



The Glory # 7

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." For the past several articles, we have been talking about how Moses made a bold request when God showed him favour. He asked to see God's glory. God's response to Moses' request (Exodus 33:17-23) has been our scriptural topic.

In the next chapter of Exodus (chapter 34) we find the actual account of Moses going up the mountain and experiencing God's glory. First, God told Moses to cut out two stone tablets. If you will recall, Moses broke the first two in anger when he saw the people worshipping the golden calf. So, Moses got up early in the morning, brought the new tablets with him, and ascended the mountain. While he was on top of the mountain, the Lord descended in a cloud and stood with him. God then did exactly as He had promised. He passed His glory in front of Moses and declared His name and goodness to him. There is one beautiful part to this account which I would like to post:

Exodus 34:8 *Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.*

I have heard the statement: "Worship is the only natural response to the presence of God." In the case of Moses, this statement is true. In fact, Moses "made haste" to worship. He did it as quickly as he could. Personally, I have never been in an environment where God's presence is strong where I could do anything other than worship. It seems like the only logical thing to do in this type of situation - it is the only natural response.

God then made a covenant with Israel. It was actually a covenant of miracles. God promised to perform miracles more marvellous than had ever been seen on the whole earth. Remember, this entire scenario happened because Moses entreated God that His presence would go with the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness. As was mentioned last week, the presence of God is an environment for the miraculous. When

God promised that His presence would be with them, it was sealed with a covenant of miracles.

God then recited the law to Moses once again. With the first set of tablets that Moses broke, God had written the words with His own finger. The second time, Moses had to write down the law himself - chipping the letters into the stone. Moses was up on the mountain with God forty days and nights. Amazingly, he didn't have to eat or drink the entire time. When he finally made his descent out of the glory and back to the camp of the Israelites, Moses' face was shining. The funny thing is, he wasn't even aware of it, but the sons of Israel were afraid to come near him. For this reason, Moses went around with a veil over his face.

I would like to point out the correlation between Moses' face shining, and God's face shining. Have you ever seen someone who has just spent time in the presence of God? You can tell by their countenance. I was once at a conference where there was a weighty sense of God's glory. On the final night, when the speaker got up, I saw that his face had a shine on it such as is described here in Exodus. It was the result of a group of people seeking God's face for an entire weekend - positioning themselves face to face with God, worshipping Him with abandon, and soaking up His glory as He turned His face towards them. God's face shining on our face makes us shine with His glory. We have no idea what we look like in the spirit realm in situations like this. We are literally glowing with presence from the inside out.

There is one other beautiful part of this story:

Exodus 34:34 But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out.

I am amazed at Moses. He would often go into the tent of meeting to speak with God. There in the tent, face to face with God, Moses would remove the veil. Wow, I just want to cry right now! Then, as Moses would commune with God, his face would be re-charged with glory energy from God's face. I don't know about you, but right now, as has happened several times in this series, as I write, I am experiencing such a strong sense of God's presence. There are a thousand different thoughts running through my heart right now, the foremost being that there is no substitute for spending time with unveiled face in God's presence. It is our daily bread. The glory of God is the ultimate source of life on our planet. If we wish to live life to the full, we are going to have to do like Moses, go often to the place of meeting. There, as we commune with God face to face, we will be re-charged with life.

I have said this hundreds of times, but I will repeat it once again. Glory time is no-agenda time. When we are in God's presence, He holds the agenda. All rods (as in Moses and the burning bush) go down, and all shoes come off in the glory. Rods represent the driven mentality of what we would like to accomplish in the moment. Shoes represent our journey, direction, and agenda. In God's presence, all of these things are cast down as worship. They become irretrievable and irrelevant in the glory. God shares the agenda of His glory with no-one. However, the other side of this beautiful coin is that God knows what we need before we even ask. He is also easily touched by our infirmities. He will never leave us empty-handed when we come with no agenda. In fact, we will leave with way more than we have ever laid down. We will leave with the miraculous chasing us down, angels on our side, and the goodness of God covering us like a cloud. We will also leave with life flowing in and through us like a river, we will glow like fire, and we will be transformed into His image from glory to glory.

In our next article, we are going to take a look at 2 Corinthians chapter 3 and 4. This passage describes the scenario we have been discussing today: Moses' face, the law, the veil, and the glory. It also details how things have changed for us now that we are "in Christ" in regards to the glory. This passage also contains one of my favourite bible verses of all time. I can hardly wait to talk about it.

Stay tuned!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and may we see Him face to face!