

GLORY OF GOD

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about the glory of God.

The word translated as "glory" in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word "kabo", which meant to be heavy or weighty. When people witnessed the glory of God in the Bible the word used was "kabowd" which meant His glorious presence.

In the scriptures, God manifested His glory in several different ways.

Let's look at a few scriptures.

In Exodus chapter 3, God revealed His glory to Moses and spoke to him from a burning bush.

It was recorded in verse 2. It reads, the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked and behold the bush was burning with fire yet the bush was not consumed.

Another way was revealed in Exodus 19. God told Moses, "behold I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever."

So, it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

In Exodus chapter 33, Moses erected a tent outside the camp where he would go and meet with God. The pillar of cloud that led the Israelites through the wilderness would rest on the tent, Moses would go in and God would speak with Moses face to face. After meeting with God, Moses's face shone so brightly, that he had to put a veil over his face because it scared the people.

In Exodus chapter 40.34 when the tabernacle was erected, the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.

1 Kings 8.10 records when Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant brought into his temple.

It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the LORD.

In the New Testament the glory of God manifested itself in several different ways.

Matthew 3.16 describes Jesus' baptism by John. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus revealed His glory when He turned the water into wine.

This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Luke 9.29 describes Jesus' transfiguration.

And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

The mob that came to arrest Jesus before His crucifixion witnessed His glory. It reads, Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am *He*." So, when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

In Acts chapter 5 it declares, at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Saul of Tarsus experienced the Glory of God when he had an up close and personal meeting with Jesus, the risen King of Kings and Lord of Lords after His resurrection. As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

As varied and different as all of these manifestations of God's glory were, there were also many different reactions to it.

At the foot of Mount Sinai, the Israelites were scared to death and trembled at the manifestation of God's glory. They even told Moses, you can set up any religious program you want and we'll do it, but whatever you do, don't let him talk to us like that ever again. If He speaks to us again, we will surely die.

The priests in Solomon's temple fell to the ground because they could not stand under the weight of His presence and continue their appointed duties in the temple.

The mob that came to arrest Jesus fell back to the ground when Jesus said I am He. Just the expression of who He was, was truly powerful. I'm sure that He wanted them to know that "no one takes my life, I lay it down."

At the transfiguration of Jesus, Peter reverted to the only thing he'd ever been taught about the presence of God. It was the Feast of Tabernacles also known as the Feast of Booths, representing God dwelling with His people. So, he thought God's presence is here maybe we ought to build some booths.

When Peter and John manifested the Kingdom of God by healing the lame man at the beautiful gate, the Pharisees tried to stop it. They told Peter and John to never speak in His name again. Of course, they refused.

Paul responded to the blinding light of God's presence, and answered Jesus' question by calling Him Lord and following the instructions that he was given.

God was adding to the first church daily, and the presence of His Holy Spirit in them was creating many miracles and healings, but because of these things the rest of the people were fearful to associate with them.

Let me share a few of my thoughts with you.

Although the reactions to God's Glory seem to be all over the map, I believe that they fall into two categories.

Spectators and participants.

Some merely saw the Glory of God and reacted to it. Others opened their hearts to embrace God's Glory and were radically changed.

Let's focus a bit on what happens to those who embrace the Glory of God in their lives.

Jesus spoke to the Father, "the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. John 17.22

Man was never created to live apart from God in this world system ruled by Satan. He was created to be in constant fellowship with the Father, in His presence and in His glory.

The Apostle John declared God's plan for all men. As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1.12

God redeemed man back into His family and His Glory by their faith in the supernatural work of Christ on their behalf.

Hebrews 1.3 declares that Jesus was the radiance of God's glory.

Romans 8.29 reveals God's plan from the very beginning was to conform us to the same image as Christ. So that He would be the first born among many brothers and sisters. Those He called, He justified. those He justified He also glorified.

God wanted ALL of His children to be filled with His eternal life and His Glory, not just Jesus.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Today, God is not looking for smoke in the church buildings. We are the temples that He wants to fill to overflowing. God's intention was to dwell within His children in all of His glory.

Jesus told His disciples that, "you are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5.16

Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Life and the Light of all men. And He left us here to manifest that same Light to the entire world, because He dwells within us.

He also told them before He offered His Life to redeem us back into God's family, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. John 12.23

He's requiring us to lay down our useless way of life that we inherited from Adam and Eve, and put on the eternal life that God re-created us to live in this world.

John also said, by this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. 1 John 2.6

Jesus told His disciples "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. John 15.7

God is glorified when we accept His sacrifice that makes us one with Him, trust in His word, speak what He says, and get His results.

He also told them, "truly truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14.12

He's made His supernatural ability available to His children beyond anything that we can even comprehend.

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Colossian believers to, set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in His glory. Colossians 3.2

God's intention from the very beginning of creation was that His children should possess His Life.

Paul declared that in the end God is coming to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in those who have believed and that His name would be glorified in us and us in Him. 2 Thessalonians 1.9-12

The Apostle John stated in his first letter that by abiding in the union and communion with God, that He redeemed us into, we would have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Isaiah prophesied to God's chosen people in chapter 60.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. "For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples, but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

“Lift up your eyes round about and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms.

Today as He always has, God intends to use His children to be the Ambassadors of His Kingdom, to radiate His Glory and manifested His supernatural presence. It's from our unbroken fellowship and oneness with God that He redeemed us into, that He will orchestrate His will for this entire Earth.

Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see *it* together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
That's Isaiah 40.5

“And the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2.14

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org