

1. **We often think the study of God is Academic...**
 - a. That the study of God is for theologians, not regular Christians—but that’s entirely false!
 - b. Jesus said, eternal life is based knowing God—God wants us to Know Him! (Jer 9:24)
 2. **No other study humbles the mind, expands the mind, or comforts the mind more**
 - a. But so often words fall short of conveying vast incredible truth...
 - b. Because Our Human understanding must expand to comprehend spiritual truth
 3. **One word best describes the majesty of God in all His divine attributes—GLORY**
 - a. God’s word declares He is the “King of glory,” the “God of glory,” and the Lord of glory”
 - b. “Great is the glory of the Lord,” (Ps 138:5)
 - c. “His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven” (Ps 148:13).
 4. **What is the glory of God? How is His glory revealed? Is it visible to us today?**
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I. WHAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD?

A. IT IS THE SPLENDOR AND MAJESTY OF GOD SHINING

1. DEFINITION:

- a) **Easton’s Bible Dictionary:** “Splendor, brightness, majesty, honor, dignity”
- b) **Websters:** “Magnificence, Brilliance, Splendor, Beauty and Grandeur”
- c) **HEBREW** in OT transl. (glory) - “Kabod”: great, important, impressive
- d) **GREEK** “doxa” Splendor, honor, glory: **Another:** “Glory is displayed excellence”

2. **EXAMPLE: The Cosmos Displays the Glory of God (Psalm 19:1)**

- a) No One But God could’ve Created the Vast Power Displayed by the Cosmos
- b) Because He is the Master Craftsman, Architect and Author of the Cosmos
- c) He created every star and knows them all by name! Just Take One Star—Our Sun...
“to produce the observed energy being emitted from the solar surface, the equivalent of a hundred billion hydrogen bombs must be exploding every second in it’s unfathomably hot, dense core.” (Thomas Dubay, “Indescribable”)
- d) But Multiply that by 100 Billion Suns All Burning at the Same Time!

3. **But the Cosmos is NOT the Actual Glory of God—it Declares His Glory... But God’s Glory is Greater than the Cosmos!**

- a) **EX: Imagine a man gifted in talent and intelligence in all areas of knowledge**
Gifted mathematician, physicist, Biologist, Psychologist, Musician, Author, Artist
—We would call that man a genius
- b) **But what would you call The One who is Eternal...**
Who Created All Areas of Knowledge:
Who Then Gave Life to that Knowledge - by creating the mind of the genius...
and then Animated that Mind with Life and Love and a Living Spirit...
—That’s Not Just Genius, It is Beyond Genius—It is Glorious!
- c) **The Glory of God is the Sum Totality of All His Majestic Excellence**

B. SHEKINAH IS THE VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY

1. The Visible Manifestation of the Splendor and Majesty of God Shining

- a) Shekinah is a Hebrew word from the root 'to dwell', (to Abide) that is translated as the 'Presence' of God.
- b) Refers to visible manifestations of God's glory seen by man in the Presence of God

2. EX: When God spoke to Moses before a Burning Bush...

- a) He said, take off your sandals, this is holy ground... **Why Was it Holy Ground?**
—Not because of the ground but the very presence of God!

C. BUT GOD'S GLORY CANNOT BE FULLY SEEN BY MAN (1 Tim 6:15-16)

1. God is spirit—so the splendor and majesty of His attributes are His glory whether we see them or not

2. But God Has Allowed a Visible Manifestation of His Divine Glory to Be Seen at times throughout Human History...

II. HOW IS THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED TO HIS PEOPLE?

A. REVEALED TO MOSES...

Moses was called by God from the Burning Bush and he Obeyed the Lord and Led the People out of Egypt to Mt Sinai—But Moses Had 3 Requests of God...

1. Moses asked God to Show Him His Way (Exodus 33:13)

- a) He Didn't Want to Go Anywhere Unless God was With Him (v.14-15)
- b) He Didn't Want to Be Without God—and He Wanted God to Lead Him

2. Moses said to God: I WANT TO KNOW YOU (33:13)

- a) We would Say, Well Moses Already Knew the Lord...
- b) But He Wanted to Know God More and More!

3. Moses Asked God to Show Him His Glory! (33:18)

- a) God could not grant his full request—for Moses' own good!
He Shielded Moses to Protect Him and allowed Moses to see a portion
- b) Word Goodness also means splendor:
I will show you my splendor, but not my full glory
- c) If God Showed All His Awesome Glory—No Man Who Saw it would live

4. After Moses spent 40 days with God... When He came down from Sinai His Face Actually Glowed from being in the presence of God.

