

God Is So Far Above

God is so far above human comprehension that even the prophet Ezekiel, granted one of the most vivid visions in all of Scripture, could only describe what he saw in comparisons, shadows, and likenesses. Words failed him. Language bent beneath the weight of glory.

“As it were... like the appearance... the likeness of...” these were the fragments Ezekiel was left with as he tried to put the indescribable into human terms. A throne like sapphire... a figure like a man, yet blazing with fire from the waist up and from the waist down. Encircled by radiance, like a rainbow halo in the midst of a storm. And this was not even the fullness of God; it was only *the appearance of the likeness* of His glory.

Ezekiel could do nothing but fall on his face.

Such is the splendor of our God. No eye can behold Him in fullness. No tongue can articulate Him truly. His glory consumes like fire, His beauty pierces like light, and yet, in all His majesty, He condescends to dwell with the lowly in heart.

Paul, too, was undone by the majesty of Christ. In Philippians 3:10, he expressed not a casual desire, but a holy desperation, *“That I may know Him...”* The One whom Ezekiel could barely describe, Paul longed to know intimately. Not just in the power of His resurrection, but even in the fellowship of His sufferings. For to truly know God is to be conformed, reshaped, transformed, into the likeness of Christ through both life and death.

To behold His glory is to fall on our face like Ezekiel.

To truly know Him is to die with Him and rise again.

And yet, what mercy, that the fire from the throne now lives in us.

Ezekiel 1: 26–28 *“And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.”*

Philippians 3:10 *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”*

Romans 8:13 *“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds in the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God these are sons of God.”*