

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 1 – BEHOLD OUR GOD!

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Scottsdale Bible Church Women's Bible Study

The Glory of God – 2024 - last semester

The Glory of God – 2025 – current semester

The Glory of God is mentioned ____ times in the Bible! Do you think that God desires for us to know about His glory?

“Glory,” in the Hebrew is “kavod” which means weightiness. “The glory of God” is ALL Who God is...ALL His attributes...God's inherent qualities. God's “inherent qualities” refers to the essential qualities/attributes that make God – GOD. God's essential qualities/attributes are inseparable from who He is. The core essence of God cannot be changed or separated from Him.

What are some of God's attributes? His holiness, justice, grace, mercy, love, faithfulness, immutability (God does NOT change), His omnipotence (ALL powerful), His omnipresence (everywhere present), and His omniscience (ALL knowing). God is sovereign – He has complete control; He is our ABSOLUTE authority. ALL that makes up His character and His reputation...God reveals!

And God is infinite; He is limitless. God has no limitations!

God is infinite in all His attributes. No matter which of the attributes of God you consider, He possesses each to an infinite degree. God has infinite grace – no limits to His grace. God has infinite mercy – no limits to His mercy. God has infinite holiness – no limits to His holiness....

To such an infinite God there rightly belongs an infinite, a limitless weight of glory!!! Can we even fathom that?

How are we responding?

ALL God's attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times – at every moment throughout eternity!

AT THE CROSS - God's love and His justice operated simultaneously!!!

God's righteous demands were met at the cross!! God demanded death for sin!!! And so, Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin!

How does that impact you???????

If you haven't as yet trusted in God and in His plan as He has laid out for us in Scripture – ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU!!

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The Bible tells us that God REVEALS Himself – His glory - to humans in three primary ways:

I Tim. 6:16 we read that God... *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.* How then does God reveal Himself?

God walked with Adam and Eve – read Genesis 3:8

Enoch walked with God – read Genesis 5:24

Noah walked with God – read Genesis 6:9

The LORD appeared at Abraham's tent and ate a meal – read Genesis 18:1-8

1) All that God has created in the physical universe discloses Who He is. The creation of the physical universe DISPLAYS God's immensity-His majesty and splendor, His power, creativity, compassion, love.... (fill in all the blanks I'm leaving....)

- Psa. 19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.* King David HEARD the glory of God...as it was DECLARED! WHAT???

Psa. 19:1-4 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament (the expanse of the heavens/the sky) shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.* ("voice" – sound that is called aloud. But, the "voice" of creation, the sound of creation is heard throughout the universe ⁴ Their line (creation's message) has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world (the extent – throughout the inhabited globe)

But David was born approx. 3,000 years following creation! How could David have heard? **When** have the heavens: the planets, stars, and galaxies....the 3rd heaven (II Cor.

12:1-4)...declared the glory of God? What is the timeframe of this declaration? Just at creation - right?

Declare – in the Hebrew means to recount, to retell (to tell again...and again). “*Declare*” is in the present tense. That is, the heavens “are declaring,” and the sky “is proclaiming” the creative work of God. God’s creative work has been a continual display SINCE CREATION!

What God has manifested/revealed about Himself through His creation – the voice/the sound of it – goes out through all the earth – extending to the inhabited globe continually!

What we see in creation is meant to constantly, to continually reveal to the WORLD that God exists and to PROCLAIM the splendor and majesty of the Creator – our GREAT GOD!

God is serious about proclaiming His glory, isn’t He?

2) GOD reveals Himself to us through His inspired Word – the Scripture!

II Tim. 3:16 - *All Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine (teaching/instruction), for reproof (rebuke: for wrong belief; for wrong behavior... realizing that Scripture exposes sin [the do not’s in the Ten Commandments and the rest of Scripture clearly define sin!!], for correction (when we are corrected...it’s for the purpose of restoration – to return to our initial condition. God desires to restore mankind to His original plan for mankind) for instruction in righteousness (how we are to live in a right relationship with God!).*

II Pet. 1:19-21 - *...we have the prophetic word confirmed (stable, fast, firm), which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star*

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(daystar – the One Who brings light and gives light – JESUS) *riser in your hearts* (personal relationship); ²⁰ *knowing this first, that no prophecy (referring to the OT Prophets) of Scripture is of any private (of any private/individual origin) interpretation (to untie; to unloose, to explain) ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man (man’s choice, inclination, desire, pleasure), but holy (root: pure) men of God spoke (to declare; to utter) as they were moved (carried as in persons in a boat – carried apart from themselves) by the Holy Spirit (third person of the Godhead).*

3) GOD reveals Himself to us through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus!

The Messiah was the promised One of Israel. We first read about redemption, the resolution for sin which had entered the world through mankind/through Adam and Eve – in Gen. 3:15. The Redeemer Jesus was first called “the Seed of the woman.”

I talked about God walking with Adam & Eve, with Enoch, with Noah. And God APPEARED at Abraham's tent. God is Spirit!! But, we read about God in a physical form walking with A&E, Enoch, Noah in these passages and in many others throughout the OT. Which person in the Godhead took on a physical form? (John 1:18) God the Son when He visited individuals on earth prior to His birth in Bethlehem.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures we see pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus which refer to physical manifestations of Jesus in the Old Testament before His physical incarnation as Jesus of Nazareth. These appearances also include Jesus' appearances as the Angel of the LORD. These earlier physical appearances in the Hebrew Scriptures were temporary physical manifestations rather than a permanent taking on of human nature as Jesus did at His Incarnation in Bethlehem. We know that these physical appearances are of Jesus as John 1:18 (NASB) states of God the Father, *No one has seen God at any time. The only beloved/only unique One, (begotten – monogenes – one-of-a-kind), who is in the bosom of the Father; He has declared Him.* (Week 9 of the Fall semester 2024 – The Angel of the LORD).

Read Josh. 5:13-15 – Who is this Commander of the army of the LORD? Support your view.

Read Josh 6:2ff....

Read Gen. 32:22-30

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures we see God the Son in a physical form interacting with men and women!

These manifestations are seen as evidence of Jesus' eternal existence and His desire to be present with His people even before taking on flesh in Bethlehem. These manifestations also serve to affirm the uniqueness of Jesus and demonstrate God's intimate involvement with His creation throughout history

QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What did you not understand?

What impacted you and WHY?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 1 with the Bible references and jot down observations and ask questions.

Consider beginning your Glory of God Journal.

Read Week 2's handout when you receive it.