



## The Glory of Jesus Christ Pt 1\_ Shining like the Sun!

September 5, 2021

### **Holy Text: Matthew 17:1-13**

- Today, we will look at an aspect of our God that we can sometimes forget: His glory.
- Because of the difficulties of life, our tendency to be forgetful, and our predilection to view life through the faulty and fleshly prism of our feelings, the glory of God, sadly, can become an afterthought.
- Yes, we know how to say, “All glory to Christ” or “Soli Deo Gloria!” But how often are we truly in total awe because of His awesomeness, overwhelmed with gratitude by His greatness, or stupefied by His splendor?
- Do we cry out like Isaiah, who in the presence of our glorious God and His mighty angels said:

***Isaiah 6:5 (KJV)** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

- Or the prophet Ezekiel, who’s magnificent vision of the glory of God includes these words:

***Ezekiel 1:26-28 (KJV)** And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. **27** And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. **28** As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

- Or the apostle John, who wrote upon seeing Christ:

***Revelation 1:17 (KJV)** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last:***

### **CRC, make no mistake...**

- The loss of holy reverence...the fear of the LORD...the ability to see God “high and lifted up” and be totally undone in His Presence is a leading cause of all we see around us.
- In an age of “feelings idolatry,” God has become small while our desires and dreams loom large.
- Making matters worse, often in our lives, fear trumps faith, worry surpasses worship, and the temporary triumphs over a sense of the transcendent.
- The cares of this world and the riches of this life choke the Word, and inhibit our ability to “sell all we have, give it to the poor, and go and follow Jesus.”
- In other words, this is no small matter. Scripture says:

***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV)** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. **14** For God shall*

*bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

**Isaiah 66:1-2 (KJV)** *Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? **2** For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

**Hebrews 12:28-29 (KJV)** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **29** For our God is a consuming fire.*

**Revelation 15:4 (KJV)** *Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

**I believe our joy, service, desire to worship and personal holiness is often tied to our view of God. The lower that worldview is, the more lax our service to Him and the more our flesh reigns over us. The higher that view is (the more God-ward our focus), the more passionate and humble disciples we become.**

**Being reminded of the Glory of the God we serve will prayerfully spark such a higher view in us. May it help us see again that God is greater than our problems and ourselves! May the LORD be held in increased honor by us, and may His glory fill our lives and cause great contentment and sweeter praise!**

#### **So where are we in Matthew's narrative?**

1. Jesus had recently rebuked the Pharisees and religious leaders for demanding a sign. He told them the only sign they would receive would be the "sign of Jonah." (Matt 16:1-4)
2. He warned His disciples to beware the "leaven" of such leaders, which among other things, was their bad doctrine and hypocrisy. (Matt 16:5-6, 12; Luke 12:1)
3. He reproved them because of their lack of faith and their forgetfulness (Matt 16:8-11)
4. He asked them the question of all questions: "Whom say ye that I am?" (Matt 16:13-15)
5. Peter was given revelation from the Father and answered correctly: "Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:16-17)
6. Jesus told the disciples His church would be built upon the "rock" and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. His church would wage holy war and win! (Matt 16:18)
7. They would also have divine authority to wage that war in the spiritual realm, binding and loosing on earth and in heaven. (Matt 16:19-20)
8. Jesus then prophesied His suffering, His death, and His Resurrection on the third day! (Matt 16:21) Immediately Satan attacked (though Peter) and is rebuked! (Vv22-23)
9. Then Jesus looks at His disciples and explains the the great cost and joy of truly following Him: denying oneself, taking up the cross, losing their lives to find their lives, and eschewing the world for eternal gain! "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt 16:24-26)
10. Finally, Christ tells the disciples of judgment. Jesus would come again in the glory of His Father with His angles and reward every man according to His works. Jesus would also come in His Kingdom, and some standing there would see it. (Matt 16:27-28)

## **The Transfiguration**

1. Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John “up into an high mountain apart,” meaning those three only.
2. We cannot be sure of what mountain, but some believe it may have been Mount Hermon, given the proximity to Caesarea Philippi, which was near Hermon. Of course, Mount Hermon, according to the non-canonical book, 1 Enoch, (which seems to be referenced by Peter and Jude) is where the Genesis Six angels descended and covenanted with one another to do great evil. (Gen 6:1-7)
3. On the mountain, before His three closest disciples, Jesus is “transfigured” (Greek: *metamorphoō*) before them. The NLT says in verse 2, “As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that his face *shone like the sun*, and his clothes became as white as light.”
4. Christ is revealed in glory!
5. Webster (1828) defines this sort of manifest glory as “brightness, luster, or splendor.” Thayer’s dictionary offers terms such as “magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, and majesty; the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity, the kingly majesty of the Messiah, the absolutely perfect inward or personal excellency of Christ!”
6. Christ, who a moment before looked plain and ordinary, (*“he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him,”* Isa 53:2), suddenly shone like the sun!
  - Mark says His garments was as white as snow, whiter than anything on earth (Mk 9:3), and Luke says it was glistening! (Lk 9:29)

