

## THE GLORY OF GOD

JROC

Week 14 – Chosen To Glorify Him!

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The Hebrew word for glory is “kavod” which means weightiness. It means ALL that God is - ALL His attributes – His character – the total sum of ALL HE IS! The total sum of His perfections!

In our world the glory of God is ON TRIAL. The very existence of God is contested in our world – let alone WHO He is!

Through our study, we have seen the glory of God...

*In Creation...Psa. 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God;*

*And the firmament shows His handiwork.* And, from Rom. 1:20 we know that God’s invisible attributes are seen and understood by His creation – by ALL people – so that no one is without excuse.

God created the world as a place where He would be known, served, and worshipped...and where He would be present – where He would dwell with man...where His glory would be REVEALED/manifested/seen and enjoyed

God is transcendent (above time and space) AND He’s immanent (NEAR). HE REVEALS...and we are to RESPOND!

God reveals Himself in the Angel of the LORD appearing to multiple people. I suggested to you that this Angel of the LORD, who represents God when He speaks – but Who Speaks as God (He can pardon sin [Ex. 23:20-21]...and this Angel of the LORD is ONLY seen in the OT and does NOT appear in the NT – I suggested that the Angel of the LORD is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus – pre-Bethlehem...

God revealed Himself to Isaiah in a vision. Isaiah “saw the Lord” seated on His throne, always in control. Isaiah was in the presence of God and Isaiah was undone. That was Isaiah’s response. When Isaiah was cognizant of God Isaiah saw himself as ruined! He came to the end of himself. He was ruined, destroyed, at loose ends. AND THEN, Isaiah was available and willing to be used of GOD!!

How do we comprehend God’s desire to communicate with us – to reveal Himself? How are we responding to God’s revelation of Himself to us?

God had invited Moses to commune with Him. God told Moses that He would speak from Mt. Sinai so that the people would hear Him. The mountain quaked and was in smoke because God had descended upon it in fire and the trumpet was LOUD!

*You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.* (Ex. 20:19)

Ex. 20:21 - *So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.*

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Exodus 32 – Moses was delayed and the people asked Aaron, the High Priest, Moses' brother, to fashion gods for them. And, they worshipped a golden calf. God's judgment landed and about 3,000 people died! Moses pleads with God on behalf of the people. God tells Moses to "DEPART." God tells Moses He would not go up to the land He had promised them - with them – in their midst. He would send His Angel (Isa. 63:9 – the Angel of His Presence) Who would go before Him. And God would destroy all the Canaanite tribes. God is telling Moses that they would live...they would possess the land...and the Angel (Who is God) would go up with them! We see God's GRACE!

With no further words from Moses, he pitches his personal tent of meeting outside the camp (Ex. 33).

Ex. 33:7-9 - *...and it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. <sup>8</sup> So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. <sup>9</sup> And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.*

Moses set up his personal tent outside the camp where not only Moses could meet with God but also the people could go – those who sought the Lord God! At the point of Israel's great sin in worshipping the golden calf...when the judgment of God landed on the children of Israel, GOD'S GRACE WAS SO VISIBLE. This is Who our God is!

We can decide to withdraw from God or we can move forward as Moses did and draw near...even into the thick darkness...expecting to meet with God and experience His POWER in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).

We've been beholding the glory of God. We have been, in our brief study, attempting to grasp the TOTALITY of God's revelation of WHO HE IS!!!

Ex. 33:18 – *Please, show me Your glory*

II Chron. 20:12 - *we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."*

Hab. 3:17-19 – *though all blessings are removed. . . \_Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup>The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.*

Have we longed for a walk with God that is more intimate?

Have we, in the midst of whatever is transpiring in our lives, been able to meet with God as darkness surrounds? Have we fallen down before Him as never before and worshipped Him? Are we falling more and more in love with God?

This study has not been exhaustive. As we wrap up our brief series, let's consider further how God revealed Himself and summarize the purpose of God's glory.

Through the Tabernacle and the Temple.... When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, they had a God to worship, but no place to worship Him. God provided them a place to worship – a tabernacle through which He would reveal Himself.

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Ex. 29:42b-43 - ...*at the door of the tabernacle of meeting... <sup>43</sup> there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.* The tabernacle was designed to be a meeting place between God and His people. The tabernacle was set apart to be God's dwelling place – the place where the children of Israel would come to meet Him. The glory of God filled the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34).

