



## The Glory of God

Message Notes, March 25, 2018

Exodus 33:18-22, 34:5-7, 29-30, 33-35; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Our magnificent Creator is a missionary God. He is ever in pursuit of His mission – to fill all the earth with His glory! This is not some arrogant display; it is actually for *us*. We see this when we truly understand His glory.

The Exodus verses above reveal the account of Moses' conversation with God on Mount Sinai when God is giving Moses the 10 Commandments and the Law to establish His covenant relationship with the Hebrew people. During this interaction, Moses asks God to show him His glory. God's response reveals much about what His glory is.

- "I will cause my goodness to pass before you."
- "I will proclaim my name ... I am the LORD ..."
- "I show mercy ... I have compassion ..."
- "I am compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. I am forgiving ..."
- "I will not leave the guilty unpunished ..."

This is God's glory! His goodness – His love and compassion, His faithfulness, His righteousness and justice. His personal name – "YAHWEH" (the LORD) captures all this fullness, this life, this glory. Yes, indeed – we want God to fill the earth with His glory.

When Moses came down from being with YAHWEH on the mountain, His face was glowing from being with the Glorious One. It freaked the people out, so Moses made a veil to wear over his face to cover up God's glory on him.

In the 2 Corinthians passage above, Paul is writing to the church he planted at Corinth, and he comments on this story of Moses' face shining with the glory of God.

- "Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone ..." (the ministry of the God-given Law, which no one could keep, thus revealing their unrighteousness, ultimately resulting in death)
- "... came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look at the face of Moses ..." (glory upon him from his time with the Lord)
- ... "will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that condemns men [the Law] is glorious, how much more the ministry that brings righteousness ... (If God's glory is shown in the giving of the law that condemns us, how much more glorious is the ministry of the Spirit through the death and resurrection of Jesus that brings freedom and life!)

Then Paul talks about two different veils:

- One is the veil Moses wore to hide his shining face (God's glory on him).
- The other veil Paul refers to is the "veil in the temple." The huge curtain that separated all the people from the "Holy of Holies" (the place in the temple where only the High Priest



could go, just once a year to make atonement for the people). This place behind the veil represented the Holy presence of God.

- When Jesus died on the cross, this giant, thick curtain was torn in-two from top to bottom. Through Jesus' sacrificial death for us, God removed the separating veil to restore us to relationship with Himself, so that ...
- We might experience His glory! And so we might show and share His glory in the earth to all people (i.e., Harvest!).
- "... Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory ..." (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

Romans 8:15-19 expresses these same ideas:

- "We have received a Spirit of sonship ..." (and daughtership, childhood)
- "We are God's children ... heirs ... joint heirs with Christ ..."
- "We share in His sufferings that we may also share in His glory ..."
- "The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed [unveiled]."

In 2017 God was moving to "Awaken" us. This year He is moving and calling us to Harvest – and He is "unveiling us"! We are His salt, His light, shining His glory into a dark world.

Isaiah 60:1-3 vividly expresses who we are as "glory-bearers" in the world. May live up to this glorious privilege!