



The Glory # 2

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." We have been talking about the glory of God, a subject that has fascinated me for years now. I recall as a youngster having various encounters with the presence and glory of God and wondering what it was. In recent years, I have made a concerted effort to find out more about God's glory in order to understand it a bit better.

If you will recall, in our last article we discussed how God released light at the beginning of the creation process. The light He spoke into existence was none other than His glory. From this point in creation and for the next three days, everything was created in the light of God's glory. Remember, the sun was not created until day four.

For the most part, the first three days of creation consisted of God laying the foundations of our earth. He created the water first. I can well imagine how frozen this water must have been without any light or heat. It is for good reason that God released light in order to thaw out the creation process. Then God began forming our earth. By day three, the dry land began to appear and then God created the first life forms on our earth - plants. Now I have an interesting thought for us today. How in the world could plants survive without sunlight? The sun, moon, and stars came later in the creation process but remember, up till now, it was still God's glory lighting up the space. To solve this quandary, I would like to quote a few verses from the last chapter of Revelation.

Revelation 22:1-5 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 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.

Here we have a description of the new heaven and earth and what do we find? We find a scenario where the glory of God is illumining the scene as we discussed last week. But what do we also find in this picture? Plants! Friends, if you are of the opinion that the glory of God is incapable of growing plants, think again. In the above passage, we see the illumining power of the glory growing plants that are capable of providing healing for the nations, bearing twelve types of fruit. Evidently these are stunning looking trees. If the glory can grow trees, I am certain it can provide the necessary life giving illumination to grow any kind of plant that exists. In fact, my bet would be that a plant growing in the light of God's glory would be a very happy plant indeed. It would be soaking in the most ultra-pure life giving source of light that exists. It would probably grow huge! I can hardly wait to see what this will all look like when the light of God's face once again lights up our existence in the new creation!

So even up to the end of day three, God was still illuminating creation, laying the foundations of matter, building things out of the container of His glory and light. Is it any wonder why science tells us that light is the cornerstone building block of our universe. Once again, every phase of creation was marked by "and God saw that it was GOOD." Light, glory, God's presence, God's goodness, and the light of the countenance of God's face are absolutely rock solid building materials. The glory of God is "the" chief foundation of everything that exists.

At this point in time I would like to go to another scripture in 1 Corinthians. In context, these verses are talking about the resurrection and what will happen to our earthly bodies on that glorious day. Then, Paul starts to talk about the heavens, the sun, moon, and the stars:

1 Corinthians 15:40-41 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

What I would like us to notice here is how the heavenly bodies are described as having glory. In fact, each star has a different type of glory. The moon has it's own glory, and the sun also has a unique glory. Remember that glory is light. I recall back in school, studying the light coming from different stars in science class. It is interesting that each star has it's own unique spectrum of light. No two stars are exactly the same in this

regard. The unique gas make-up of each particular star gives it a slightly different light spectrum from any other star that exists. And so, stars all have their own glory.

In the new creation, God's face will shine as bright as the sun, lighting up our existence for eternity. However, on day four of creation, we see God on a search for another light source for our earth. I imagine God saying, "OK, I have been lighting this place up with my glory for long enough. Eventually, I am going to have to go back to heaven and when I do, this creation will need a good, strong, reliable light source to give it energy and life." And so, God began looking for something to transfer His glory to - and what did He find? A huge ball of GAS! Sounds reasonable enough to me! We can only imagine the glory of the moment when our heavenly Father lit a match to that gaseous mass, releasing His glory upon it and transferring the job of lighting up our earth from His face, to our sun. Boom! Talk about a big BANG!

I would like us to think of how similar our sun is to the glory of God when it comes to a light source. First, it provides life. Our sun is the source of what we call "photosynthesis" here on our planet. This big word basically means that the sun's energy provides the basic life-giving ingredient for all life on our planet. Without this light, everything alive would perish in a few short hours. Then, it is also source of all other energy. Without the glory of our sun shining on us for even a few moments, we are absolutely doomed. Friends, so is our universe without the goodness of God.

I am so overwhelmed by God's glory right now even as I write. There is no shortcut to abundant life without the glory of God radiating down on us. Thank you Father for Your glory, presence, goodness, countenance. Without it, we simply cease to exist. You are so good.

Next article, more glory talk!!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and the glory of His face shines brighter than the sun in all its strength!