

prophecy (1 Kings 15:27–29).⁵² We will never know whether Jeroboam and his supporters intended texts like Exodus 16 to lead Israel into a way of life that would protect it from reverting to a Solomon-like monarchy. The manna story is not one most kings would embrace as the “divine word,” certainly not kings in the Solomonic mold.

With this experience in their minds and bodies, Israel continued its journey away from Egypt to the climax of its collective encounter with YHWH in Exodus 19 and 24. The epiphany available to the eyes and ears of all the people contrasts sharply with that experienced within the Jerusalem temple.

**Table 12:
Comparison of Glory of YHWH
in Temple and Wilderness**

1 Kings 8:1–3, 10–14

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. . . .

And when the priests came out of the holy place, *a cloud filled the house of YHWH*, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for *the glory of YHWH filled the house of YHWH*. Then Solomon said, “YHWH has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” Then the *king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel*, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

Exodus 19:16–19; 24:16–17

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. *Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God*. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because YHWH had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. . . .

The glory of YHWH settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of YHWH was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

52. It is tempting to speculate whether the complete destruction of the “house of Jeroboam” was engineered by an ancient CIA-like coup, for the sake of preventing his radical alternative social order from coming into fruition. For a hundred years of such overthrows in U.S. history, see Kinzer; see also Douglass for the story of an internal “overthrow” in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.