



The Glory # 1

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." I have been pondering the glory of God for the past few weeks, something that is a major passion in my life. To me the presence/glory of God is absolutely essential. It is a no-other-options lifestyle. There is not a lot of teaching on this subject so a few years ago I began searching for ways to make it practical. I had a lot of questions about the glory - what it was, where it came from. I wanted to understand its inner workings and how I could interact with it. The upcoming series of articles will be the result of my findings as I have meditated on and studied God's glory.

Let's start today with some scripture. These verses will launch us out on our glory journey. They are from the book of Revelation and they will help us begin to understand the glory of God.

Revelation 15:8 *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power.*

Revelation 18:1 *After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.*

Revelation 21:23 *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

The glory of God is actually the atmosphere of heaven. On our earth, we have air to breathe and sunshine. In heaven, they have glory as an atmosphere and also for illumination. God's glory can be manifested as light, or sometimes smoke. When the children of Israel came out of the Egypt, these two substances guided them for nearly 40 years - fire and a cloud (light and smoke).

Now think of a river. It has a source or starting place - usually a spring somewhere up high on a mountain or hill. Likewise, the glory of God has its source in the face of God. This is the reason why God's face and presence are synonymous in the Hebrew language. We will go into more detail on these points in upcoming weeks. Here is another verse speaking of Jesus (the son of man) as John saw Him:

Revelation 1:16 *In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

According to the bible (John 1:5) God is made of light and in Him there is no darkness. This makes Him a being constructed of varying consistencies of glory. Because glory/light is His essence, it makes sense that the entire universe is built on a foundation of light. God's glory, emanating from His face is the ultimate source of life in our universe. It is light charged with life, atmosphere, and power all mixed together. It is the critical substance of everything that exists.

Now here is another verse from Revelation:

Revelation 22:5 *And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

I would like us to take note here that the glory of God is extremely powerful. It has enough strength to easily light up our entire universe.

With these things in mind, let's now head over to the book of Genesis. This little book contains the chronicles of the creation of our earth. There are a few key things to explore in the first few verses of the bible when it comes to the glory of God.

Genesis 1:1-5 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

Here we find the beginning of the creation process. We can see all three parts of the eternal One - God, the Spirit, and also the Word of God all working in conjunction to create our earth. Notice the first words spoken over creation - "let there be light." I would like for us to consider exactly what this light was. Remember, this is only the first day of creation. The sun, moon, and stars were not made until day four so there was no

sun to light up our earth. Also recall that in the new heaven and earth, as we read a few paragraphs ago, the glory of God will illumine our earth.

I would like to suggest that when God released the first light upon our planet, it was actually His glory. Friends, the first rays of light to land upon our earth were actually the glory light of God! They came straight from His face, spoken out by His Word. He released them from the spirit realm of heaven into our natural realm and for the next three days of creation, everything was created by the light of this glory. In the beginning our earth was illuminated by God's glory, and someday this will be the case again. For this reason God's glory can exist both in heaven and also on earth. It was the initial building block of our creation.

There is one other stunning aspect of God's creation. It is contained in the phrase "God saw that the light was good." The very first description given to anything in the bible was of that given to light ... God saw it was good. The reason for this description blows me away every time I think of it. Are you ready? God's glory also contains His goodness. There are four synonymous aspects to the glory of God - the glory, God's presence, the light of His face (His countenance), and also God's goodness. You cannot separate these four celestial substances. They are all one in the same.

So, along with the glory/presence light of God's countenance, one of the foundations of our universe is also the goodness of God. Every step of creation undertaken from this point on was marked by the phrase "and God saw that it was good."

In our next article we will continue on with the story of creation and discover more sweet things about the glory and how it was an essential substance in the foundation of our earth.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is sooooo GLORIOUS!