

THE GLORY OF GOD
The Attributes of God
Banska Bystrica, 26th November 2017

וַיֹּאמֶר הַרְאֵנִי נָא אֶת־כְּבוֹדְךָ	Ex 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory."
וּכְבוֹדִי לְאַחַר לֹא־אֶתֶּן	Isa 48:11 My glory I will not give to another
הַשָּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד־אֱלֹהִים	Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ὁ εἰπὼν· ἐκ σκοτῶν φῶς λάμψει, ὃς ἔλαμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ [Ἰησοῦ] Χριστοῦ	2Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
אֲנִי יְהוָה הוּא שְׁמִי וּכְבוֹדִי לְאַחַר לֹא־אֶתֶּן וְתַהֲלֹתִי לִפְסִילִים	Isa 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my <u>glory</u> I give to no other, nor my <u>praise</u> to carved idols

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION

compare:

Proudhon <i>The Philosophy of Poverty</i>	Spurgeon Sermon No.1, <i>The Immutability of God</i>
And for my part I say: The <u>first duty of man</u> , on becoming intelligent and free, is to continually <u>hunt the idea of God out of his mind and conscience</u> . For God, if he exists, is essentially hostile to our nature, and we do not depend at all upon his authority. We arrive at knowledge in spite of him, at comfort in spite of him, at society in spite of him; every step we take in advance is a	The <u>highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy</u> which can ever engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, the Person, the work, the doings and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father. <u>There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity.</u> It is a subject so vast, that all our

victory in which we crush Divinity.	thoughts are lost in its immensity—so deep that our pride is drowned in its infinity.
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- glory, fame, significance → the strongest spiritual craving → stealing from God → IDOLATRY
- GLORY → excellence → admiration → fame → praise → submission
- glory: the sum of all God's attributes as he is known to other beings

0.1. THE WORDS

כְּבוֹד – weight, burden – (impressive) appearance, weightiness – give honor to Yahweh
 δόξα – opinion, judgment, view; (Even in classic Greek do,xa is a word of wide significance, ranging from one's private opinion, fancy, to public opinion, repute, renown ...¹)

0.2. THE ESSENCE

- the GREATNESS of God in His *OTHERNESS*... → HIS IDENTITY, personal presence
 - holiness → difference in purity and being;
 - glory → difference in power and deeds
- **1Ki 8:11** ...the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD (כְּבוֹד־יְהוָה) filled the house of the LORD.
 - **Is 4:5** Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy (הַפָּה).
 - **Rev 15:8** the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God (ἐγεμίσθη ὁ ναὸς καπνοῦ ἐκ τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ) and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary

1. GLORY – WHO GOD IS

1.1. AS REVEALED TO MOSES

- **Ex 33:18** "Please show me your glory." (הֲרַאֲנִי נָא אֶת־כְּבוֹדְךָ) →
- **Ex 34:6-8** "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped (וַיִּקְרַע אֶרְצָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה).

1.2. AS REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **Rev 21:23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light (δόξα τοῦ θεοῦ ἐφώτισεν αὐτήν), and its lamp (λύχνος) is the Lamb

2. GLORY – WHAT GOD DOES

2.1. CREATION → NATURE

- **Ps 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God (מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד־אֱלֹהִים), and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- **Ps 139:14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made (אֲוֹרֵךְ עַל כִּי נִוְרְאוֹת נִפְלְיֹתִי).
- **Is 6:3** "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (מְלֵא כָּל־הָאָרֶץ כְּבוֹדוֹ)
 (1) Greatness → power, size, (2) Diversity → varieties of beings; behaviours; (3) Complexity → subatomic particles (string theory) ↔ galaxies...

¹ Thayer

2.2. HISTORY → PROVIDENCE

- **Rom 11:32-36** For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (βάθος πλούτου καὶ σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως θεοῦ· ὡς ἀνεξεραύνητα τὰ κρίματα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀνεξιχνίαστοι αἱ ὁδοὶ αὐτοῦ.) ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever (αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας). Amen → **Jer 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth (יְרֵאָה בְּרִצְרוּת וּבְצִדְקָה וּבְשִׁפְטָה דָּרָה). For in these things I delight (הִשְׂפִּיחַ), declares the LORD."

2.3. MIRACLES → WONDER

- **John 2:11** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory (ἐφάνερωσεν τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ). And his disciples believed in him

2.4. SALVATION → THE CROSS

- → Ex 34:6-8
- **John 13:29-31** Judas ...after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him (νῦν ἐδοξάσθη ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καὶ ὁ θεὸς ἐδοξάσθη ἐν αὐτῷ).

3. GLORY – HOW GOD IS WORSHIPED

3.1. IN THE SON

- **Heb 1:3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. (ὃς ὢν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτήρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ)
- **2Cor 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ [Ἰησοῦ] Χριστοῦ).

3.2. ATTITUDES

3.2.1. HUMILITY, FEAR

- **Is 40:4-5** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed (וְהָיָה כְבוֹד יְהוָה וְנִגְלָה), and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- **Jos 7:19** Joshua said to **Achan**, "My son, give glory (תִּתֵּן כְבוֹד לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ) to the LORD God of Israel
- **Ps 29:1** O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength (לַיהוָה כְבוֹד וְיָמִין)
- **Rev 14:7** "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come (φοβήθητε τὸν θεὸν καὶ δότε αὐτῷ δόξαν, ὅτι ἦλθεν ἡ ὥρα τῆς κρίσεως αὐτοῦ)

3.2.2. WONDER, ADMIRATION

- **2Thes 1:9-10** ...the Lord and ...the glory of his might, (τῆς δόξης τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ) ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints (ἐνδοξασθήναι), and to be marveled at (θαυμασθήναι) among all who have believed,

3.2.3. PRAISE

- Ps 66:1-2 Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! (הֲרִיעוּ לְאֱלֹהִים כָּל-הָאָרֶץ ² וְאָמְרוּ כְבוֹד-שְׁמוֹ שִׂימוּ כְבוֹד תְּהִלָּתוֹ)

4. TO REMEMBER

- The glory of God is his Being as it is known to his creatures.
- The glory of God is revealed in everything God does, from creation through providence in history to salvation.
- The glory of God can be appreciated only in humility. We can measure our knowledge of it by our response (admiration, excitement, thrill, praise).