

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 8 – JROC – The Eternal Purpose of God

March 16, 2025

A clear understanding of the glory of God – the truth that God’s revelation of Himself, of ALL Who He is, ALL His attributes, His character, His nature– provides a clear understanding of the big picture of Scripture. How does grasping ALL Who God is give us a clear understanding of the metanarrative - grand story of the Bible...how everything in the Bible fits together and speaks to the eternal purpose of God? The metanarrative is God’s unfolding plan of redemption and restoration from eternity past to eternity future - with the glory of God at the center. I’m suggesting that the glory of God is the unifying theme of Scripture!

I’m strongly suggesting that the metanarrative is the story of God's plan to restore the world through Israel, God's chosen people. The story includes the creation of the world, the fall of humanity, redemption, and restoration.

Gen. 12:3 - God, in speaking to Abram, laying out promises to Abram and his physical descendants, said to Abram, *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*

Gen. 18:18 – God speaks of making of Abraham...of his physical descendants...of Israel – an instrument of blessing for the world.

Rom. 11:15 – Paul wrote to the believers in Rome, ...when Israel as a nation comes to faith in Jesus, it will be like life from the dead for the world! Israel’s restoration in the future will impact THE WORLD – ALL OF US - because at that time in the future, Jesus will appear in power and great glory and establish His kingdom on this earth – the Millennial Kingdom!!

God will pour down His Spirit upon the Jewish people still alive at the end of the tribulation (Zech. 12:10)...they will mourn for Jesus...and Jesus will return to earth at His physical Second Coming. (Matt. 23:37-39) (Matt. 24:29-30; Matt. 25:31-36).

Jesus told His disciples in Matt. 19:28 - *Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*. Of course, this has not occurred as yet. And, we know that when the Kingdom will be established, Jesus will reign from King David’s throne from Jerusalem during 1,000 years during which time Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:1-3).

“Glory,” in the Hebrew is “kavod” which means WEIGHTINESS – the “GLORY OF GOD” - ALL WHO GOD IS – ALL HIS ATTRIBUTES – God’s inherent qualities. How do we explain God’s “inherent nature”?

God's “inherent nature” refers to the essential qualities or attributes that make God – GOD. God’s essential qualities/attributes are inseparable from who He is.

What are some of God’s attributes? His holiness, justice, grace, mercy, love, faithfulness, immutability (God does NOT change), His omnipotence (ALL powerful), His omnipresence (everywhere present), and His omniscience (ALL knowing). God is sovereign – He has

complete control; He is ABSOLUTE authority. And God is infinite; He is limitless. God has no limitations! God's word tells us that He is infinite in all His attributes. No matter which of the attributes of God you consider, He possesses each to an infinite degree.

To such an infinite God there rightly belongs an infinite, a limitless weight of glory!!! Can we even fathom that? How are we responding?

2

ALL God's attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times – at every moment throughout eternity!

AT THE CROSS - God's love and His justice operated simultaneously!!!

God's righteous demands were met at the cross!! God demanded death for sin!!! And so, because of His amazing love, Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin!

The Bible tells us that God REVEALS Himself – His glory - to humans in three primary ways: Creation; the Word of God; Jesus.

All that God has created in the physical universe discloses Who He is!

Psa. 19:1 - The heavens *declare* the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

King David wrote about hearing the glory of God in creation – in the present tense!

Declare – in the Hebrew means to recount, to retell (to tell again...and again). AND “*declare*” - this verb is in the present tense. That is, the heavens “are declaring,” and the sky “is proclaiming” the creative work of God. God's creative work has been a continual display since creation! God is serious about proclaiming His glory, isn't He?

God reveals Himself to us through His inspired Word – the Scripture!

II Tim. 3:16 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness.

II Pet. 1:19-21 - ...we have the prophetic word confirmed (stable, fast, firm), *which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;* ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy (referring to the OT Prophets) of Scripture is of any private (not of individual origin) interpretation ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man (man's choice, inclination, desire, pleasure), *but holy men of God spoke as they were moved* (carried as in persons in a boat – carried apart from themselves) *by the Holy Spirit.*

God reveals Himself to us through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus!

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Where does the “eternal purpose” of God begin?

John 1:1 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John's gospel begins, *In the beginning* – placing Jesus before the creation of the world. If we do not understand the “when” of the Christmas account, we can come away thinking that Jesus' incarnation is God's Plan B – something new – thinking that God has come up with a new Plan rather than fulfilling all He had already promised!

We are privy to a conversation between God the Father and God the Son – in eternity past - in Isa. 53:10 (NASB) - *The Lord was pleased to crush Him* (the Suffering Servant – the Messiah – Jesus), *putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering,* AND, did Jesus render Himself as a guilt offering? YES!!!! THANK YOU, JESUS!

Is there one unifying theme in Scripture that carries God's narrative, the one story of Scripture, from eternity past through eternity future? Why am I suggesting the glory of God as the unifying theme in the Bible?

We need to comprehend that God has a worldview for the WORLD. John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten* (one of a kind; unique; beloved) *Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!*

3

In the Bible we read of multiple Gentile nations, the one nation of Israel, and individuals. We read of those who are saved and will be saved; we read of those who are not saved. But, God's heart is for the world. Does God use those who are not saved for His glory? Yes!

Rom. 9:17 - ...*the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*

The glory of God is mentioned 606 times in Scripture: 376 times in the OT; 230 times in the NT.

Throughout Scripture we read that God desires to bring glory to Himself.

I Sam. 17:44-46 – when David faced Goliath, David told the Philistine, *You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.* God's intent/goal/desire is that He should be known in all the earth!

II Sam. 7:23-24 - *And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? ²⁴ For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.*

God states in the book of Ezekiel, 63 times, as He is speaking to Israel and to various nations, *then they shall know that I am God.*

Habakkuk 2:14 - *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord*

The glory of the New Jerusalem

Rev. 21:22-23 - *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.*