In Lev. 1:1-2 - *Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock.* God – from the tabernacle - began to legislate to the people through Moses,

The tabernacle was replaced by a permanent temple. And, of the first temple, Solomon stated, *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!* (I Kings 8:27). I Sam. 4:4 – we're told that the LORD dwelt between the cherubim in the tabernacle on top of the mercy seat that sat atop the Ark of the Covenant. At the time of Solomon's dedication of the first temple, God moved into the Holy of Holies and dwelt under the angels' wing (I Kings 8:10-11). The glory of God which had dwelt in the tabernacle now moved into the Holy of Holies within the temple. And the cloud that had enveloped the tabernacle now enveloped the temple. God was setting this temple apart as a place where He would now dwell and meet with His people, and where they could offer acceptable sacrifice.

As we move through the Bible and read of Israel's history and their disobedience, we come to the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a Prophet who was carried into exile to Babylon in 597 BC. While in captivity in Babylon, Ezekiel was given a revelation of the glory of the Lord. Within a vision, God transported Ezekiel to Solomon's temple in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 8:9b-10 – *'Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.'*<sup>10</sup> *So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.* God's dwelling place which had been dedicated to GOD was housing idols. Women were

weeping at the north gate of the Lord's house – they were weeping for Tammuz – a god from the Babylonian mother-child cult.

God's response: judgment...the glory of God departed from the temple!

Eze. 9:10 - *And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, but I will recompense their deeds on their own head.*

Eze. 10:4 - *Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple;*

Eze. 10:18 - *Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple...*

Eze. 11:23 - *And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.* The mountain was the Mount of Olives.

Because the temple was unclean, desecrated, the glory of God departed. The glory moved from the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the temple (the front entrance), to the east gate, leaving the temple and ascending the Mount of Olives.

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In 586 BC Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Babylonians. When the Jewish people returned to Israel under the decree of the Persian King, Cyrus, the temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt. The glory of God, however, did not occupy the second temple. We have a promise in the prophecy of Haggai that God's glory would again be revealed there.

Haggai 2:3 - *Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?*

Some of those who returned to Israel from Babylon following 70 years of captivity remembered Solomon's temple. They recalled the glory of the first temple. And they wept over this second temple as there was no comparison. They seemed to have missed the point... The glory of the first temple was not its gold and silver...the glory was that God was pleased to dwell there.

Haggai 2:6-9 - *thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' ...<sup>9</sup> 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts.'*

I believe that Haggai is speaking of the Millennial Temple.

Haggai's prophecy, however, prepares us for God revealing His glory in Emmanuel...

John 1:14a - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*

It was time...and so, in the fullness of time, when the stage had been set – when everything was in place according to God's plan, *God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law* (Gal. 4:4).

The Gentile world powers which were prophesied in Daniel had risen up and oppressed Israel: Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and took the Jewish people from the Kingdom of Judah captive for 70 years. The Medo-Persian Empire released the

Jews – allowing them to return to Israel. Greece...Greece had conquered the known world and the Greek language had become universal. The Hebrew Tanakh had been translated into Greek (the Septuagint) so that all the known world could read the OT!!! And now Rome was in power. Under Rome there was massive construction on the roads throughout the empire – the roads that would more easily carry the Gospel of the Messiah Who was about to appear. The time was right.

The Angel Gabriel was sent to tell a priest from the tribe of Levi, Zacharias, that he and his wife, Elizabeth, who was barren...and both were well-advanced in years...that they would give birth to a son. This son would be named John. John would be the HERALD for the Messiah. John would announce the Messiah, Jesus, Who would come as the ULTIMATE SACRIFICE for sin. At Jesus' first coming, He came to die for sin. He is THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE (the perfect Passover Lamb). The angel Gabriel came to announce John's birth to Zacharias who was serving in the temple at the time of SACRIFICE!

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The time was right. It was approximately 500 years since the glory of God departed from the first temple in Jerusalem.

*Luke 2:8-9 - Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. AN angel of the Lord announced the birth of the Messiah, and the glory of God reappeared!*

Matthew 2 reintroduces us to Gentiles who are looking for a King. We are reintroduced to the Magi. Where have we met the Magi? In the book of Daniel. The Magi are NOT Kings. Matthew never calls these men "kings". They are King makers. In the Persian Empire, those aspiring to kingship had to be approved by the Magi. The Magi were called "wise men" – they were a priestly tribe of people from the Medes and the Persians. They became interested in astronomy and astrology and the study of the stars. They were known as those who interpret dreams (Daniel 2:1-4). But, they couldn't interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel became their Chief Administrator (Dan. 2:48) after he saved their lives when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened them. Daniel, a faithful Jew, had been taken into captivity to Babylon. The book of Daniel speaks about the time of the Jewish Messiah who would redeem Jews and Gentiles. Daniel's book prophesied about WHEN the Messiah was to come (Daniel 9:24-27) – before the destruction of the second Temple in 70 AD. Perhaps Daniel shared with the Magi in his day Psa. 2:6, God the Father stating, *Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.*

History teaches that directly before Jesus' incarnation, the Persians were having issues with their king. King Freidas IV was deposed and the Magi were looking for a new king. How did the Magi know about a star? They studied the stars. And, perhaps they were aware of the prophecy of Balaam who lived in the town of Pethor on the Eurphrates River near Persia. Num. 24:17 - *I see HIM, but not now; I behold HIM but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel,* The star and the scepter are one and the same. Scepter is a symbol of – royalty. The star that would rise is a king.

