

Introduction:

- *"For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory.""* (Exodus 33:16-18, ESV)
- *"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."* (John 17:24, ESV)
 - We begin this morning with what really is a loaded question: what is the glory of God? It is not a trick question, it is a loaded question because it has so many answers. How do you take the one who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, holy, glorious, and try to wrap all that glory into an answer? It is hard to do.
- We begin this morning on this first day of our fast looking at the topic of 'glory'. As I shared last Sunday, I believe that 2021 will have incredible challenges to overcome. And at the same time I believe that all those who call on the name of the Lord will Overcome those challenges.
- The glory of God in your life will cause you to be an overcomer! Regarding the fast, I have spoken that one of the goals of the 21 day fast is to encounter God.
 - Many people ask, what does that mean. It means to see His glory, encounter His glory, and live the glory. "Those who look for me shall find me and encounter my glory." The overcomers of 2021 will have encountered me and received from me the very thing they need to overcome. Overcome in business, overcome in family, overcome in addictions, overcome in school. Do not underestimate the glory of the Lord in your life!"
- Let me try to breakdown for you what it means to experience the glory of God.

I. What Does Glory Mean?

A. Glory defined from OT perspective and a NT perspective.

1. Heb. kabod - is used over 350 times in the OT. Most prominent in Psalms (because of worship), Isaiah (because of his vision), Exodus (Because of God's presence, and Ezekiel.
 - a) It means to be weighty, heavy. A "weighty" person in society, someone who is honorable, impressive, worthy of respect. This latter usage is prevalent in more than half the occurrences. Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [943 תבב](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 426). Chicago: Moody Press.
 - b) In 'Glory' stands the unchanging beauty of the manifest God (Ps 145:5) *"On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate."* (Psalm 145:5, ESV) In this sense the noun *kābôd* takes on its most unusual and distinctive meaning. Forty-five times this form of the root relates to a visible manifestation of God and whenever "the glory of God" is mentioned this usage must be taken account of. Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [943 תבב](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 427). Chicago: Moody Press.

- c) These manifestations are directly related to God's self-disclosure' and his intent to dwell among men. As such they are commonly associated with his holiness. God wishes to dwell with men, to have his reality and his splendor known to them. But this is only possible when they take account of the stunning quality of his holiness and set out in faith and obedience to let that character be manifested in them (Num 14:10; Isa 6:3; Ezk 10, 11). Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [943 בָּרָא](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 427). Chicago: Moody Press.
2. Greek. doxa - from which we get the word 'doxology' is often associated with light or radiance. It closely is attached to honor, and splendor.
- a) It is what makes God impressive.
- b) Since God is invisible, the glory is closely associated with His manifestation of himself.
- c) "To give God glory" is not imparting something to Him but acknowledging what He already has.
- B. Main take away from our definitions.
1. The glory of God is His presence revealed among us and to us. It can happen individually. It can happen in a group.
2. The glory is the light or radiance of God, it is quite revealing of revelatory realm.
- a) In Exodus His glory is the fire by night cloud by day. It is the cloud in Solomons temple (2 Chron 5:14). It is the burning bush of Moses that is not consumed.
- b) In Mark 9:2-4, the transfiguration. His clothes became dazzling white! *"And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."* (Matthew 17:2, ESV)
- c) The Shepherds in the fields had the glory shine all around them.
3. The glory is God making Himself known to us.

II. What Is The Glory Of God?

- A. The Glory is God going public! We see this in our definitions. When God manifests himself to us He is making himself visible. Prophecy is one simple but powerful way He does this.
1. It is the public display of His beauty. Is 6:1-8 Here we see God's majesty, God's holiness, and God's splendor. Those three are part of His glory.
2. Exodus 3, the burning bush. God goes public for Moses. We see God's holiness, God's power, God's presence.
3. Jesus - *"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, ...,"* (Hebrews 1:3, ESV)
4. Jesus' transfiguration. *"And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."* (Matthew 17:2, ESV)
- B. The glory is God becoming visible.
1. *In the morning you will see the glory of the Lord* (Ex 16:7)NLT
2. *"And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the Lord in the cloud."* (Exodus 16:10, NLT)

