

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 4 – The Self-Revelation of God – Genesis 1-3

October 1, 2024

What does the Hebrew word “glory” (kavod) mean? Weightiness! Have you been pondering the weightiness of all Who God is?

How can we understand the glory of God?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding (Isa. 11:2).
- ENJOY God – “delight in God.”
 - Delighting in God is beholding Him as the only One in the universe Who is worthy to be honored, exalted, and magnified.

CONSIDER: There is room for only one glory in the universe. The infinite weight of the glory of God cannot be contained but must be revealed.

God’s revelation of Himself....

I Tim. 6:16 – God ...*alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

Psa. 104:1-2 – King David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, ² Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment....* God is clothed in light.

God dwelling in light does not speak of where He dwells but of the condition in which God appeared at specific displays of His presence when He revealed Himself. When God appeared to men to reveal Himself, many times His presence was revealed by light. And, God did appear also through visions, dreams, and a human form.

Let’s look at Adam and Eve...what did God REVEAL to them?

In Gen. 1:26, 28 we read about God’s plan for man. Before God ever created man, He decreed that man would have dominion over the earth. God’s plan was that man rule, nurture, and serve the earth...as God’s representative on earth.

Gen. 2:7 - *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Gen. 2:15 - ...*the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it – which was one of Adam’s role in having dominion over the earth. Are we nurturing, serving and ruling over the earth now?*

In the Garden, God shared His plan for man w/ Adam that will not be thwarted!

Did Adam and Eve fully know the character of God before the fall? We know that God communed with them! God gave man instructions!

Gen. 2:16-17 - *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; (God gave Adam EVERYTHING) ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’* God knew that Adam and Eve would eat the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

which would result in separation – physically (physical death separates the body from the soul), and spiritually (spiritual death separates man from God).

Directly following God's warning of spiritual separation from God, we read...

2

Gen. 2:18-20 - *And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'* (God spoke to Adam about death and now God is speaking of creating a helper!) ¹⁹ *Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air; and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.* ²⁰ *So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air; and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

We know that God easily could have named all of those animals! But God was teaching Adam and us. As Adam was naming the animals, it became very clear that he was completely different from the animals and was a special creation. He was created in God's very image. None of these animals could ever serve as a physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual companion. God made from Adam's rib a companion who *was* suitable whom Adam named Eve. What are we learning from Gen. 2:18-20?

In the garden of Eden, we are told that God walked with Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the presence of God. ("Presence" – panim – face as in "face-to-face" – an intimate personal relationship.) Man was innocent and God dwelled with them - until. Is there more than we have thought about that God relayed to Adam?

Enter Lucifer: Satan was likely the highest of all angels, the anointed cherub, the most beautiful of all of God's creations. But, Satan desired to be God and take over the rule of the universe. Satan's desire is what Satan tempted Adam and Eve with in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-5). "Don't you want to know what God knows?"

Re: Who God is...it was not until the harmony of the original creation had been broken by disobedience...by Adam and Eve eating of the forbidden fruit...that a new revelation of God at this time on earth became necessary. And, from Genesis 3:15 through Revelation 20, the revelation of God took on the character of redemption. Redemption is covered from Genesis 3:15 through to the end of Revelation 20!

When Adam and Eve both disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, the relationship with God was broken by man. Adam and Eve had communed with God; they had walked with God. But the relationship was now broken. BUT GOD OFFERED HOPE! AND, the reconciliation between God and man was solely on God's part...and PRAISE GOD that it is...if the reconciliation between God and man was on our part, there would be no eternal life!

AND WHAT DID GOD DO? FIRSTLY, GOD PURSUED MAN!

Gen. 3:8 - *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,* (it was a familiar sound; perhaps a daily sound as the text tells us that "it was in the cool

of the day” – a scheduled time of fellowship. GOD pursued Adam and Eve. But this time...)...
Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

From past days, Adam and Eve knew that when they heard the LORD coming, He would want to be with them in a very natural, close, intimate way. They heard the LORD coming. ...*they heard the sound* (noise) *of the Lord God walking in the garden.* The Lord God was walking? Did He have feet? God is spirit (John 4:22). “Walking in the garden in the cool of the

3

day”...the almost casual way in which this statement is made appears to indicate that this did not occur for the first time just then... BUT, something had changed. And, it was NOT God Who changed! Therefore, *Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God....*from God revealing Himself to them.

Sound/voice/word – root means “calling out loud.”

God is spirit (John 4:24). How then did God literally and visibly walk in the garden with Adam and Eve? God’s approach in the garden was introduced by a “sound” or a “voice.” *They heard the sound of the Lord God.* Whatever form God took, sound was produced from His walking. And, to make noise, God’s form must have held some physical weight. He must have taken on a physical form.

