



The Glory # 4

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence" blog. This past week, my wife and I took a trip down the coast from where we live. I never tire of watching the ocean for some reason. Every wave and tidal variation is different from the last one. It is a never ending display of random beauty to me, a place where time seems to stand still.

As I sat by the ocean, I couldn't help but think about the moments in which our world was created. For the last few articles, we have been discussing how God took light, His very own glory, and laid the foundations of our universe. On day four He created our sun - a giant ball of gas. He then transferred the job of lighting up creation from His glorious countenance, to our sun. However, according to the last chapter of Revelation, some day creation will once again be lit up by the face of Jesus. I very much look forward to that day. His glory is well able to illumine our entire universe.

The glory of God has a few different manifestations here on our planet. In both Old and New Testament renderings, the word "glory" carries the literal meaning of "heavy or weighty splendour and brightness - or a glorious consuming fire." Today, I thought we would begin a discussion on some of the ways God's glory is revealed to us. We might not get through them all, but thankfully there is always next week. Let's start with some scripture:

Exodus 33:18-23 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" And He (God) said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have

passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

In context, Moses had just finished having a conversation with God about leading the wayward people of Israel through the wilderness. He stubbornly told God that if His presence wasn't going to accompany them, they weren't going anywhere. God eventually promised Moses that His presence would indeed go with them on their journey. God also told Moses that he had found favour in His sight.

I am amazed beyond words at Moses' response to God's declaration of favour over him. I often try to imagine God telling me directly that I have found favour in His sight. What would I do with this favour? Friends, what would you do? God's favour is His very grace and power towards us who believe. The words "favour" and "grace" are translated from a singular Hebrew/Greek word in both the Old and New Testament. It is a substance and position before God that is too precious to even articulate in words. When given to Solomon, it made him the wisest and richest man in the entire known world. So what did Moses do when God extended him favour? He made a calculated request to see God's glory.

Wow - I don't even know what to say. I have HUGE respect for anyone who will turn the favour of God into a request to see His glory. However, Moses didn't quite comprehend the full extent of what he was asking. God's response to Moses' request sheds some "light" (no pun intended) on the resplendent subject of the glory.

First, God said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you." So friends, we have mentioned this before but I will say it again - God's goodness is a manifestation of His glory. It is a manifestation of light and love and it comes from the countenance of His face. God is made of glory light. Part of this glory is goodness, making God a being who is constructed out of goodness. Goodness is not just a character quality of His, it is a core part of His very nature, a part of His make-up. If you could somehow cut God's skin (if He even has a skin), instead of blood, you would see goodness oozing out. Think about that for a moment. Our bodies are made out of flesh and blood, God is made out of glory, goodness, love, and light (1 John 1:5, 4:8). Is it any wonder that when God created our universe He constantly declared "it is good?" Indeed, it could be no other way. God was building with His own glorious substance and one of the elements of that substance is goodness.

I would like us to take a moment right now and focus on the goodness of God. It is not weird or abnormal. It is not a different kind of good than we think of. It is the best kind of good that exists in our entire creation. When we say that we have a "good, good

Father" it is not just semantics, it is part of the glorious foundation of our world. God "is" good.

God's next response to Moses' request, was a pledge that He would proclaim His name before him. In this declaration we understand that God's name also contains a revelation of His glory. In specific, it was the name of the "Lord." The Hebrew word here is phonetically rendered as "Yahweh," although evidently this is a rather poor translation. There are numerous references in the bible to God's name being glorious. Here is one of many examples:

*Psalm 72:19 And blessed be His **glorious name** forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.*

I am no Hebrew scholar, so I am not going to attempt to sift out the meaning of God's name in context with the revelation of His glory. I do know that this particular version of God's name was actually believed to be unpronounceable by a human being. I was listening to a Jewish Hebrew scholar talk about God's name just a few days ago. He mentioned that there is a certain letter in God's name that is not audibly pronounced. As he described the intricacies of God's name, he refused to even speak it out loud. Even to this day, God's name is considered so holy that the Jewish rabbis won't annunciate it except in certain prayers. However, God tells Moses that He would "declare" this name to him. Just as your name is a representation of who you are, so God's name represents His very nature - and God's nature is none other than glory-made. Is it any wonder that when we praise and worship God, we declare His name as glorious or glory-filled? God's name contains His glory, and for this reason, a declaration of God's name was a necessary part of Moses' request to see God's glory.

In our next article, we are going to talk about the grace and compassion of God in context with His glory. We will also discuss the presence, and the light of God's face. I can hardly wait!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is Jehovah-Yahweh, good beyond measure!