



God Is Glorious. He is infinitely beautiful and He is infinitely great. Habakkuk 3:3,4 tells us, *“His **glory** covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His radiance is like the sunlight; He has horns (rays) flashing from His hand, And there is the hiding (more than we can see) of His power.”* The awesomeness of God is so great!!!

Habakkuk was declaring that God’s *“glory **covered** the heavens.”* Yes, God’s glory fills all of heaven and earth. Habakkuk was about to declare a call for revival, a return to the things of God, in Israel. Yet, Habakkuk **first** begins with a declaration that God’s glory covered, or we can say that His glory filled, the heavens. This is what we all must remember!!! God’s glory!!!

We have all called out for God’s glory to to be revealed, just as Habakkuk did. That is what true revival is all about – God’s glory coming forth and showing the His people and the entire world who He really is. However, what is God’s glory? What does this really mean? Let’s go into what God’s “glory” truly is.

As we begin our journey into grasping what the glory of the Lord truly is, let us first get a working definition of the term, “glory” as it is used in the Bible.

- Hebrew – “*kābôd*” - honor, abundance, abundance in riches, honor and splendor, reverence, high reputation and dignity.
- Greek – “*doxa*” - a most glorious condition, most exalted state; magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace; majesty; a splendor, a brightness.
- American Dictionary- a high renown or honor given because of achievements; having great magnificence and/or great beauty

We know that God had met with Noah, Abraham and others, but He met with them individually. The first visitation to His people, the Hebrews, was during the time of Moses and the Hebrews wandering in the wilderness. He was going to meet with them on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 20. That is where and when He gave the people the Ten Commandments. They blew the ram’s horn and God then showed up with a roaring thunder, flashes of lightning, and smoke as He came upon the mountain.

The people saw the power and greatness of God and “shook with fear.” They wisely decided to move away and keep their distance. Yes, they “shook with fear” because they realized, when they saw the manifestation of God’s glory coming in their midst and saw how truly powerful God was, they realized that they were in no way ready to meet with this holy God.

This was a manifestation of God’s presence, His glory. He wanted to come and be with His people. However, they all feared and moved away. Could you imagine that scene???!!!

We know that God’s presence and therefore His glory led the people through the wilderness (desert) by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. That must have been an awesome scene to witness. However, it was not the fullness of His glory. Yes, God was with the people but they were still separated because of man’s sinful nature. They were able to witness some of God’s glory, but they were not ready to receive His manifested glory within.

God then gave Moses the plan to build a Tabernacle so that God could dwell and be **with** His people when they settled into an area. God did this because He could not dwell **within** any person because of their sinful nature and their “dead spirit.” So... God did the next best thing.

The “glory cloud,” His presence, the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that filled the Tabernacle of Moses, was the first real expression of God’s manifest glory upon the earth **for His people** since the Garden of Eden. We read in Exodus 40:34 - *“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and **the glory of the LORD** filled the tabernacle.”*

Yes, God desired so much to be in the midst of His people. At this time, this was as close as He could get to His people. The reason being was that His people’s spirit was still dead. They still needed to be made alive into a brand new creature. Unfortunately, as we know the people “played games” with God and their relationship squandered and went back and forth. God desired for His glory to be seen in and through His people. However, their sin kept manifesting itself within them.

The Old Testament, as seen in Deuteronomy 5:24–25; 1 Kings 8:10–11; Isaiah 6:1–4 and Ezekiel 1:26–28, give us many other glimpses of God’s glory. The prophet Ezekiel’s vision of the glory of God was full of fire and lightning and wondrous thundering sounds. Ezekiel reveals that he was experiencing “the glory of the Lord.”

As we move forward we then see David had come up with the idea of a permanent Temple to worship God at. We must know that this was not God's ultimate plan. He **never** wanted a Temple (a permanent, immovable site) to be built. However, after David pleaded with Him, He allowed David and the people to build Him a Temple.

However, Solomon, David's son, was allowed to build the Temple, not David. This was because David shed the blood of men. We see that God still honored this building even though it was not really what He wanted. Always remember and know that God really wanted to dwell within the "new creatures" that were to come. They would only come by their belief and acceptance in His own Son dying on the cross and then rising again from the grave.

We see that the glory cloud did indeed fill the Temple when it was dedicated to the Lord - 2Chronicles 5:11-14 - *"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them a hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endures for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God."*

Yes, the glory cloud filled both the Tabernacle and the Temple. However, we must remember that they were both shadows of what was to come. Ultimately, the place where God wanted His glory to dwell was in His people. Yes, God had always desired His glory, His very manifested presence to dwell within His people. We must realize that was how Adam and Eve, both of them, were created - for God's glory to dwell on and **within** them.

That was what Adam and Eve both had before their fall. They were clothed with God's glory. They were clothed with His righteousness. That was what they "wore." They were shrouded with and in the glory of God. However, as we know they sinned and the glory left. It was gone.

God knew it immediately... and... they both knew immediately that something was wrong. Their “glory” was gone. They went and ran to hide and placed fig leaves on themselves. God came to deliver them from their mistake with His grace and His mercy. He tried to get them to simply “own up” to what they had done. If they had “own up” and repented of what they had done, God would have restored them. Unfortunately, for them and for all humanity, they did not.

