

MSB 217

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hetteema, Director

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

by John C. Ribbens

David blessed the Lord and declared, **Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine: thine is the kingdom, O Lord. . . (1 Chron. 29:11)**. The manifestation of the *glory* of the Lord Jesus Christ is God's next move for the future of mankind. This will enlighten all the peoples concerning who Jesus Christ is and what He is in the sight of God. The *glory* of God will be openly and visibly apparent in His works, when He blesses Israel and the whole world in fulfilling His covenant with Abraham.

Numbers 13 and 14 record an important event in the lives of the people of Israel. The Lord declared to Moses: **Send thou men that they may search the Land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them (Num. 13:1,2)**. These instructions were simple: **See the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many, and what the land is that they dwell in whether it be good or bad, . . . whether fat or lean. . . be of good courage and bring of the fruit of the land (Num. 13:18-20)**. After searching the land for forty days, they came to Moses and Aaron and reported the incredible results of their mission: "We came unto the land. . . and surely it floweth with milk and honey." Nevertheless one thing concerned these spies: **The people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled and very great, . . . moreover we saw the children of Anak there (Num. 13:26-28)**.

These children of Anak, the result of the second eruption of the fallen angels, were the giants. The spies said, "**We were in our own sight as grasshoppers.**" Nevertheless, Caleb refused to be daunted either by their size or number. **He stilled the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13 :30).** Thus Caleb, a man of great faith, seized the opportunity to immediately possess the land. The psalmist David declared, "**Wait on the Lord: be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say on the Lord" (Psa. 27: 14).** This should have been the attitude of the whole congregation of Israel. They murmured against Moses and Aaron, "**Would God that we had died in this wilderness" (Num. 14:1,2).** Joshua and Caleb "rent their clothes" (a symbol of great grief) and spoke to all the company of Israel saying, **The land which we passed through to search it is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which floweth with milk and honey, only rebel ye not against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them and the Lord is with us. Fear them not (Num. 14:6-9).**

No greater words of encouragement could have been given, but rather than heeding their words, "All the congregation bade stone them with stones." Their response greatly angered the Lord, who threatened them with pestilence and said to Moses, "**I will disinherit them and make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.**" In response, Moses besought the Lord to "**pardon the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Thy mercy, and as Thou hast forgiven this people from Egypt until now.**" Then the Lord said, **I have pardoned according to thy word; but as truly I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord (Num. 14:10-21).**

With this pronouncement, God promised a future time in which not only Israel, but every nation upon earth would be blessed with unheard of spiritual, physical and material blessings. The psalmist David cried out, **Arise O Lord; let not man prevail; let (cause) the nations to be judged in thy sight. Put them in fear, O Lord; that the nations may know themselves to be but men (Psa. 9:19, 20).** Jesus said, "**All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18).** In order to understand the magnificence of the display of God's character in His judicial role as sovereign of the universe, it is essential that we understand the significance of this word *glory*. The importance of this multi-faceted word cannot be overstated, for it reveals the greatness and esteem in which God holds the Lord Jesus Christ.

The late O.Q. Sellers once said, "The word *glory* is a common one, especially in religious circles, where it is used as an utterance in moments of emotional ecstasy." There is a two-fold meaning of the word *glory* (*Gk. -doxa*): the first being the esteem and recognition in which God, the Father, holds His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the second being the esteem which singularly belongs to Jesus Christ regarding what He will do for the future of mankind. Every need for the future of mankind has been, provided for in our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The woman of Samaria, who met Jesus at Jacob's well, upon hearing the words of Jesus declared, "**Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did; is this not the Christ (Messiah)?**" The Samaritans of the city said to her, **Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves and know that this is indeed the Christ (Messiah), the Savior of the world (John. 4:29, 42).**

The Apostle Paul, writing to Titus, declared, **For this salvation bringing grace of God hath appeared unto all men** (or has shown forth on behalf of all humanity) **teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and in showing reverence toward God in this present world (eon), looking for (in expectation of) that blessed hope and (even) the glorious appearing of the great God and (even) Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13).** This (vs. 13) is not the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as some think. The subject of Paul's hope is "even the appearing (*Gk. -epiphaneia*) of the *glory* (*Gk. -doxa*)" of the great God, even our Savior Jesus Christ.

The noun *epiphaneia* could better be translated "blazing forth." Herman Cremer, D.D., defines this word by using such phrases as "the manifestation of divine power and providence in extraordinary events" and "a miraculous interposition of God on behalf of His people." I believe this passage points to the "blazing forth" of the *glory* of the great God, even our Savior Jesus Christ. This message is bound up with the great truth of the Kingdom of God so much that the meaning of the *glory* of God cannot be understood apart from recognizing that God is yet going to govern this world. It is this subject which dominates the whole of Scripture.

The "blazing forth" of the *glory* of Jesus Christ is revealed in numerous Old Testament Scriptures. Isaiah speaks of a time when: **Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh (mankind) shall see it together: for the**

mouth of the Lord hath spoken it (Isa. 40:3-5). This great work is God's next move with men. In Scripture, mountains are figures for strong nations and hills for lesser nations. Under divine government all nations and all governments, large and small, strong and weak will submit to the government of God. The prophet Micah declares: **For behold the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains shall be molten under Him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire and as the waters that are poured down a steep place (Mic. 1:3,4).**

Once God assumes sovereignty, **All nations whom thou hast made shall come to worship before Thee, O Lord; and shall glorify Thy name. For Thou art great, and doest wonderful things: Thou art God alone (Psa. 86:9,10).** In that day, **All the ends of the world** (people in the most remote places) **shall remember and turn** (be converted) **unto the Lord: and all kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. For the kingdom (government) is the Lord's: and He is the governor among the nations (Psa. 22:27-28).** Isaiah speaks of God's glory upon the nation of Israel: **Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the Lord shall arise** (go into action), **and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. . . . But the Lord shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee (Isa. 60:1-2).** God will openly identify Himself with the nation of Israel. He will exert His influence upon every Israelite in the earth and reinstate the Davidic dynasty. David's Son, the Messiah, will rule over all with His own power and associated rulers, namely the Twelve Apostles and His government *ekklesia*, restoring and regathering the nation in fulfillment of Exodus 19:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Ezekiel 20:33-38, and 37:21-25.

The throne of David will become the great recognized government of this world. Of David's Son, His reign shall bring showers of blessing upon all, so that all families of the earth shall be blessed in Him. In that day of God's manifest government, **His name shall endure forever. . . and men shall be blessed in Him, all nations shall call Him blessed** (exalted). **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name forever: and let the whole earth be filled with His glory; Amen and Amen (Psa. 72:17-19).** He will put an end to decay, sickness and death. His kingdom comes infusing life into this world. David says, **O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; shew forth His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all the people (Psa. 96:1-3).**

This will have great impact upon the structure of human governments. God will arrest the present flow of evil and fill men's minds with His judgments and His truth. **"The glory of the Lord shall endure forever; the Lord shall rejoice in His works" (Psa. 104:31). All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O Lord, when they hear the words of Thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord (Psa. 138:4-5).** God's *glory* manifest in all the earth will transform all life as we know it today. God will yet act to satisfy the physical and spiritual needs of every living being on earth. **"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14).** The needs of this world are enormous and complex, but God is capable of addressing each one. Men who resist will be eliminated. Those who yield and submit will be blessed in infinite ways.

We have assurance of life and sharing in that *glory* through believing in Jesus Christ in a time when, **Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes, and all judges of the earth: both young men and maidens; old men and children: let them praise the name of the Lord: for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven (Psa. 148:11-13)**

END

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