



## The Glory # 13

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." We have been articling for weeks now on the subject of the glory of God. Every time I think it might come to an end, God drops yet another glorious idea into my heart. So, today we continue ...

Let's start with some Old Testament scripture:

Haggai 2:7-9 (NIV) *'And I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.'*

OK, you have to admit, that is one awesome scripture passage!

There is one aspect of God's glory that has always fascinated me. Most of the references in the bible for "glory" talk about the manifest presence of God, the light of His face, or a fire or cloud. There are also glorious references to the goodness of God, His power and splendour, and the very core of His makeup - light. God's glory is His alone. However, these verses reference glory in the context of silver and gold (earthly substances of wealth) and the splendour of the beauty of the temple.

Let us recall, for a moment, the definition of the Hebrew and Greek words translated "glory" in the bible.

The Hebrew word "kabod" means "weighty or heavy splendor."

The Greek word "doxa" means "brightness, splendor, magnificence, and majesty."

There are several other verses in the bible that echo a similar thought:

*Esther 1:4 And he displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his great majesty for many days, 180 days.*

Here we have a king who threw a huge banquet for his workers and guests. It was such an ordeal that it lasted for almost 6 months. In the process, he sat on his throne and displayed all of his riches, his gold, silver, and royal jewels for days on end. The above scripture describes it as "royal glory." I recall being in England a few years ago and visiting a museum where a whole array of royal crown jewels was on display in large, massively protected glass casings. It was most dazzling and beautiful.

In light of this concept, I would like to talk briefly about the glory of God as it pertains to wealth, riches, gold, and silver. We have all heard jokes on how much gold there is in heaven. Evidently, it is in such abundance there, that it is used as pavement. Gold, in particular, is an extremely heavy substance. I once held a small silver bar in my hand. I was impressed by its weight. Gold is even heavier. The Hebrew definition for "glory" is "heavy and weighty splendor." For some reason, God has chosen to put some of the same characteristics of His glory into the element of gold. In fact, He has chosen to place great value on this substance here on our earth. I would like for us to think of the parallel to God's glory for a moment. There is no way to count the value of God's glory. It has no equal in our universe. It is weighty, heavy, beautiful, shimmering with fire and golden hues. It is valuable beyond all measure.

Now that we have talked about this parallel, let's take a look at some glorious scriptures in the New Testament.

*Romans 9:23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,*

*Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

*Ephesians 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.*

*Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

The riches of God's glory is a massively beautiful concept. I must admit to having only limited revelation on this glorious idea. Yet, over the years, I have taken notice of the

above mentioned verses and pondered their meaning. Here are a few thoughts that might help shed some light on this subject.

God is not poor. He has surrounded Himself with glory, riches, a kingdom, jewels, gold, and beauty beyond measure. His throne is made of jasper, beneath His feet is a pavement of crystal blue sapphire. The bible speaks of jewels being used as foundation stones - laid beneath the grade where they can't even be seen! My thought is that these substances mirror, reflect, and refract God's glory in ways that are mind boggling. We can only imagine the glory of this scene by reading the several descriptions of heaven found in the bible. We also know that God is a good Father who loves to bless His children.

I would like to remind us today that we are royal children. We have been made kings, queens, and priests in a glorious kingdom. The scriptures we have mentioned speak of God wanting to make known the riches of His glory to our world through us - His vessels of mercy. Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts will be enlightened to know the riches of the glory of His inheritance, that we would be strengthened according to the riches of His glory. God also promises to supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. WOW! I am so overwhelmed with glory right now!

Friends, my conclusion for today, the riches of God's glory are unfathomable. They will keep heaven and earth in commerce for an eternity. God's glorious heavenly kingdom crown jewels are on display in heaven and God wants them to be known on earth as well. He wants to lavish them on us and display them through us, His vessels of mercy.

Once again ... arise and shine, your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is rich in glory!