

*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.  
(Exodus 40:36-40)*

### What does 'glory' mean?

**Heavy** with majestic holiness, perfect goodness, great power, and faithful love.

**Full** with *solid reality, true existence and eternal significance*: the outshining of beauty.

Moses asked: '**Show me your glory**' (Ex 33:18). God proclaimed His name (34:5-7) / nature.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:8)

Glory is shared with the creation: '**We were crowned with glory and honor.**' (Ps 8:5).

*'In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them: Be fruitful...multiply. Fill the earth and rule (reign) over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.'*

(Genesis 1:27-28)

**RATIONAL:** Human beings have the capacity to reason and to reflect on ourselves.

**RELATIONAL:** God speaks with himself 'Let us' and to Man: 'God said to them' (1:26 28)

We are relational beings like Father, Son and Spirit and morally accountable to God.

**ROYAL: 'Fill...rule'** – we serve God as partners to bring creation to its fullest potential and by doing do we reflect the wise, just, and good reign of God over all he has made.

**God worshipped. Relationships holy. Work blessed. Life ordered. At Peace.**

*The future was glorious until 'God does not want you to be free! Listen to me!'* (Gen 3:5)

*The first couple listened to Satan's lies, choosing not to glorify God as God.'* (Rom 1:21)

### **This is the continuing story of Israel in the land.**

*"When the ark was brought into Solomon's temple, the cloud of God's presence filled the temple (1 Kings 8:6; 10-11). The Lord was present in glory but Israel was idolatrous.*

#### **Ezekiel 8**

1. *God appeared to the prophet in glory 'like fire...as bright as glowing metal'* (8:2)

2. *'lifted me between earth and heaven...visions of God took me to Jerusalem'*(8:3)

3. *to the temple 'where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood'* (8:3)

4. *before him 'was the glory of the God of Israel as in the vision I had seen'* (8:4)

*He said: "Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the Israelites are doing here, **things that will drive me far from my sanctuary?**"* (8:5-6)

5. *In the courtyard, 'I looked and saw portrayed **all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and unclean animals and all the idols of Israel.**'* (8:9-10)

6. *The **elders** 'had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising...in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The Lord does not see us; the Lord has forsaken the land.'* (8:11-12)

7. *'I saw **women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz**'* (8:14)

8. In the inner court of the house of the Lord...**twenty-five men... their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, were bowing down to the sun in the east.**' (8:15-16)

He said to me, "Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the people of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? (8:17) Thus **'the glory of the Lord went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.'** (11:23)

### This is our story.

**Like Israel, we exchanged the glory of God for a lie'** (Romans 1:22). **Tempted to believe that we don't need God; thinking we are gods—we fall short of God's glory** (Rom 3:23).

Humans are trying to be glorious (perfectable) through movements and philosophies. *The Enlightenment Smarter Scientific Man; Communism Better Soviet Man; The West Richer Capitalistic Man* - but without God. **Instead of being a window through which to see God's glory we become a mirror, gazing on ourselves in sinful narcissism.**

### **A New Story**

**We need God's glory to be holy and to be human.**

Jesus came – **'We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son'** (John 1:14)

Jesus said – **'he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.'** (John 7:18)

**'I gave them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one...Then the world will know you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'**

(John 17:22-23)

**The Lord Jesus is the True, Universal Glorious Human, restoring God's glory to us.**

**put on the new self** created to be **like God** in true righteousness and holiness Eph 4:22-23

**put on the new self...being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator** Col 3:9-10

**filled with the fruit of righteousness...through Jesus to the glory of God.** Phil 1:11

### **THE BEST VERSION OF YOU IS JESUS**

**But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

**1 John 3:2**

**The degree to which we show God's glory is determined by our doing this together.**

**Glory will be seen in a Spirit-filled, Christ like community united in God's trinity love.**

The end of all things is near.

Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may **pray**. Above all, **love** each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to **serve** others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone **speaks** they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. **To him be glory and the power for ever and ever.**

Amen.

**1 Peter 4:7- 11**