The verse also mentions the “presence” of God “among the trees” of the garden. It was God’s presence that Adam and Eve acknowledged, having known His presence previously from the daily walks and communing with God in receiving His instructions. And, they thought they could hide from God. God’s garden walk included both sound and some sort of presence among the trees. Presence implies existence, being there, showing up!

In the original Aramaic text, the word for sound/voice is MEMRA – which means “Word.” The Rabbis have taught that Memra is the same as God yet distinct! (John 1:1 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*)!!!! WHO could this be?

GOD sought them out! While the serpent’s question was designed to bring about the fall of man, God’s questions sought reconciliation and restoration with man. (Notice that no questions from God are asked of the serpent. There is no intention of restoration for this creature. His doom is sealed.)

GOD called to Adam, “Where are you?” Adam and Eve rebelled against God; they offended God!! BUT GOD genuinely called out to Adam in LOVE!

God Himself pursued Adam and Eve. But we read of judgment in Gen. 3:15. In speaking to Satan, God stated, *I will put enmity* (hatred; lit. a blood feud) *between you* (Satan) *and the woman, and between your seed* (Satan) *and her Seed* – (the woman’s Seed; BTW – a woman doesn’t have a seed; a woman has an egg. AND, it’s very worth sharing with you that the Hebrew word for “seed,” zerah, is a MASCULINE noun. Man has a seed!); *He* (Jesus) *shall bruise* (Heb. soof – crush) *your head,* (Satan) (Heb. 2:14 – through Jesus’ death He destroyed

him who had the power of death, that is, the devil), *and you* (Satan) *shall bruise* (Heb. soof – crush) *His heel* (at the cross, Satan crushed Jesus heel).

In Genesis 3:15 we have the first prophecy of the Messiah – and His suffering! The Messiah comes to this earth first TO SUFFER/TO DIE!

How does Heb. 2:14 convey one of God's messages at the cross? DRAMATICALLY!

Why was Jesus crucified on Golgotha? Golgotha in Hebrew means “place of the skull.” Gen. 3:15 prophetically lays out for us that there will come a time when the future Seed of the woman, Jesus, will crush the head of the serpent. Victory is proclaimed! As the nail was driven through the heels of Jesus on the cross, the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was being partially fulfilled. Satan would bruise his heel. The remainder of the prophecy was fulfilled as Jesus was lifted above the ground at the place of the skull. The upright portion of the cross was pounded into Golgotha – the place of the skull...SO VIVIDLY DEPICTING crushing the head of Satan.

4

Jesus was literally in a VICTORIOUS position over His enemy! Gen. 3:15 is the announcement of a prolonged struggle, perpetual antagonism, wounds on both sides YET a mortal wound/destruction on the side of Satan, and victory for the Seed of the woman.

The first Messianic prophecy clearly teaches us that the Messiah coming in the flesh (EMMANUEL – GOD in the flesh) would SUFFER. The first Messianic prophecy doesn't tell us He would first come as a conquering King. He would SUFFER. He would be one of us – He would be 100% human and 100% God! AND the first Messianic prophecy foreshadows the virgin birth. After God pronounced judgment in Gen. 3:15, IMMEDIATELY GOD PROMISED THE REDEEMER!

And so, a GRAND STORY IS PROCLAIMED/THE BIG PICTURE that ultimately led to Jesus, the perfect sacrifice for sin and substitute for sin's judgment. Through Jesus, those who believe are forgiven of sin and receive eternal life (John 3:16).

AND, Adam and Eve were given by God further REDEMPTION INFORMATION...

Gen. 3:21 - *Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.* Through the shedding of blood of an innocent animal, God provided the garments, the tunics of skin, that clothed Adam and Eve.

God's relationship with mankind became redemptive. Redemption: buying out of the marketplace; slaves were bought and sold in the marketplace; slaves lived in bondage to a master. Through disobeying God, their King, their LORD, Adam and Eve fell into bondage to sin enticed by another who desired to be their master – Satan.

We know God as not only Creator and loving Father but also as the Redeemer. (Revelation 4 & 5 – God is glorified as Creator [Rev. 4] and Redeemer [Rev. 5]).

What part of God's plan was He sharing with Adam that we read in Genesis? Man was created in God's image: will, intellect, emotions. Man had freedom to choose. Sin results in consequences. God provided the way back to Himself. AND, to those redeemed, God promises

restoring His initial plan for man: dominion. Daniel 7:27 - *Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.* HERE WAS HOPE!

QUESTIONS:

What was new to you?

How did this lesson impact you?

In what ways did God reveal His character to A&E before and after the fall?

What is your understanding of Adam & Eve's response?

What questions do you have?

Can you explain the Gospel through Genesis 1-3?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 4 with the Bible references.

Continue to journal.

Re: sharing with a non-believer, condense the Gospel from these three chapters in Genesis.

Pray about sharing these chapters with someone in your life.

Read Week 5 when you receive it.