

Thoughts on the Daily Word

19th Week of Year. Monday 10th August. Readings: Ezekiel 1:2-5,24-28; Psalm 148; Gospel: Matthew 17:22-27.

Ezekiel is speaking to a people in Exile who have lost the glory of the Temple and therefore the presence of God. His depiction of a throne that moves amidst such glory surely describe the presence of God as an overwhelming presence. The Israelites in Exile would have felt that their god had lost out in the battle with the Babylonian gods. Ezekiel is telling them that despite the Exile, their god was the one and only God of all creation, an outstanding claim. It could only be verified by the amazing reality of the return from Exile and the rebuilding of the Temple. A new kind of covenant would arise, and the Israelites would become known as Jews, many of whom would be spread across the known world. The Gospel story continues the desire of Ezekiel to break the bonds of a physical Temple and, eventually the tribal connection. The vision of Ezekiel marked another step towards a new vision of God's presence in the world.