B. IN LEADING HIS PEOPLE WITH A PILLAR OF FIRE AND SMOKE...

1. God Allowed a Visible Manifestation of His Shekinah Glory to Lead the People through the Wilderness. (Ex. 13:21–22)

2. A Pillar of Fire by Day and Glowing Pillar of Light By Night

3. And the Glory of God appeared in the cloud (Exodus 16:10)

C. IN THE TABERNACLE AND LATER THE TEMPLE...

1. The Tabernacle was the Meeting Place of God (Exodus 40:34–35)

- a) The Glory of the Lord Filled the Tabernacle through the 40 yrs in wilderness
 - 2. And Later the Temple was Built in Jerusalem...**
 - a) When the Priests brought the Ark of Covenant into the Holy of Holies the glory of God filled the Temple (**2 Chronicles 5:14**)
 - 3. But Then God Allowed the Glory of His Presence to Rest on the Mercy Seat of the Ark in the Holy of Holies! (Leviticus 16:2)**
 - a) This is where only the High Priest Could Enter and Only Once a Year
 - b) To Offer Sacrifice First for Himself—to even Minister for the People
 - c) Then Second, for the Sins of the People with the Blood of the Passover Lamb
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III. HOW IS THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED TODAY?

The Majestic Splendor of God is still shining today.... but not from Mount Sinai... or Pillar of Fire, or a Physical Tabernacle or Temple—God’s Glory Shines:

A. SHINES THROUGH JESUS...

- 1. The Word Became Flesh and We Beheld His Glory... (Jn 1:14)**
 - a) His Divine Glory Shined Because of His Divine Nature... (**Hebrews 1:1-3**)
 - b) But He Humbled Himself in a way that shielded His full glory... (**John 17:3-5**)
- 2. But When Jesus was on the Mt of Transfiguration—He Glowed with Glory**
 - a) His Face and His garments are Glowing with Luminescent Light
 - b) And Moses and Elijah Appear and are talking with Him!
 - c) Moses had been on Mt. Sinai in presence of God in Heaven
 - And Now, Jesus Christ is speaking with Moses on this mountain!
 - d) Talking with Him about His Death which was going to take place in Jerusalem
 - e) Our God is a Personal God!
 - f) A Bright Cloud - Shekenah! A Visible Manifestation of God Descended around them
 - g) And God said, This is My Son, Hear Ye Him! —No Longer Moses, Not Elijah, Christ!
- 3. And Now We See God’s Glory in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

B. SHINES THROUGH THE BIBLE: Complete Revelation of God

- 1. The OT is a Partial Revelation of the Glory of God...**
 - a) Remember Moses was shielded by God... Given Only a Partial View...
 - b) He Was given only a Partial Revelation of God’s Glory (**2 Corinthians 3:7-16**)
- 2. But the New Testament is the Complete Revelation of God...**
 - a) *"The OT is the NT Concealed—The NT is the OT Revealed"*
 - b) Revealed in Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**)

C. SHINES THROUGH THE TRANSFORMED LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

- 1. God’s People Are Transformed by the Glory of God...**
 - a) PAUL WAS—Paul Was Blinded by the Glory God!
 - b) He witnessed enough of God’s glory to blind him—but not kill him
 - c) And He Was Changed by it - Transformed!
- 2. And We are to Be Transformed by God’s Glory as well! (2 Cor. 3:18)**

- a) Moses was changed by the Glory of God,
- b) Paul was changed by the Glory of God,
- c) We Are to be Changed!

3. AND NOW We Give God the Glory! (Matthew 5:14, 16)

- a) We share the Love that God first shared with us!
- b) We Comfort Others with the Comfort God Gives us
- c) We Honor God with a Transformed Heart Full of the Fruit of His Spirit (Jn 15:8)

D. SHINES THROUGH HIS CHURCH

1. The Kingdom of God is all the redeemed of all time,

- a) but His church is His kingdom of His people still on earth

2. God's Glory is with His Kingdom—His People...

- a) —First in the Old Covenant... (Zechariah 2:5)

3. God's Glory is now Revealed in His People in the New Covenant...

- a) —His Church (Ephesians 3:21)
- b) The Church is Christ's Redeemed People
- c) Bought Back and Cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb

CONCLUSION:

1. This is Why Jesus Died on the Cross...

To Bring Many Sons to Glory (Hebrews 2:10a)

2. This is Why Every Knee will bow and every tongue confess

- a. Not Because they will be forced to—
- b. but because the glory of God will be overwhelming (Philippians 2:8–11)

3. This is Why We Give God the Glory!

—by Worshipping Him in Spirit and Truth (Revelation 4:10–11)