

THE GLORY OF GOD

JROC

Week 1 – The Glory of God Throughout Scripture

9/9/18

The glory of God? The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kavod* – WEIGHTINESS. Weightiness – ALL WHO God is - God’s attributes, God’s character, God’s reputation, all that God wants us to know about Him...the glory of God!!! God REVEALS His glory...and man RESPONDS!

How did God reveal Himself after the tabernacle in the wilderness was constructed?

Ex. 40:34-35 - *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* ³⁵ *And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* God DWELLED within the tabernacle? Where specifically did God dwell in the tabernacle? In Ex. 40 – we see that He filled the tabernacle. And then we read in I Sam. 4:4 - *...the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.* God dwelled between the cherubim, the angels, that adorned the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle.

The glory of God is revealed and He dwells and we can grasp that the glory of God is the VISIBLE MANIFESTATION – a DISPLAY - of the presence of God. The glory of God is the majestic presence or manifestation of God – God DISPLAYING, REVEALING Himself as He DESCENDS to DWELL among men.

In the OT most of these visible manifestations of GOD took the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these AND took a physical form – the Angel of the LORD!

What a GREAT time to share the glory of God with your Jewish friends! At sundown tonight the Jewish community will celebrate Rosh Hashanah which is the beginning of the High Holy Days. “Rosh Hashanah” is NOT in the Bible. It means “head of the year.” RH is the Jewish New Year...and it’s in the 7th month on the Jewish “religious” calendar. BIBLICALLY, RH is the Feast of Trumpets about which we read in Lev. 23:23-25. The Feast of Trumpets occurs 10 days before the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur (Lev. 23:26-32). RH occurs 10 days before Yom Kippur. RH is a time of reflection. Jewish people are told to make amends with their fellow man. Jewish people are attempting to fill their bucket of “good works.” They are told that they can redeem themselves.

At sundown on the first night of Rosh Hashanah the shofar is blasted. Jewish people are told by their Rabbis that when the shofar is blasted 3 books are open in heaven: the book of the completely righteous, the book of the completely wicked, and the book of the intermediates. Their name will be written in one of those books.

At Yom Kippur they are told to make amends with God.

How can you get right with your fellow man without FIRST getting right with God? That’s a good question to ask your Jewish friend.

At the end of Yom Kippur, the books will be sealed...and so will their “fate.” They believe they will either have another year of physical life on earth or they won’t. Yom Kippur – their good deeds – determines their extended physical existence. Jewish people are not focused on the afterlife; they are focused on living in the here and now.

Here’s THE question to ask your Jewish friend(s) at RH and YK: “How are your sins forgiven?” Share with them that GOD HAS REQUIRED BLOOD TO BE SHED FOR ATONEMENT. “Did you bring a spotless animal to your synagogue to be sacrificed?”

Orthodox prayer: Our righteous anointed is departed from us: horror hath seized us and we have none to justify us. He hath borne the yoke of our iniquities and our transgression, and is wounded because of our transgression. He beareth our sins on his shoulder, that He may find pardon for our iniquities. We shall be healed by His wound, at the time that the Eternal will create Him (the Messiah) as a new creature.

THE GLORY OF GOD IS WHO HE IS – NOT who we are!!!! All other belief systems – aside from a born again relationship with God through Jesus - focus on THEMSELVES. All other belief systems do NOT have an answer for SIN!

As I already mentioned...in the OT most of these visible manifestations of GOD took the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these AND took a physical form – the Angel of the LORD! During our study, we’re going to read passages of Scripture that speak to these manifestations of God.

Genesis 22

- God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeas, Babylon, modern day Iraq, and told Abram to leave his country, his family and go to a place that God would show him. Abram obeyed. Heb. 11:8 – *and Abram went out not knowing where he was going.*
- God promised to make of Abram a great nation. Abram was 75 years old and his wife, Sarai, was barren. BUT GOD SAID He would bring about a great nation from Abram & Sarah (Gen. 17:15-16)
- Abram and Sarai helped out God (!?) via Hagar and Ishmael was born. When Abraham (name changed) was 100 and Sarah (name changed) was 90, Isaac was born
- Gen. 22 which is the account of a father sacrificing his only son whom he loves - is read in synagogues at Rosh Hashanah. Why? Rosh Hashanah is a reflective time filled with challenges and tests. The traditional Jewish community looks inward...to themselves...to commit to change. Gen. 22 speaks to the Jewish community of Abraham’s TEST. BUT, how GLORIOUS of God to put this chapter front and center in synagogues at their celebration of RH...the chapter that speaks of a father sacrificing his only son whom he loves!

GENESIS 22 *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So*

Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide (for) Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided. ¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Who came down the mountain? Where's Isaac...Isaac who is understood as a type of Jesus.... We don't see Isaac until we see him coming for his bride in Gen. 26!!!! PONDER that.

Why did we read Gen. 22? We see God's manifestation of Himself in the Angel of the Lord.

