

"THE GLORY!" (PART I)



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, **(and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** (KJV)

John 1:14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and **we (actually) saw His glory** (His honour, His majesty), **such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father**, full of grace (favour, loving-kindness) and truth. (Amplified Bible)

Greetings. The Glory!

Welcome to this edition. You may be confused already, and, as I begin, I have no clear picture myself of what I am going to say, other than a few verses I believe God put in my heart. Nevertheless as we go we will be healed and also revealed to.

"THE GLORY" is an enormous subject, and I'll begin with what I hope to say in this edition, which is:

- the Glory of God and Jesus Christ.

- What is The Glory?
- Where have we seen The Glory in the Bible?
- **HOW TO OBTAIN AND SEE THE GLORY**

The Glory of God and Jesus Christ

As we see from the verses under the title, the Apostle John said; '**we (actually) saw His glory (His honour, His majesty);**'

John and the early disciples saw The Glory, they touched and handled Him (Jesus), and knew He was the Son of God. What an experience! Jesus also showed some of His Glory to the disciples, no doubt to inspire them as His chosen friends, but also to encourage them for the days ahead when He would be gone from them! He also showed His Glory in fuller power to Peter, James and John, in 'The Transfiguration', in these two verses below.

Mark 9:2

Six days after this, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves.

And He was **transfigured** before them *and* **became resplendent with divine brightness.**

Matthew 17:2

And was **transfigured** before them: and **his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.**



So Jesus was imparting some of the true power He had and possessed in the other world and brought it down for His disciples to see at various times, in fact through His miracles and also to the people of the land at that time.

What is The Glory?

The Glory is the greatest thing or event or Person we should want to see and know about!

I think we should say that Glory is the manifestation of God's presence in any form that brings us closer to Him and reveals His greatness.

The Glory is the greatest thing we

should all be living for, to obtain it and ask God for it by becoming more like Jesus, so that even we are changed into a likeness of God's Glory!

2 Corinthians 3:18

And all of us, as with unveiled face, (because we) continued to behold (in the Word of God) as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being **transfigured** into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendour *and* from one degree of glory to another; **(for this Glory comes) from the Lord (Who is) the Spirit.**



Now there is a clue there for later in this article. But there it is, the Glory of God is obtainable!

Where have we seen The Glory in the Bible?

The Glory of God has been visible and see-able in the Bible many times.

Yes, as you can imagine, God is not averse to showing His Glory to people who love Him. Let's look at a few examples that show His supernatural power, whether by the Transfiguration above, or by other visible manifestations of Shock and Awe.

I'd like to share three examples in Scripture of where the Power or Glory of God became visible to people.

(i) SOLOMON (Dedicates the Temple)

2 Chronicles 7:1-14 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the **glory of the LORD** filled the temple. **2** And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD,

because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.



3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the **glory of the LORD** on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshipped and praised the LORD, *saying*:

“For *He* is good,
For His mercy *endures* forever.”

4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. **5** King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. **6** And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, “For His mercy *endures* forever,” whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

7 Furthermore Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that *was* in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat.

8 At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt. **9** And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. **10** On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David,

for Solomon, and for His people Israel. **11** Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house.

God's Second Appearance to Solomon

12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. **13** When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, **14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Now before this glory appeared, some of you may remember that Solomon had spent many years with great thoroughness and dedication building this temple. Furthermore, if you read 2 Chronicles chapter 6, the chapter before, all Israel were present for this dedication of the temple. (6:12) Solomon made a very sincere and humble prayer, quoting some of God's promises.

As a result, I believe, of this dedication and united obedience, that was when The Glory descended on this temple and the people saw it! This was the real deal! The Glory no one could deny, and whose memory would be passed on to a thousand generations, and to us today through the Bible!

(ii) MOSES

Moses saw God face to face later in his life, but he also performed many miracles through obedience and prayer. The final great miracle, in Egypt at least, was 'glorious' with Glory from God according to Exodus 15!

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord, saying,

I will sing to the Lord, for **He has triumphed gloriously**; the horse and his rider *or* its chariot has He thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my Strength and my Song, and He has become my Salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

3 The Lord is a Man of War; the Lord is His name.**4** Pharaoh's chariots and his host has He cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are sunk in the Red Sea.**5** The floods cover them; they sank in the depths (clad in mail) like a stone.**6 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.****7** In the greatness of Your majesty You overthrow those rising against You. You send forth Your fury; it consumes them like stubble.**8** With the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood fixed in a heap, the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.**9** The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.**10** You (Lord) blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; (clad in mail) they sank as lead in the mighty waters.**11** Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, **glorious in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders?**



Hubble Space Telescope image of the Butterfly Nebula. Credit: NASA, ESA, and J.Kastner (RIT)

Here we see that The Glory also appears to both save and destroy people at the same time!

God is a man of war (verse 3!) and He uses His Glory for many purposes. God's people saw it and were glad. The Glory of God was revealed to all, both the evil and God's people.

IN fact Moses had so much of The Glory later on that the Children of Israel could not even look at his face, and Moses had to put a veil over it.

Exodus 34: 33-35 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.**34** But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the veil off until he came out. And he came out and told the Israelites what he was commanded.**35 The Israelites saw the face of Moses, how the skin of it shone; and Moses put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with God.**



(iii) SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

Daniel 3:24-26 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king (saw and) was astounded, and he jumped up and said to his counsellors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered, True, O king.

