

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 1 – The Glory of God Throughout Scripture

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Lessons Link

The Glory of God/Women's Study

How do we define the glory of God? Where do we see the glory of God in Scripture? How many of you have read “the glory of God” in Scripture? Where does the glory of God “appear” in Scripture? How does the glory of God work in my life? And, shouldn't we be asking, “What does ‘the glory of God’ MATTER TO GOD?”

Rom. 3:23 – ...*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* Mankind – each man – comes short/falls short of PERFECTION!!!

What is God's desire? TO SHOW US HIS GLORY!

Hab. 2:14 – *The earth will be filled with the knowledge (to know by experience; to perceive; to discern; to see) of the glory of God....* This is God's purpose for the world!

The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kavod* which means weightiness/weighty – ALL Who God is. The glory of God summarizes the seriousness, the perfection and the infinite significance of all of the attributes of God. The glory of God sums up all His attributes, His majesty, His character, His reputation – all that He wants us to know about Him – that He has revealed to us in Scripture. God has REVEALED! Hang onto that word – REVEALED.

“In the beginning God created....” PERIOD! God exists! The Bible does not give an explanation for God's existence. He is! He always has been...He always will be! We read in Rom. 1:19-20, 21 - ...*what may be known of God is manifest among them (mankind) for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse.*

How does all this work? Manifest, shown, clearly seen, and...God dwells in unapproachable light (I Tim. 6:16)??? Deut. 29:29 – *the secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever that we may do all the words of this law.*

Firstly God never declares *everything* to man. There are secrets God has, and will always have. He has the right to have secrets, because He is God. Secondly, we are given a revelation of God and His words/instructions. God exists and we must do all we can to pay close attention to Him. God has given us an understandable message that is eternal and forever relevant. God has spoken to us to affect the way we live. God's revelation matters to Him and it must matter to us! God has revealed Himself to mankind.

Therefore, we must conclude that God's self-revelation was communicated in such a way

to mankind...that mankind would comprehend! God has a PURPOSE for ALL He does (Isa. 14:24). And, that purpose is communicated to us in KNOWABLE fashion!

Have you heard this phrase...“the Shechinah Glory of God”? “Shechinah” is NOT found in Scripture! “Shechinah” was added into the study of the glory of God by Rabbis. BUT – take note of this - “Shechinah” is from the word *shachan* which means “to dwell.” Hold on to that! AND, keep in mind that the glory of God is REVEALED throughout Scripture.

How did God reveal Himself after the tabernacle in the wilderness was constructed?

Ex. 40:34-35 - *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* ³⁵ *And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* Where specifically did God dwell with the tabernacle?

I Sam. 4:4 - *...the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.* God dwelled between the cherubim, the angels, that adorned the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle.

The glory of God can be understood as the VISIBLE MANIFESTATION of the presence of God. It is the majestic presence or manifestation of God in which He descends to DWELL among men. Hang onto “visible manifestation” and “dwell”!

In the OT most of these visible manifestations of GOD took the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these AND took a physical form – the Angel of the LORD!

The ONE STORY of the Bible...the ONE LONG SENTENCE that is the Bible has a plot. The Bible’s plot can be summarized in four words:

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, RESTORATION

These four words take us from Genesis 1:1 through to Revelation 22:21. We SEE the glory of God from Genesis 1:1 through to Rev. 22:21.

God created the earth to display His glory. Psa.19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows (manifests; reveals) His handiwork.* Rev. 22 ends with Jesus telling us that He, Emmanuel, God in the FLESH – in physical form – is coming quickly. The ONE STORY is all about God...WHO He is...throughout the Bible CREATION: God created the world as a place where He would be known, served, worshipped, and where He would be present – where He would dwell with man – where His glory would be revealed/manifested/seen and enjoyed.

Here’s the punch line before we go further: What God planned, what He purposed, He WILL bring to pass at the end of all things! That’s RESTORATION!