7. William MacDonald said:

*Peter, James, and John, who seem to have occupied a place of special nearness to the Savior, were privileged to see Him transfigured. Up to now His glory had been veiled in a body of flesh. But now His face and clothes became radiant like the sun and dazzling bright, a visible manifestation of His deity, just as the glory cloud or Shekinah in the OT symbolized the presence of God.*

8. Not only did Christ transform before them, allowing them to see His splendor, but Moses and Elijah showed up too!
  - Removing all doubt as to where the redeemed go after physical death, the quintessential Old Testament deliverer/lawgiver and preeminent prophet in the Jewish mind make an appearance.
  - Although Luke says they appeared in glory (Lk 9:31), they were obviously less radiant than the King of kings. Luke also mentioned that they talked with Him about His upcoming death in Jerusalem.
  - Peter, rashly (some say), offered to build some kind of tabernacle or tent them, perhaps like the booths built during the feast of tabernacles (Lev 23:34-42).
  - I think Peter was perhaps a bit frazzled from being “heavy with sleep (Lk 9:32)! Mark says, “For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.” (Mk 9:6) Luke says, “not knowing what he said.” (Lk 9:32)
  - It seems ol Pete, perhaps quite shaken by it all, blurted out a response! :)
9. And if Christ’s glory and Moses/Elijah weren’t enough, the Father speaks as well!

**Matthew 17:5 (KJV)** *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Luke says:

**Luke 9:34-36 (KJV)** *While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. **35** And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. **36** And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.*

10. The Father, in glory and honor (but hidden), confirms the identity of the Son and commands obedience to Him. They rightly feared in His Presence, as we all should! Then suddenly, it was over and Jesus stood with Peter, James, and John, alone.

### **The Why**

What is this event all about? A few thoughts:

1. I believe the Transfiguration event serves as another confirmation to the disciples as to our LORD's deity, His mission, and His teaching. Given their calling and assignment, they would need such in the future. They received a three-fold witness as to the deity of our LORD:
  - The Father confirms the Son from heaven.
  - The Law (represented by Moses) confirms the Son.
  - The Prophets (represented by Elijah) confirm the Son.

**Deuteronomy 19:15 (KJV)** *One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

**2 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV)** *This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*

Paul wrote:

**Romans 3:21-22 (KJV)** *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **22** Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...*

2. I believe it is a reminder of the glory of Jesus Christ for all of us who follow Him! See below.
3. It may also have served to encourage our LORD Jesus, who was drawing nearer to Golgotha—to His suffering at Calvary—for our sakes.

Bless His Name! Let us attend unto His glory!

### **The Glory of Jesus Christ**

**He is God the Son, preeminent, Creator, and above all rule and authority!**

- **Colossians 1:15-18 (KJV)** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

**He is the Brightness of the Father's glory! The express image of His Person! The upholder of all things! He sits on the right hand of the highest Majesty!**

- **Hebrews 1:1-4 (KJV)** *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high; **4** Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

**He is the Word made Flesh, filled with the glory of the only begotten!**

- **John 1:14 (KJV)** *And the Word was made 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.*

**He is the light and glory of God!**

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (KJV)** *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

**He is He that holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden candlesticks!**

- **Revelation 1:12-16 (KJV)** *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; **13** And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. **14** His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; **15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. **16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

**He is our glorious Redeemer!**

- **Revelation 5:9-14 (KJV)** *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **10** And hast made us*

unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. **11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; **12** Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. **13** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

### **And so much more! He is..**

*Alpha, Omega, King of Kings, LORD of Lords, the Mediator of a better covenant, the Author of Life, the Amen, the Light of the Word, the Door of the sheepfold, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the "I Am," the Chief Cornerstone, the Root and Offspring of David, the bright and Morning Star, the Bread of Life, Immanuel...God with us, the Prince of Peace, the Captain of the LORD's hosts, the Faithful and True Witness, and He is was, and is, and is to come!*

### **Next week...**

- If it be God's will, we will look at some applications...how we might rightly respond to the glory of our LORD.
- **Today, let it be enough for us to simply be in awe, to reverence Him, to look upon Him and bow before Him.** David wrote:

***Psalms 27:1-4 (KJV) A Psalm of David.*** *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **2** When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. **3** Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. **4** One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*

Indeed...

***Revelation 7:9-12 (KJV)*** *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; **10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. **11** And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, **12** Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Oh LORD, let have a greater sense of Thy beauty and majesty, Thy praise and honor, Thy power and might! And please let such revelation change us!

Amen!