his own tongue.

Acts 7:55 -56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looking up steadfastly to heaven, saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And he said: **Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**

Acts 9:3 - 6 And as he went on his journey, it came to pass that he drew nigh to Damascus. And **suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him.** And falling on the ground, he heard a voice saying to him: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Who said: Who art thou, Lord? And he: I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad. And he, trembling and astonished, said: Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?



Mentioned in 1st Corinthians and 1st Thessalonians:

1Corinthians 10:1 - 4 For I would not have you ignorant, brethren, **that our fathers were all under the cloud: and all passed through the sea.** And all in Moses were baptized, in the cloud and in the sea: And did all eat the same spiritual food: And all drank the same spiritual drink: (And they drank of the spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.)

1Thessalonians 4:15 - 17 For this we say unto you in the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them who have slept. For the Lord himself shall come down from heaven with commandment and with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God: and the dead who are in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, **shall be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet Christ,** into the air: and so shall we be always with the Lord.

In the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 1:7 **Behold, he cometh with the clouds,** and every eye shall see him: and they also that pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth shall bewail themselves because of him. Even so. Amen.

Revelation 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, **clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head: and his face, as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire.**

Revelation 11:11 - 12 And after three days and a half, the spirit of life from God entered into them. And they stood upon their feet: and great fear fell upon them that saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, saying to them: Come up hither. **And they went up to heaven in a cloud:** and their enemies saw them.

Revelation 11:19 **And the temple of God was opened in heaven:** and the ark of his testament was seen in his temple. **And there were lightnings and voices and an earthquake and great hail.**

Revelation 12:1 **And a great sign appeared in heaven:** A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Revelation 14:14 And I saw: and **behold a white cloud and upon the cloud one sitting like to the Son of man,** having on his head a crown of gold and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Brief Summary:

When God chooses to make an appearance in our earthly realm of existence, His arrival is often signified by clouds, whirlwinds, lightning or flashes of light, thunder, hail, supernatural darkness, earthquakes, rainbows, dark mists, brilliance greater than the sun, fire, loud noises likened to trumpets, voices, and often, by the appearance of other heavenly beings, like Moses, Elijah, Jesus, and the angels.

See the **Book of Revelation**, chapters **11** and **12**, to witness the arrival of the **Holy Spirit** and the **unmistakable signs** of the "**Glory Cloud**" carrying the **resurrected body and soul of the Virgin Mary up to heaven**, "**And there were lightnings and voices and an earthquake and great hail.**"

Since the power of God the Holy Spirit, **proceeding** from God the Father and from God the Son, typically accomplishes these mighty works, all of these "**Glory Cloud**" phenomenon may be attributed to the **direct action of the Holy Spirit**, carried out, of course, in **perfect unity** and in **complete accord** with the **will of each of the three divine persons who are the One True God.**

Commemorating the day Moses received the **10 Commandments** on Mt. Sinai, the **Feast of Pentecost** was a Jewish Holy Day, long before the Church ever celebrated it. The word means **50 days**, referring originally to the number of days which elapsed between the first Passover, and the day Moses was given the tablets of the Law

Our "modern" Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the birthday of the Catholic Church. But now the **50 days** it refers to is the time between Easter Sunday (Christ's Resurrection Day) and Pentecost Sunday.

The first Pentecost was certainly accompanied by the Holy Spirit and by the "Glory Cloud". The plain text of the Bible speaks of it in great detail, complete with lots of supernatural signs and spectacular phenomenon: fire, cloud, trumpets, fierce winds, etc.

It's reasonable, then, to presume that the "Glory Cloud" was also present at the second Pentecost, too. But here, our proof consists of only three explicit, biblically documented signs: wind, fire, and tongues.

Jerusalem was crowded with travelers come to town to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost at the Temple. Right after the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, (who were gathered together in a non-descript "upper room") they went out fearlessly into the street to preach, speaking in tongues (everyone who heard them understood it in his own native language) to an already assembled (and quite amazed) crowd of thousands.

While the Bible makes no mention of it, I'm willing to bet that the reason all those folks were already gathered together outside, waiting, was because, hovering over the building the Apostles were gathered in, was one huge, awesome "*Glory Cloud*", reminiscent of the one that originally descended on mount Sinai, 1500 years before, the very same "cloud" that also made an appearance at the dedication of the very first Jerusalem Temple, some 500 years *after* Sinai.

Any good Jew (one who knew his scripture) would certainly have recognized the significance of that cloud. They were drawn to it, and to the Apostles, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Heading back home to far-flung lands all over the known world, a trip that could take months or years to complete, our Pentecost Pilgrims would have one heck of a story to tell ... they would unknowingly act as "advance men" for the Apostles ... inadvertently spreading the Gospel at every stop on their journey home.

In truth, the early Church did grow prodigiously ... much faster than anyone could have expected.

God really does work in mysterious ways!

I think it's very likely, then, on that second Pentecost, the day the old Mosaic Law was superceded by our newly born Church, that we very likely witnessed the appearance of the "**Glory Cloud**" which has, from the very beginning, Traditionally signified the presence of God in our midst; that same Holy Spirit and Paraclete, who will remain the advocate and protector of our Church until the end of the age.

What do you think?

