

Assurance of Salvation
Part 70

Glorifying God:

God's visible glory
(a glory we don't give him)

God's Visible Glory

ALL followers of Jesus have a desire to give God glory.

But there is an aspect of glory that we don't (and can't) give him!

That's the glory of WHO HE IS!

Would you like to see God?

OH WOW!



- **One small problem: God is invisible.**

... the eternal king, immortal, invisible, the only God, ...

1 Tim. 1:17 (NET)

[God] who ... dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or ever can see.

1 Tim. 6:16 (OEB)

But note the phrase "unapproachable light"!

[God] who ... dwells in **unapproachable light**, whom no one has ever seen or ever can see.

1 Tim. 6:16 (OEB)

- This is a physical manifestation of God's presence, called his "glory" – and it can be seen!

- Even so, nobody can stare directly at God's "glory," and survive.

Then Moses said, "Please let me see your **glory.**"

[God replied,] "...you can't see my face, because no one may see me and live."

Exodus 33:18, 20 (GW)

- Only an indirect glance was possible.

Then the Lord said, "Look, there's a place near me. Stand by this rocky cliff.

When my **glory** passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the cliff and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

Then I will take my hand away, and you'll see my back, but my face must not be seen."

Exodus 33:21-23 (GW)

- When God led Israel out of Egypt, he was there with them. But his presence was veiled by fire and clouds.

... they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the **glory** of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

Exodus 16:10b (NASB)

... The **glory** of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. ... To the Israelites, the **glory** of the Lord looked like a raging fire on top of the mountain.

Exodus 24:16a, 17 (GW)

- God's glory came to reside in the temple, and stayed there for several centuries.

When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the **glory** of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying,

"He is good; his love endures forever."

2 Chron. 7:3 (NIV)

- But when Israel abandoned God, Ezekiel describes God's glory as leaving the temple.

The **glory** of the LORD rose up from within the city and stopped over the mountain east of it.

Ezekiel 11:23 (NET)

[This verse describes the last stage of his departure.]

- God's glory was never again seen on earth... until... JESUS!

God's glory returned, hidden in a human body!

The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his **glory**, the **glory** of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

- God's glory was fully present in Jesus... but for most of his life on earth, it was kept hidden.

Hidden... But not always!

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, and the brothers James and John, and led them up a high mountain alone.

There his appearance was transformed before their eyes; his face shown like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Matthew 17:1-2 (OEB)

- As before, the Jewish nation rejected the Lord of Glory, and he has left them.
– **The apostles watched it happen:**

[Jesus] was taken to heaven. A cloud hid him so that they could no longer see him. Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives.

Acts 1:9b, 12a (GW)

- This was the same mountain that was mentioned in the Ezekiel passage, when God's glory left the previous time!

- But he has promised to return, when they are willing to receive him.

"I can guarantee that you will not see me [Jesus] again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'"
Matthew 23:39 (GW)

"Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."
Acts 1:11b (GW)

Today, Jesus' glory is no longer hidden

- Why don't we see it?
 - Only because he is at the moment living (physically) in a different location.
 - His Spirit is with us right now, but his physical presence isn't.
- But he will be returning.

... we know that when he appears ...
we shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:2b (ESV)

Seeing Jesus will be just like seeing the face of God.

The throne of God and of the Lamb* will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

* ("Lamb" = Jesus) Rev. 22:3b-4 (NIV)

- Scripture will be fulfilled.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8 (ESV)

In the meantime, Jesus has left us with a picture of himself!

- It's not a photograph that you can print or send in email.
- You know why?
THIS IS BECAUSE...



When John saw Jesus' glory...

OH NO!!
I FORGOT MY
CAMERA!



- But even if he had owned a camera ...

Jesus' glory would have overloaded the camera and melted it.

- John chose a better way to describe what he saw.



Besides, white is not BRIGHT enough to accurately show what John saw.

The only safe way to picture Jesus' glory is through "word pictures."

- If you saw Jesus physically today, guess what would happen!



Your response would be the same as John's!

When I saw him I fell down at his feet as though I were dead, ...

Rev. 1:17a (NET)

- Only Jesus' encouragement would enable you to recover.

... but he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid!"

Rev. 1:17b (NET)

So let's look at the picture Jesus left for us:

Rev. 1:13b-17 (NIV)

... someone "like a son of man," dressed in a **robe*** reaching down to his feet and with a **golden sash** around his chest.

His **head** and **hair** were white like wool, as white as snow,

and his **eyes** were like blazing fire.

[CONTINUED]

Rev. 1:13b-14 (NIV)

* (Robe = white as the light, according to Matthew 17:2.)

THAT'S ME!!

[CONTINUED] Jesus – the picture he left with us.

His **feet** were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his **voice** was like the sound of rushing waters.

In his right **hand** he held seven stars, and out of his **mouth** came a sharp double-edged sword.

His **face** was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Rev. 1:15-16 (NIV)

Put this all together, and you have...

Jesus,
the "Lord of Glory!"
(1 Cor. 2:8b)

YET THERE IS EVEN MORE!

How would you like to share in this glory?

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:17 (NIV)

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2 (NIV)

★ God's future plan is to "glorify" YOU! ★

- God willing, we will look more at this next week.
- IN THE MEANTIME...

YOUR MISSION: Evaluate

- Those who are in God's presence know how to respond to all this!

... and in his temple all cry, "**Glorify!**"
Psalm 29:9b (ESV)

- What is your attitude toward the God of **Glorify**?
 - Is there anything that gets greater attention in your daily life?

Consider also this:

Why would ANYONE choose to pay more attention to...

sports, entertainment,
careers, money, family,
interests, or anything else...

...than to the King of **Glorify**?

HE IS OUR KING!

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of **glorify** may come in.
Who is this King of **glorify**?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of **glorify**!

Psalm 24:9-10 (ESV)

Credits (1)

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