3. *"And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud."* (Exodus 24:16, NLT)
- C. The glory of God is the beauty of His Spirit. It is the beauty that emanates from His character and all that He is.
1. Ex 3:6 Moses hid his face from God. And in Ex 33 he says, Show me your glory.
 2. David saw the glory of God and so richly records it in the Psalms.
 3. Peter wept when he caught all the fish, and he confessed he was a sinful man.
 4. The woman at the well ran to tell everyone of the man she met at the well.
 5. The Roman Centurion proclaimed at the cross, "Surely this must be the Son of God."
 6. It is what Stephen saw as he was being stoned. *"But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."* (Acts 7:55, ESV) No one else saw this that we know of.
 7. Paul, on the road to Damascus saw the glory of God. Acts 9:3 bright lights.
 8. God's glory is the radiance of His holiness.
 - a) Again, Is 6. The angels say, "Holy, holy, holy" Note to self: The angel rally around the presence of God! Not a sermon.
 - b) God's glory is the radiance of His holiness and it motivates heaven! Opposite of what we hear in the church - what motivates the average church - Worship; teaching; length of service; parking; location; slogans; - God is marginalized; after thought; hardly mentioned in conversation. But God is the center of heavens activity.
- D. "What is the glory realm? It is the realm of eternity. It is the revelation of the presence of God. It is the manifestation of His presence. He is Glory!" (Ruth Heflin, Glory p 143) Yes, you take the One who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, holy, glorious, and try to wrap all that into one word and you get "GLORY!" There is the glory of healing, the glory of salvation, the glory of revelation. Ie. Dreams, prophecy, fragrance of Jesus (Rose of Sharon), Vanilla the fragrance of intimacy (Bob Jones)
1. Praise brings the anointing but worship brings the glory.
 2. When the glory comes two things happen:
 - a) The Spirit of revelation begins to work in our hearts. *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV)
 - b) We are changed by that glory! *"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."* (2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV)
 3. The glory is the eternal meeting the temporal. It is heaven invading earth!

III. What The Glory Does

- A. The glory creates wonder. And often with it ushers in the fear of the Lord.
- B. The glory reveals His goodness.
- C. The glory brings humility. Is 6 - Isaiah the prophet. Acts 9 Saul's conversion,
- D. The glory shows His desire to be close to us, in order that we know Him.
- E. The glory is our rear guard. Is 58:8

- F. The glory brings power. One of the saddest expressions of the Bible is *"And she said, 'The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.'"* (1 Samuel 4:22, ESV)
1. Samson - did not know that the glory/his strength was gone.
 2. Saul did not realize the glory was gone.
 3. When the glory was gone the supernatural was gone, strength was gone, wisdom was gone...Victory was gone.
- G. We reveal His glory through: His love, His gifts, fruit of the Spirit, God in us the hope of glory!

IV. How To See/Experience The Glory

- A. Realize you were created for it. *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16, ESV) Shekinah-Heb for dwelling. God's Shekinah glory is the glory of God that dwells with us. IE. Cloud by day, fire by night, Holy Spirit in us.
- B. Believe for it. *"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'"* (John 11:40, ESV)
- C. Look for it. *"But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."* (Acts 7:55, ESV)
- D. Pray for it. Pray for it to be revealed in you and through you. Ex 33:18 Moses prayed *"show me your glory"*. In Acts 2 they were in unity praying.
- E. Walk in love. Jesus is the perfect example of this. He loved the Father and only did what the Father was doing and speaking. *What is important is faith expressing itself in love.* (Gal 5:6) NLT.

Conclusion:

- When the believers experienced the glory of God at Pentecost, they didn't just go back to living *normal* lives. They came out from that place and started turning the world upside down for Jesus. They preached the gospel; and worked miracles, signs and wonders; and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47). That's the glory we need to be operating in!
- We want the glory of God in the House of Freedom! We want encounters during this fast, that our faith would be strengthened. We don't want to say as the disciples said, "Why couldn't we cast this out?"
- Kathryn Kulman used to say *"There is more, much, much more!"* She was never satisfied with the ordinary, because she had seen the glory.