The wise men were guided to look for the King of the Jews by the “Star of Bethlehem,” which they called “HIS star” (Matt. 2:2). And so they traveled to Jerusalem to find the One they had heard about through Daniel. Matt. 2:1-2 - *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’*

The root meaning of “star” is “shining”! The Magi had seen God’s shining – His glory! And, just as the glory of God had appeared to Abram (Acts 7:2) while Abram was living in Ur of the Chaldeas...the glory of God moved the Magi to seek out the “scepter.”

Matt. 2:9 - *When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.*

The only way one house out of the many in Bethlehem could be identified was for that light to hover over the house exactly the same way the pillar of fire hovered over the

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tabernacle in the wilderness. This appearance of the star was a revelation of the glory of God.

The glory of God was revealed to the Jewish shepherds and then to the Gentile Magi!  
John 1:9 – *Jesus is the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*

John 1:14b - *...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

In the fullness of time He came – to fulfill prophecy and to die – to pay the penalty of our sin...and to glorify the Father. John 17:1-4 - *Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have glorified You on the earth.*

Jesus was crucified – because it pleased the Father to bruise the Son (Isa. 53:10) – this was God’s plan from eternity past. Jesus rose from the dead. God the Father and

God the Son were glorified by Jesus' resurrection which demonstrated Jesus victory over sin and death.

After Jesus' resurrection He spoke to the disciples "of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Millennial Kingdom) for 40 days (Acts. 1:3). And, being assembled with them before His ascension, He told them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the Promise of the Father. Acts 1:8 - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Acts 1:9 - *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

Acts 1:10-11 - *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'*

And, the disciples went to Jerusalem and waited...

Acts 2:1-4 - *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided (cloven) tongues, **as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The disciples and those who came to faith from that day on – we are permanently indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

I Cor. 6:19-20 - *Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

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The tabernacle was a dwelling place for God in the OT. The temple was a dwelling place for God in the OT. Since Pentecost, God is building a temple out of believers. HE dwells in us! God has chosen us - those who come to faith in Jesus, having confessed their sins and placing their trust in Him – He has chosen us that we should be instruments to His glory.

In Acts 6-7 we read of the account of the martyrdom of Stephen, who was one of seven chosen to take upon themselves the responsibility over the distribution of food to widows. There were those from a synagogue that disputed with Stephen, accusing him of speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God. The council within the synagogue heard Stephen's defense.

*Acts 7:54-44 - <sup>54</sup> When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. <sup>55</sup> But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, <sup>56</sup> and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'*

In Acts 9 Saul of Tarsus was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians who had fled there from Jerusalem from fear of the Jewish people.

*Acts 9:3-4 - As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"*

Paul later gave his testimony before King Agrippa who was part of Herod's family...

*Acts 26:12-16 - ...as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, <sup>13</sup> at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup> And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' <sup>15</sup> So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. Paul saw the glory of God! The revelation of the glory of God brought Saul to faith in the person of Jesus! And, Paul committed his life to JESUS.*

*Acts 9:20 - Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*

God has chosen us to glorify Him! He desires that we should be instruments to His glory!

*II Cor. 4:1, 5-7 - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart... <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we*



*have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

And of Jesus' physical Second Coming...

*Matt. 24: 29-30 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

In Ezekiel chapter 11 the glory of God departed to the east. It was from the EAST that Ezekiel saw the glory of God return.

*Eze. 43:1-2, 4-5 - Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east... <sup>4</sup> And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. <sup>5</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*

The temple that Ezekiel speaks of and describes within Eze. 40 through 48 has never been built. This temple is not the Tribulation temple. This temple will not be built until the Lord returns and the Lord Himself will come to His temple. This looks forward to the revelation of the glory of God given to this earth at the return of Jesus. Hab. 2:14 - *the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God....*

The Apostle John was given a revelation of the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God

*Rev. 21:1-4 - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'*

*Rev. 21:22-23 - But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.*

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup> to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.  
Amen.*

QUESTIONS:

How has the glory of God changed your life?

How will this study change how you study Scripture?