The ONE STORY of the Bible needs to be understood as "unfolding." We have a Biblical narrative that progresses through the pages of Scripture. God didn't give Adam and Eve all truth. He did, however, give them the truth about the PROMISED REDEEMER who would come in the flesh through the seed of the woman!!! God called Abram from Ur of the Chaldeas – from Babylon, modern day Iraq. What did Abram know at that time? God made Abram promises that would be fulfilled in the future, etc., etc..

Biblical principles:

- God's plan of redemption unfolds.
- His plan can never be thwarted; it's always Plan A.
- His plan never contradicts itself nor comes against the character of God.

The unfolding Biblical narrative has a plot. The Bible's plot can be summarized in four words: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, RESTORATION

These four words take us from Genesis 1:1 through to Revelation 22:21. We see the glory of God throughout.

CREATION: God created the world as a place where He would be known, served, worshipped, and where He would be present – where He would dwell with man – where His glory would be revealed/manifested/seen and enjoyed. Here's the punch line before we go further: What God planned, what He purposed, He WILL bring to pass at the end of all things! That's RESTORATION! Restoration speaks to GOD bringing His creation back to His original plan.

God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26a - *Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. . . .* This defines man's unique relation to God.) God created man as His representative on earth to reflect His image and to nurture...to have dominion over – God's creation (Gen. 1:26b) Dominion speaks to ruling over, nurturing, and serving.

THE FALL: Man rebelled. Sin entered the world. Mankind and the earth came under the curse. Man was separated from God. Man experienced physical death and spiritual death. Man lost dominion over the earth. The enemy usurped dominion over God's creation. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), the ruler of this world (John 12:31), the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). We need to remember that God alone is OMNIpotent (ALL powerful), OMNIscient (ALL knowing), OMNIpresent (everywhere present; all is in God's presence). Satan has limitations! Satan's ability is always limited by the purposes and plans of God!

REDEMPTION: Immediately upon sin entering the world, God gave man HOPE and promised REDEMPTION...He promised a Redeemer. From Gen. 3:15, the first Messianic prophecy, we read the unfolding of God's plan of redemption through to Revelation 20. Rev. 21 & 22 speak to the new heaven and the new earth. Redemption means to buy out of the marketplace. Slaves, those in bondage, were bought and sold in the marketplace. Through sin, mankind is in bondage to Satan

The glory of God appeared to Abram, to Hagar, to Jacob, to Moses, to Pharaoh (Ex. 9:16), to Joshua, to the parents of Samson.... In this fallen world under the curse, God has promised to overcome death, evil, sin and has demonstrated His glory in manifesting His holiness, love, mercy, grace, goodness, ALL He is to bring about redemption for man and for the earth! (Rom. 8:19-23). Within the context of judgment, God promised the Redeemer! Throughout Scripture we see the glory of God in salvation against the backdrop of sin and judgment. And throughout the OT we see the glory of God REVEALING Himself so that man will RESPOND!

In the OT, people were saved by grace through faith in God's REVEALED message which pointed to His promise of redemption. His message pointed to the REDEEMER. And so Jesus entered this world. John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh (manifested/revealed) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

RESTORATION: The fulfillment of all that God had originally decreed! Because Jesus is returning, many prophecies have yet to be fulfilled. At the end of the Tribulation, the Jewish people who are left alive on earth (one third based on Zech. 13:8-9) will come to faith in Jesus (Zech. 12:10). Israel will be restored (Isa. 62:1-7). When Jesus establishes His kingdom, when He rules and reigns from King David's throne in Jerusalem (Luke 1:32-33), the glory of God, the visible manifestation of God, will return to the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem (Eze. 43:1-5).

Restoration to Israel...God tells Israel:

Isa. 60:1-3 - *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

³ *The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isa. 60:19-20 - *The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.*

Restoration for the redeemed:

God promised that redeemed man, would be given dominion over the earth (Dan. 7:27). Dan. 7:13, 14, 27 – at the Second Coming, the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven, REVEALING His glory, will come to the Ancient of Days and receive the Kingdom of God which the Son of Man will then give to the saints of the Most High – that they may have dominion over it.

During the Millennial Kingdom, the curse will be reversed.

Rom. 8:21 - *the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*

Isa. 11:6-9 - *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

Hab. 2:14 - *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

The curse will be removed in the new heaven and new earth – in the New Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:1, 5 - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'*

Rev. 22:3 - And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Rev. 22:5 - There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. The glory of God will be our light throughout eternity!

The unfolding Biblical narrative: creation, fall, redemption, restoration. God wants us to know the big picture. It doesn't compute with many to read in Romans 1 that there is no excuse for all eternity on the part of those who don't know God personally...for those who are not forgiven of their sins. This is why it is crucial for us to study the glory of God and share HIM and His glory with others. GOD HAS REVEALED Himself to us – GOD has won the victory. REDEMPTION wins. How should we then live...and die!?