God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26a - *Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.* . . . This defines man’s unique relation to God.) God created man as His representative on earth – to reflect His image and to nurture – to have dominion over – God’s creation. Gen. 1:26b - *...let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the*

birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. Dominion speaks to ruling over, nurturing, and serving.

THE FALL: Man rebelled. Sin entered the world. Mankind and the earth came under the curse. Man was separated from God. Man experienced physical death and spiritual death. Man lost dominion over the earth. The enemy usurped dominion over God's creation. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), the ruler of this world (John 12:31), the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). We need to remember that God alone is OMNIpotent (ALL powerful), OMNIscient (ALL knowing), OMNIpresent (everywhere present; all is in God's presence). Satan has limitations! Satan's ability is always limited by the purposes and plans of God!

REDEMPTION: Immediately upon sin entering the world, God gave man HOPE and promised REDEMPTION – He promised a Redeemer. From Gen. 3:15, the first Messianic prophecy, we read the unfolding of God's plan of redemption through to Revelation 20. Redemption means to buy out of the marketplace. Slaves, those in bondage, were bought and sold in the marketplace. Through sin, mankind was in bondage to Satan.

The glory of God appeared to Abram, to Hagar, to Jacob, to Moses, to Pharaoh (Ex. 9:16), to Joshua, to the parents of Samson....

In this fallen world under the curse, God has promised to overcome death, evil, sin and has demonstrated His glory in manifesting His holiness, love, mercy, grace, goodness, ALL He is to bring about redemption for man and for the earth! (Rom. 8:19-23). Within the context of judgment, God promised the Redeemer! Throughout Scripture we see the glory of God in salvation against the backdrop of sin and judgment. And throughout the OT we see the glory of God REVEALING Himself so that man will RESPOND!

In the OT, people were saved by grace through faith in God's REVEALED message which pointed to His promise of REDEMPTION – His message which pointed to the REDEEMER. What God had planned and purposed will come to pass. God's will cannot be thwarted. The glory of God cannot be suppressed (pushed down, disregarded, rejected)! And so Jesus entered this world.

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

RESTORATION: The fulfillment of all that God had originally decreed! Because Jesus is returning, many prophecies have yet to be fulfilled. At the end of the Tribulation, the Jewish people who are left alive on earth (one third based on Zech. 13:8-9) will come to faith in Jesus (Zech. 12:10). Israel will be restored (Isa. 62:1-7). When Jesus establishes His kingdom, when He rules and reigns from King David's throne in Jerusalem (Luke 1:32-33), the glory of God, the visible manifestation of God, will return to the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem (Eze. 43:1-5).

God promised that redeemed man would be given dominion over the earth (Dan. 7:27). Dan. 7:13, 14, 27 – At the Second Coming, the Son of Man, coming with the

clouds of heaven, REVEALING His glory, will come to the Ancient of Days and receive the Kingdom of God which the Son of Man will then give to the saints of the Most High – that they may have dominion over it.

During the Millennial Kingdom, the curse will be reversed. (Rom. 8:21; Isa. 11:6-9). Hab. 2:14 - *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

The curse will be removed in the new heaven and new earth – in the New Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:1, 5 - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'*

Rev. 22:3 - *And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

Rev. 22:5 - *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. The glory of God will be our light throughout eternity!*

GOD HAS REVEALED Himself to us – GOD WHO has triumphed – He has won the victory. REDEMPTION wins. How should we then live?

Questions

Why did you sign up for this class?

What are you desiring to learn?

What was new to you in this lesson?

To what words are you “hanging on”?

How does this lesson matter to God?

How does this lesson impact you?

What impacted you most?

About what are you excited?

What is your response?

Strongly Suggested Homework

Reread this lesson and look up the Bible references.

Jot down observations and questions.

Begin a journal of how you're grasping the glory of God passages.

Record your response to the glory of God passages in your journal.

Read Week 2's handout when you receive it prior to the next class.