

THE GLORY OF GOD
JROC Introduction
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Where in Scripture do we read about “the glory of God?”

How would you describe “the glory of God”?

Do you have questions about “the glory of God”?

Rom. 3:23 – *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

Eph. 2:1-2 - *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience*

The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kavod* -

Romans 1:18-23 - ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest **in** them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly **seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against the human race, and the human race *deserves* the wrath of God. But God’s wrath is NOT human anger. The wrath of God is completely *righteous* and we CANNOT forget that truth! “Wrath is God’s holy revulsion of that which is coming against His holiness.” The unrighteousness of man contradicts God’s holiness.

God's righteous anger is REVEALED from heaven against *all ungodliness* (man's offenses against God – we have offended God) and *unrighteousness of men* (the sins of man against man – man's humanity against man). And God is telling us that every truth revealed to man by God has been suppressed – has been held down, has been fought against, disregarded, and deliberately obscured. It implies that men knew the truth because God has revealed the truth. But man wants to hold it down.

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says that aside from God's wrath which reveals Himself and His holiness, God has revealed Himself through His creation. Here Paul is referring to God's general revelation in the created universe. Special revelation is the plan of God being unfolded to us through His word.

Heb. 1:1-2 – *God who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,*

Special revelation includes dreams, visions, physical appearances.

“His invisible attributes” can be explained by “His eternal power and divine nature.” Anyone should be able to look at the vastness of the universe and conclude, “God is our almighty God!”

Consider this with me - God's revelation through creation is enough to condemn everyone. By understanding God's invisible attributes – WHO HE IS – and NOT bowing down to worship Him as CREATOR GOD – of what/whom are we prone to think?

Ourselves! And, as such, we are condemned.

God has given mankind general revelation about WHO HE IS!

So that they are without excuse. Gk for “without excuse” is *ä-nä-po-lo'-gā-tos* without defense – indefensible – unjustifiable, unpardonable, unforgiveable.

Because they did not glorify Him as God...but changed the glory of God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. The problem is not that man did not know God, but that he *did* know Him – yet refused to glorify Him as God. Therefore, mankind is without excuse. Instead of glorifying God we transformed our idea of Him into forms and images more comfortable to our corrupt and darkened hearts.

Man is to GLORIFY GOD! Glorifying God is to acknowledge (confess, confirm, endorse, admit, defend) God's greatness. How can we give God something He already possesses? I Chron. 16:28-29 – *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name.* Ascribe – assign to Him the glory that is His.

Why does God demand worship? Think of worship as “worth-ship”. In our worship of God we declare that God alone is worthy

DEUT. 29:29 - *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law* (His instruction).

The secret things belong to the LORD our God – Moses is encouraging the children of Israel to obey God. And he pauses to give a principle of how God speaks to us. Firstly God never declares *everything* to man. There are secrets God has, and will always have. He has the right to have secrets, because He is God.

What should our response be? We must simply accept this. *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Those things which are revealed - Secondly, we are given a revelation of God and His words/instructions. God exists and we must do all we can to pay close attention to Him.

Those things which are revealed belong to us – they are intended for us – a message from God – an UNDERSTANDABLE message from God.

To us and our children forever - God’s revelation is ETERNAL! His word not only lasts forever, it is forever relevant.

That we may do all the words of this law: God’s revelation must MATTER to us. He has not spoken to us merely to satisfy our curiosity about spiritual things or to entertain us. He has spoken to us to affect the way we LIVE!

Eph. 2:8-10 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Within this study we’re going to grasp the main theme of Scripture – the glory of God, we’re going to understand the underlying principle of Scripture – the character of God, we’re going to follow the “glory of God” through Scripture, and so we’ll better comprehend the BIG PICTURE of the Bible, and we’ll worship Him and glorify Him.

Is this significant?