

Understanding the Old Testament
The Glory of God the Father
December 10, 2017

Romans 15:4-6

- For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (5) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such HARMONY with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (6) that together you may with one voice GLORIFY the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Continuing in our “Understanding the Old Testament” sermon series, we come to “glorify God the Father.”

Paul says that we – the church – with ONE VOICE will glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Jesus said in John 17 that our UNITY and love will show the world God’s glory.
- And with that unified voice and message, we glorify God – contextually – **even brighter** than Scriptures of old.
 - That means three things:
 - 1) the OT existed to reveal the glory of God!
 - 2) we live in a “better” covenant with God, as Hebrews 9 reminded us last week.
 - 3) therefore, we should have a good grasp of what it means to glorify God
 - Teaching/Learning objectives:
 - Teach HOW the OT glorifies God
 - All people are to recognize the glory of God the Father
 - All people exist for the sole purpose to glorify God.
 - Those who indeed glorify God, are subsequently glorified **by** God.

4 Questions to ask and answer today:

- **What does “glory” mean?**
- **How is glory given to God in the OT?**
- **Does God’s glory grow/increase when we glorify Him?**
- **Why does God desire His glory to be revealed by ME?**

In my freshman class, I’ve recently put up a big poster-board on the way out the door, with **“What I learned today”** at the top.

- Kids use yellow sticky notes and write a few words before they leave.
- You have no idea how much I’d love to make you all do that! ☺
- But seriously, answering these questions about glory... I genuinely hope you learn some lifetime lessons today about the glory of God, and how to continually glorify Him – and KNOW that God is pleased with YOU.
 - Sometimes we think of God as disappointed in our efforts.
 - But there are NO accounts in Scripture of God’s disappointment like that.

1) What does “glory” mean?

- Hebrew word = kabod = weight; but only figuratively in a good sense, splendor or copiousness
- John Piper defines glory as “God’s holiness and value made public.”
- Psalm 19:1 (NLT), The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship.

- Better translation: “The universe shouts about the glory of God, and the skies show it off!”
- Isaiah 6... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, and the whole earth is full of his glory.
 - God’s holiness revealed/manifest is the definition of God’s glory.

2) How was glory given to God in the OT?

- Let me give you 3 ways...

A) “The God who saved you out of slavery in Egypt...”

- Just about every leader, judge, prophet, and king of Israel reminded God’s people of this truth.
- God chose a nation of slaves to make His name great among the nations.
- **People often ask, if the Abrahamic Covenant was so great – and it was an UNCONDITIONAL covenant in that Abraham’s faith was all that was required on his part of God’s promise to remain, then WHY DID GOD LET ISRAEL FALL INTO SLAVERY shortly after committing himself to it?**
- Genesis 50 ends with Joseph being placed by God in Egypt as the second in command of the most powerful nation in the world, saving Israel out of famine, and placing them in the most desirable spot in all of Egypt – a region called Goshen.
 - [On Google maps](#), you can see the incredibly lush land where the Nile River flows to.
 - Pharaoh at the time of Joseph was a GOOD Pharaoh – one who loved Joseph and gave his family the best the land had to offer because of what Joseph did for Egypt.
 - Exodus 1 then opens with the sad news that a new Pharaoh had risen to power – one who did not love Joseph and rather now feared Israel because they were growing so fast.
 - He enslaved Israel for generations.
 - **(next)** And by the time Exodus 1 is finished, 400 years have passed, and we are introduced to Moses, the baby, floating down the river in a basket because God heard the cries of Israel for salvation.
 - WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW THIS SLAVERY?
- I find it fascinating that the entire OT ends in a similar way.
 - **READ:** Roughly 1000 year after God delivered Israel from slavery, Nehemiah rebuilds the temple around 440 BC after Israel was again in captivity for 70 years, and the prophet Malachi records the last prophetic words of the Lord in the OT 400 years before the Apostle John’s gospel recounts the presence of Christ, opening with “In the beginning was the Word...”
 - And John 1:14 says “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen **his glory, glory** as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **READ:** *You see, God’s command to Israel to never forget they were delivered out of slavery and made into a great nation – one that would represent Creator God to the nations – was so that the world would know that if God could make Israel great, He must be GOD!*
- *In the same way, if God can use a woman who by all legal accounts could have been stoned for having a child out of wedlock... if God’s Son Jesus could be born unto her – God incarnate – and grow up admitting several times that He himself had no place to lay his head – no home of his own... and THAT man singlehandedly changed the world by giving his life as a ransom for many – He MUST be GOD.*
 - *And is worthy of the highest glory.*

- *What better way to declare His own glory than for God to deliver an entire nation of slaves into freedom and declare them as His chosen people?*
- *What better way to declare His own glory than for God to be born in a manger, with shepherd boys as his messengers and eluding the powerful rulers of the day who did everything in their power to kill him as an infant, and later delivering His people from the slavery of sin into FREEDOM and declare ALL who put their trust in Him as His chosen people??*
- *I submit to you that the NT tells the same story of the same God in a NEW way!*
 - *A God who delivers from evil, from slavery, from sin.*
 - *And exchanges those ungodly things for good, deliverance, and grace.*

(get video ready) I've been teaching my freshman students how to properly do a **Hebrew word study**.