25 He answered, Behold, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! **And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods!**
26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and said, Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God, come out and come here. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the midst of the fire.

This is a great example, because probably Jesus Christ Himself manifested His Glory to these three very brave young men as they were tested at the point of death to keep their faith in God.

Everyone at the execution site saw Jesus there in the fire with a heavenly appearance. The King of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with seeing The Glory that He made an immediate decree and commanded his whole empire that they should respect this God, and never speak anything against Him, (or else!) and he also promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to prominent positions in Babylon. Once Nebuchadnezzar had seen The Glory, he made changes (at least temporarily!) Praise the Lord.

HOW TO OBTAIN AND SEE THE GLORY!

So many Christians, so little Glory.

It has been dawning on me more and more that I personally have very little of The Glory. Some of my friends have **some** of The Glory, and are enthusiastic, inspired and often filled with the Holy Spirit. Their eyes shine with a reflection of The Glory and how wonderful it is to see. But I realise that The Glory is something I am not walking in or know much about. How can I get more of it or even just some of it, like Moses, or see it like Solomon and the three Hebrew men saw?

So why is it as I look around at believers especially here in this country and the West, that there is so little of The Glory in their faces and their hearts and minds? There are reasons, which I may go into in a different article, but let's start off considering what Jesus said about it to the Pharisees. Pay attention to this!

John 5: 43 I have come in My Father's name *and* with His power, and you do not receive Me (your hearts are not open to Me, you give Me no welcome); but if another comes in his own name *and* his own

power *and* with no other authority but himself, you will receive him *and* give him your approval.

44 How is it possible for you to believe (how can you learn to believe), **you who (are content to seek and) receive praise and honour and glory from one another, and yet do not seek the praise and honour and glory which come from Him Who alone is God?**

And that is really the answer! We are content to seek praise and honour and approval from other humans, other pastors and Christians and we DO NOT SEEK THE HONOUR AND GLORY which comes from God alone! So that also must mean that God is willing to give us humans 'The Glory!' if we seek it! That's amazing!

1. So the first thing is we do not seek The Glory.

2. Secondly and obviously we can ONLY get The Glory if we seek it from God.

3. Thirdly, there may very well be some sacrifice involved to obtain a blessing like The Glory. You may have to show the Lord you are serious about loving and obeying Him. I enjoy reading about Cornelius the Centurion who through his alms giving and his sincere respectful prayers was heard by God and an angel appeared to him, as a result of those steps that he made! It's a wonderful story in Acts chapter 10.

4. we should immediately stop seeking glory from human no matter

how wonderful we think they are.

God wants to give us some of His Glory, just like He would give us wisdom if we would ask Him. **The Glory** is something we have to seek and ask for and we will get it, IF we confess our sins, repent of all wrongdoing, make restitutions, let God tell us what to do and be obedient to the Word of God. As we walk or wish to walk with the Lord in this way, the Glory of God will begin to descend or grow in us as we saw above in 2 Corinthians 3:18

Well, The Glory is a huge topic and I feel I am just getting started. Don't miss the second part where I will talk about examples of Christians who had the Glory, more examples in the Bible and church history, more on how to get it and lose it and the dreaded word 'Ichabod'!

Let's close with these scriptures. Some of us will rise to the next world with more glory than others as we clearly see below in Daniel 12:2-3

But first the Lord's Prayer which talks about The Glory!

Matthew 6:8-13 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. **9** In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and The Glory forever. Amen.

Daniel 12: 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake: some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt *and* abhorrence.

3 And the teachers *and* those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) (shall give forth light) like the stars forever and ever. (reflecting the Glory of God!)

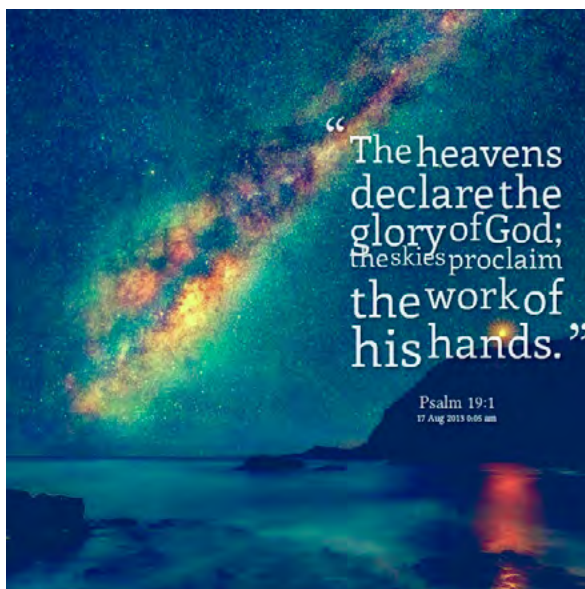
'Oh my God, mine eyes to behold your Glory, and my heart to feel Thy Truth and my soul to know Thy Presence for ever and ever. Amen' (A prayer attributed to an American Pastor in the 20th Century.)

Until next week,

Jerry and the WCF TEAM



(3) Andrea Bocelli - The Lord's Prayer - Live From The Kodak Theatre, USA / 2009 - YouTube



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