They should have been destroyed because their sin separated them from their God ... but thank God for His love, His grace and His mercy. He rescued them, and all of us, from their fate and gave them and all their offspring (including you and I) the opportunity to be rescued and saved, from eternal damnation.

Man just needed to wait until the true God/Man would come and take man's punishment which was to be sent to hell for eternity, forever. But God... but God sent Jesus to take our place. He died on that cross for all of our sin of trying to be our own god and denying the living God as the true God. Yes, Jesus took that punishment for all of man's (our) sin.

But... three days later Jesus took the keys of death and life away from Lucifer, and rose from the grave, from hell itself, and presented Himself on the third day to the Father. He then released all those who were waiting for that day of salvation who were in Abraham's bosom. Yes, Jesus gave new life to all those who were waiting for Him and now He has given new life to all of us who believe in all that He did. He did it all for the **glory** of the Father.

Let us take a look at what the glory of the Father and Jesus truly is and will forever be. We get a picture of it in Revelation 21:22-24 - *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: **for the glory of God** (the Father) **did lighten it, and the Lamb** (Jesus) **is the light thereof.** And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.* WOW!!!

Let us first review the “Glory of the Father.” Let's read Revelation 20:11 - *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”*

In Exodus 33:18-23, Moses asks God, *“Please show me your glory.”* God responds, *“I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,’ he said, ‘you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.’ Then the Lord said, ‘There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”*

Moses never saw God’s face. When Exodus 33:11 tells us that they met *“face to face,”* it simply meant that they had a close relationship, not that Moses actually saw the face of God, the Father.

Genesis 18:1 tell us, *“the LORD”* (Yahweh – the Father) who appeared to Abraham. It is the LORD, Yahweh – the Father, who speaks in verses 13, 20, 26, and 33. Abraham stands *“before the LORD”* (Yahweh) in verse 22. Therefore, one of these three “men” must have been God Almighty taking on the appearance of a man. We call such an appearance a “theophany,” an appearance of God, the Father. When Jesus appeared in the Old Testament it is referred to as “christophony.” The other two “men” who met with Abraham were angels. These were the same angels who later visited Sodom and spoke to Lot (Genesis 19:1).

We must recognize that in the Father, we see the absolute presence and glory of God. As we read in Isaiah 6:1-4, we see that even the “seraphim,” the six winged angels that surrounded the throne of God in heaven, had to cover their eyes as they worshiped God, the Father, because of the greatness of His glory. Yes, His glory is so, so great. He is a “spirit,” a “spirit being.” His body is totally spirit.

Now, let us review the “Glory of Jesus” – Revelation 21:11-16 - *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vestment dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:*

and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vestment and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

In the Old Testament we see that Abraham met Melchizedek who is a type of the Messiah/the Christ. (Genesis 14:18–20) Melchizedek's name broken down means - "*melek*" = king; "*sedeq*" = righteousness – "the king of righteousness." We all know that the absolute "King of Righteousness" always was and always is and always will be - Jesus.

In Psalm 110:1, it tells us, "*The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai), Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*" This is a messianic psalm written by David declaring that the Father (*LORD*=Yahweh) is speaking to the Son (*Lord*=Adonai/Jesus). Jesus cites this scripture as He speaks to the Pharisees as they were questioning Him as to who He was (Matthew 22:43).

We see that Melchizedek was presented as a "type of Jesus Christ" in Genesis. This theme is repeated in the book of Hebrews, where both Melchizedek and Jesus, who is the Christ, are considered "kings of righteousness" and peace." Peace meaning the restoration of relationship back to the Father.

This was a unique priesthood. Melchizedek, briefly seen in the Old Testament, would not be seen again until the New Testament when Jesus (who was the original Melchizedek) became our final High Priest. Melchizedek was a "type of the coming Messiah," Jesus. Jesus is now the our High Priest who ushers the true believer into the very presence of the Father.

However, Hebrews 7:1–10 also shows us that this new High Priest (Jesus) has also ushered in a "new priesthood." It is superior to that of the old Levitical priesthood in which Aaron was the High Priest. Now, all true believers in Jesus have become "kings and priests" just as Jesus is our King and our High Priest.

We must realize that the glory of God puts the pride of man to shame: "*Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.*" (Isaiah 2:10–11).

One day, we as His true believers, will be taken into God's presence and we will be surrounded by God's glory and His majesty. In that place, heaven and then in the New Jerusalem, God's glory will be seen clearly by everyone who ever lived – saved and unsaved. All those who believe in and accept Jesus as their own personal Savior and Lord, will dwell in the glory of God forever and ever. 1Corinthians 13:12 tells us, *"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face.**"* We will then, all of those who truly believe in Jesus, bow down before the one and only Living God.

God can never give the fullness of His glory to another. There is no one nor any thing that could ever contain or hold the fullness of God's glory. Yet, this was the very thing that Lucifer tried to steal from God. This is the very thing that man continues to try and steal even to this day. Romans 1:22–23 tells us, *"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged **the glory of the immortal God** for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles."* It will never happen.

The glory of God is of course, inseparable from all of his other attributes. God is eternal. He never changes. He is holy. He is omnipotent. He is all-sufficient. And...God is glorious.

The fullness of God's glory can never be duplicated.
To God be the glory forever and ever and ever. AMEN!!!