



Kavod / Glory

Transcript

Kavod.

"Like the appearance of the rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of light all around ... the likeness of Yahweh's *kavod*."

Kavod is a Hebrew word that refers to "heaviness." It sometimes describes physical weight, but also refers to social weightiness, and is often translated as "glory," "honor," or "splendor."

People can have *kavod*, like King Solomon in all his splendor, but human *kavod* is always a dim reflection of the magnificent *kavod* of God.

On Mount Sinai, God's *kavod* passes by Moses, but God hides himself because his glorious presence is too intense for frail humans. God shows Israel's priests how to purify themselves so they can appropriately encounter his *kavod* in the temple. Israel's prophets look forward to a time when humanity will be fully restored and will experience God's *kavod* throughout all the earth.

"And look, the *kavod* of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east ... and the land was lit up by his *kavod*."