

## The Glory of God (Series 2): 1

### The Glory Is God's Mighty Goodness

#### John 11.40

“Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"”

In this series of teaching we are going to look at the Glory of God. I have already touched on it a few times over the last few months, so some of the things we are going to say will be a repetition. Let us start by defining the word glory:

Glory – *kabod* (Hbrw), *doxa* (Gk)

James Strong defines<sup>1</sup> it as ‘*honour, splendour, copiousness or majesty (reputation)*’; *kabod*’s NT counterpart is *doxa* ‘*splendour, honour, something that is praiseworthy, evoking praise and worship*’.

Brown, Driver & Briggs<sup>2</sup> add ‘*abundance*’ to those meanings

W.E.Vine states<sup>3</sup> that *kabod* “*refers to the great physical weight or "quantity" of a thing... it often refers to both "wealth" and significant and positive "reputation"... kabod can also have an abstract emphasis of "glory," imposing presence or position.*”

William Wilson writes<sup>4</sup> about *kabod*: “*this word is used to signify anything that renders a nation, person, or place, of weight, considerable or respectable; as wealth, numbers, commerce, power, wisdom, promotion, superiority, dignity, authority, nobility, splendour, valour, magnificence, extraordinary privileges and advantages; or whatever instance or badge of greatness, excellency, or happiness renders a person praiseworthy, or commands esteem or veneration: this is honour and glory*”

[references:

1. Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary, #H3519 and #G1391

2. Brown, Driver & Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

3. Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words, listing: honour, B.Nouns, *kabod* (#3519)

4. Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies, Hendrickson Publishers, pg189, listing: glory, 10]

In my opinion based on these definitions, the best one-word definitions to encompass everything that *kabod* means is **GREATNESS** or **GOODNESS**

This is borne out in Scripture:

#### Exodus 33.18 – 34.7

- Show me Your glory – Moses asks that God would reveal to him His glory.
- In response to his request God says that He would pass before him and show him His goodness. (vs19)
- God said that His glory would pass before him (vs22)
  
- The glory cloud descended on Mt Sinai (vs5)
- The Lord passed before Moses as He promised (vs6)

### Isaiah 60.1-2

“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.” (vs1-2)

The glory [and goodness] of God causes you to arise [and be lifted out of sin, and the circumstances which keep you down] to new life. It causes CHANGE to come, so that you shine and are radiant with the glory [and goodness] of the Lord.

### John 1.14

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

We beheld His glory – we saw His glory, it was something tangible – it was an expression of the goodness of God

“The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. **From Him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us**” (CEV)

His glory – was the manifestation of the fullness of grace (His love, favour, loving-kindness, goodness) and the fullness of truth.

The disciples/gospel writers could declare that ‘we saw it’ - they were eye-witnesses of the glory of God.

Everywhere Jesus went He displayed and manifested tangible expressions of the glory – His goodness. Through his words of teaching, towards those He met that were in need – bodily healing, forgiveness of sin, deliverance from the clutches of the devil, He fed the hungry and met the needs.

Peter recalled it, in his sermon to the household of Cornelius:

### Acts 10.38-39

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him - And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem...”

- The goodness of God was being manifest through Jesus.
- God was with Him – the glory was upon Him (remember one of the definitions of glory is the imposing presence and position [of God])
- The disciples saw the glory of God manifest and they believed in Him

John 2.11 “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”

We too can see that glory today.

“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” **Ephesians 2.7**

God wants to manifest the exceeding riches of His grace, His goodness and glory, toward us who are in Christ Jesus.

We don't have to live in that place where we don't experience the goodness of God.

The psalmist understood that:

*"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living."* Psalm 27.13

He says:

How could I have gone on if I didn't believe that I would see the goodness of God, here in the land of the living.

God wants to manifest His glory and His goodness in us, all He asks of us is to believe Him – *if we believe we will see the glory of God.*