

The Glory of God (Series 2): 2

Jesus Is The Expression of the Glory

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 verse Jesus is speaking to a close friend, one of His disciples, who was going through a harrowing time, her brother Lazarus had died and was buried in the tomb – he had been there 4 days.

Jesus had obviously been teaching on this subject as He referred her to the teaching - “Did I not say to you...” – those who believe will see the glory of God.

- We have said previously that the glory of God is His imposing presence – whenever God was present with His people there were visible signs of the Glory – the cloud, the fire, the light.
- Not only is the glory the presence of God but His awesome power and goodness. The two go together – the presence and power, we see it in Jesus

Acts 10.38 says “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”

- The presence of God was with Him
- He went about in the power of the Holy Spirit doing good.

A few days earlier, when Mary and Martha had sent for Him – He said to His disciples “When Jesus heard *that*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”” John 11.4

Here we seem to have a contradiction in the Bible – Jesus said ‘This sickness is not unto death..’ but Lazarus died.

Did Jesus miss it? Did He get it wrong? Was He lying? - No, no and no

- He was saying that this sickness would not end up with the final death of Lazarus. He knew what He was going to do – Lazarus would be raised up.
- Notice that he referred to Lazarus as sleeping, which caused confusion among the disciples (vss 11-15)

This would be ‘for the glory of God’ – here is another part of the verse which has caused problems with it’s misinterpretation.

- Jesus did not say that sickness glorifies God. Sickness is under the curse – Jesus died to remove it from us, to heal us.
- This was an opportunity for the glory of God to be manifest – and for the Son of God (Jesus) to be revealed and honoured through the power of God (see *John 2.11*).

John 2.11

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

At a wedding in Cana of Galilee - Jesus turned plain water into the most wonderful quality wine. This verse tells us that through this miracle Jesus manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

- In vs 15, Jesus states He was glad for their sakes – that they might believe. This was going to be another opportunity for Jesus to be manifest as the Glory
- To see the Glory is to see Jesus – He is the brightness of His Father’s glory.

Hebrews 1.1-4

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ⁽²⁾ has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ⁽³⁾ **who being the brightness of His glory** and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁽⁴⁾ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

His glory – the glory of the Father:

- a glorious nature
- glorious manifestations
- the author of glory in man

The glory is the presence and power of God – Wherever God is there’s the glory – because He is the Glory

Jesus is the expression and brightness of His glory

- He has the same glorious nature
- the shares the same glorious names

in this verse the allusion is to the sun, and its beam or ray, as some translations use the phrases – ‘ray of His glory’, or ‘radiance’ as in Amplified:

“He is the sole expression of the glory of God [*the Light-being, the out-ricing or radiance of the divine*], and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of [God’s] nature...”
(Amp)

- the Father and the Son are of the same nature, as the sun and its ray; one is not before the other, and yet they are distinct from each other, and cannot be divided or separated one from another. They are one.

Malachi 4.2

“But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings...”

- This is talking about Jesus – He is the Sun of righteousness (notice the spelling – not Son)
- The word ‘sun’ used here is *shemesh* (H8121) and means sun, brilliance, shining or rays

(compare *xemx* in Malti)

“But unto you who revere *and* worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings *and* His beams...” (Amp)

There are manifestations of glory (healing) in His wings (covering, overshadowing, or garment as in *Ruth 3.9*)

Jesus promised to manifest Himself to those that love Him and keep His commandments

John 14.21

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

The word manifest means to show, make known or reveal, to appear or exhibit.
To shine a light on, or illuminate (my definition)

“The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [*really*] loves Me; and whoever [*really*] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [*too*] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [*I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him*]“ (Amp)

For many people God is not real – I don't mean He doesn't exist for them but rather He is a nominal God, they pray, they go through the motions but they have never have any real encounter with Him. They have religion not relationship.

Jesus promised that if we love Him and keep His commandments, He will reveal Himself to us, He will be made known to us, We will have an encounter with Himself and His glory.

John 14.7-9

“(7) “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” (8) Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” (9) Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

- Philip asks Jesus to reveal the Father to them
- If you've seen Me you've seen the Father - I am the expression of the glory of God
- We are one – John 10.30 “**I and My Father are one**”

Years later when John was actually penning the words of this gospel under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he wrote:

“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.” **John 1.14**

- the glory as of the Son, as of the Father