- One of those words this semester was **shama**.
- Let me use this short video to explain the word as an answer to how God was glorified in the OT:

B) Shama word study video...

- **(next)** Now, the video doesn't mention "glory," but I submit to you:
- **Shama is the answer to how God is glorified by His people.**
 - Know He is God, Listen to Him, and Obey.
 - The difference between the Jews reciting the shama prayer and Christians: we understand Jesus to be the full expression of God's glory:
 - Heb. 1:3, The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.
 - And we obey HIM in the New Covenant with God.
 - More on Jesus in a bit... let's stay with the OT, and answer...

C) The OT gives us an account of a man's desire to show His love to Jehovah God – a practical glimpse into the heart of someone God used mightily.

- In 2 Samuel 7, a great conversation happens between the newly crowned King David and Nathan the prophet.
- In fact, many scholars say this exchange between David and Nathan is one of the most significant conversations to have ever happened in human history.
 - Theologian Walter Brueggemann called it "one of the most crucial texts in the Old Testament for evangelical faith."
- David is living in a house – one fit for a king.
 - King Saul had only recently died, and God had given David victories over his enemies, allowing for him now a time of rest.
- And chapter 7 gives the impression of David, perhaps having just put his feet up by the fire..... but then it's as if he jumps up out of his chair and exclaims to Nathan, "What the heck am I doing?? I have this great house, but Jehovah God is still living in the Ark of the Covenant in a tent!"
 - Nathan the prophet says "Go ahead and do whatever is on your mind to do – the Lord is with you."
 - But that same night, God tells Nathan – in a nutshell – "Thank you for concerning yourself with Me, but the time is not right for you to build a house for me. But I WILL bless you and your descendants with the line of the throne for eternity."
- Why does Brueggemann call it one of the most important conversations in history?

- 1) Because it is the account of the Davidic Covenant.
 - The Covenant God makes with David for his blood line to include Messiah.
- 2) Because of the heart David shows HOW to glorify God.
 - David doesn't just have the idea, and then sits back down again and keeps eating bonbons.
 - He literally was shocked at himself when this thought came across his mind.
 - Like many of us might, I imagine he felt ashamed – that he'd totally blown it – that God was angry with Him...
 - Instead, God basically said "this is not your job (but because of your love and zeal for me, I will make my covenant with you that Messiah will come from your bloodline)."
 - As we know, man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. That quote from Samuel was about David, of course, but it is about all of us, for sure.

3) Does God's glory grow/increase when we glorify Him?

Short answer: NO.

- Psalm 95:4-5, "In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."
- "Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine...the world is mine, and all that is in it." (Ps 50:10-12)
- "The silver is mine and the gold is mine." (Hag 2:8)
- "The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants." (Lev 25:23)
- "Everything under heaven belongs to me." (Job 4:11)

God's glory is not increased when we do our job of giving it to Him, it is merely REVEALED.

- 6 times in the OT, King David said, "Ascribe to the Lord GLORY!" (1 Chr 16, and 5 other Psalms)
- Ascribe is simply recognition of what's already there.
 - It is a proclamation of what is already true.
 - Like telling others what you witnessed someone do. Something beautiful, thoughtful, loving, amazing, selfless, etc.
 - Or equally, telling others of the selfless character of another.
 - The truth of what the person did hasn't changed.
 - The truth of who the person IS has not changed.
 - But the way people see that person of which you speak DOES.
 - Which brings us to our final question...

4) Why does God desire His glory to be revealed by ME?

- ***When we speak of the amazing wonders of God in the face of a downward spiraling cynical society, the veil that sin hangs over the spiritual eyes of the world is lifted!***
 - ***God's glory is revealed – Who He TRULY is, not the lies people are told.***
- ***When God's people – those saved from sin by grace through faith, and who have so obviously had their lives CHANGED by the power of the Spirit of the Living God – when THOSE people proclaim the GOODNESS of God to an otherwise ignorant, or unbelieving, or just plain***

apathetic people, God is looked upon by those He created in perhaps even the slightest new light.

- And it is not just in words which we glorify the God and Father or our Lord Jesus Christ...

Jesus said the world will know we belong to Him when we love one another (John 17).

- We are created in God's image.
- In those whom He has bought back for himself by the blood of the Son, He receives glory.
- The world – those who knew you when – look at you, born again by the Spirit – witness your life, and probably sometimes jokingly say “There must be a God!”
 - What a perfect opportunity for you to press in!

God is glorified in SHAMA – in hearing and obeying...

- ... Love
- ... Goodness
- ... Holiness
- ... Righteousness
- ... Selflessness
- ... The fruits of the spirit

(next) Therefore, GO, church. Today. Give glory to God.

Your homework is the encourage others to ascribe God glory by your model.

PRAY