



The Glory # 14

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." This article will be the last in our series on the glory of God. It has taken the better part of the fall to write down my thoughts on this one. The fact that God's glory is so inexhaustible makes it a fascinating writing target. There is a never-ending list of scriptures that could keep me occupied for weeks to come. Each one of them gives a slightly different view of God's glory.

I have a theory. In Revelation 4, when the four living creatures cry holy, holy, holy, I believe it is because they constantly see new sides of God's glory. Evidently, the scene described around the throne has been going on for countless millennia. Yet, each time God shifts on His throne a few inches, a whole new side of His glory illuminates through the atmosphere. The four creatures, ultra-sensitive to this glory, burst out in praises and cry "holy, holy" all over again, sending the 24 elders cascading on their faces, casting their crowns. This heavenly worship takes place in cycle after cycle throughout the ages.

My point: the glory of God is unfathomable. We will be catching new glimpses of it for eternities to come. Each time we do, our hearts will be filled with wonder and worship all over again. The only reasonable response to God's glory is worship. The fire that comes as a result of the glory of God is also the only thing worthy of consuming our worship. In this way, all worship is both initiated from, and brought to conclusion in God's glory. Because God's glory is His alone, this fact also makes all worship belong to God.

With these thoughts in mind, let us review a few of the main points we have touched on in this series of articles.

First of all, God's glory is the light of creation. It is the basic building substance of all matter. There is much truth in the saying that God holds all things together. If He were to turn off the glory light switch, all matter would cease to exist.

God released His glory in order to start the creation process when He said, "Let there be light." Then, He began to speak words into the environment of glory, creating everything we know and see. On the fourth day, God transferred the job of lighting up creation from His glory to the stars and to our sun. Now, each heavenly body has its own glory according to 1 Corinthians 15. Scientifically speaking, every star has a specific gaseous makeup, giving it a spectrum of light that is as unique as a fingerprint. No two stars are alike in this regard.

Next we talked about the four glorious cornerstones of God. They are as follows:

- 1) God's glory
- 2) God's goodness
- 3) God's presence
- 4) God's countenance (or the light of His face)

These four aspects of God's glory are like a four sided coin, if such a thing could ever exist. They are all the same, yet each is a unique manifestation of God's glory.

The glory itself, is actually light. It is a heavy and weighty, splendour-filled substance. It can manifest as fire, light, a cloud, smoke, or presence. It is actually the substance God is made of. God is light and in Him there is no darkness. God is made out of glory. Is it then any wonder that if He should look at you, you would see glory shining from His face. For this reason, the countenance of God is synonymous with His glory. His face is so bright that it will one day light up the entire known universe. The presence of God is saturated with His glory as well. In fact, in the Hebrew language, the word "face" and "presence" are the same word.

The other cornerstone of God's glory is His goodness. When Moses asked to see God's glory, God responded by making all of His goodness pass before Moses. The goodness of God is not just a character quality. It is a part of God's very make-up. It is part of His nature. God is good in the best sense of the word. The fact that His glory shines brighter than the sun, only upholds this truth.

Next, we talked about the transforming nature of the glory of God. When we fix our eyes on God's glory, we are transformed into His image from glory to glory. We also talked about the fact that we are filled with the glory of God. In fact, we carry the glory of God around in our earthen vessels - our bodies. When talking about these type of

truths, it is extremely difficult for us to imagine how brightly we shine. Our bodies are good containers. They are made to hold the glory internally. We have a hard time thinking of ourselves as glorious, but the scriptures are clear, a substantial deposit of glory rests in each and every one of us - so substantial that it is described as the "fullness of God."

When Adam and Eve first walked our planet, they were extremely glorious beings. They actually had a covering of glory that was lost when sin entered the world. They had, in essence, glorified bodies. We now carry this same glory internally within our bodies. However, one day when we see Jesus face to face, our bodies will be changed in the twinkling of an eye by a force out-of-this-world powerful, His glory. We will be transformed into His image - into a fully glorified version of who we are today. That day will be most glorious indeed.

The last thing we talked about was the riches of God's glory. Our Father God has made an extremely glorious universe for us to play and live in. It is filled with wealth, precious substances such as gold, beautiful stones, and jewels. In heaven, some of these valuable substances are actually used as foundation stones to the massive infrastructure that supports and beautifies life. These precious substances mirror, remind us of, imitate, and reflect His glory. Yet, God wants to meet our needs here on earth according to His riches in glory. Sometimes I wonder if we have any idea what our God is really like. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ever ask or even think. He is not a mean person. He is a good father, taking delight in His children, just waiting for them to reach out towards Him. I am certain that someday when we see Him as He really is, we will have much regret for assigning such a sinister character to the one who is pure, glorious, and good beyond measure.

To end, I would like to leave us with one final glorious scripture passage. Here it is out of the book of Luke:

*Luke 2:8-14 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**"*

Have a wonderfully glorious day.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and the Father is well pleased with you.