

☞ Going for the Glory

I've mentioned several times over the past couple months that what is happening today is much like what was happening in Haggai's day. The people were rebuilding the temple; it was less than what it had once been – and for us, this gathering is smaller and different than what it once was. But in Haggai's day God promised that the glory of the new would be even greater than that of the old. That's what I'm hoping for in our current situation. I want God's glory to be greater in the days ahead than what we have experienced in the past. We need God's presence; we need his glory to be revealed.

It is possible for us to be in God's presence and not even know it. God can show up anywhere and anyplace. We need to just be ready by quieting ourselves and listening. But I want to have an experience with God's glory and presence that is unmistakable.

☞ Exodus 33:13-18

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." 14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

☞16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" 17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." 18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

Moses desired God's glory! He had many personal experiences with God, and yet he wanted God to reveal his glory to him.

☞ Glory = Kabode = **weight**

☞ We even use the basic idea in English, meaning **influence or importance**:

Influence: "He added his weight to the discussion;" "threw his weight around"

Importance: "This is a weighty matter;" "consider the weight of the argument"

Glory implies real substance. So, Moses was basically saying, "show me the real you." We believe in God and the scripture helps us know him, but we all long for something more tangible. We want to experience his glory.

45 times in the bible "glory" is used to indicate a visible manifestation of God. The "glory" almost always refers to the Presence of God.

1. ☞ His Glory is his Presence

Exodus 40:33-35

☞ ...so Moses finished the work. 34 Then the **cloud** covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle...

1 Kings 8:10-11 (Solomon's temple)

... the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

Exodus 24:15-17

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, 16 and the glory of the LORD

☞ settled on Mount Sinai... To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a **consuming fire** on top of the mountain.

☞ In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and there was the **sound of a rushing wind** as well as **visible tongues of fire**. The Lord was present and it was obvious to all.

☞ I want to experience the presence of God. You need to experience his presence. **Whether it's visible, audible or simply something strongly felt, we need his presence.** Some may say, "but isn't God everywhere?" Yes, he is, but his presence with us can be very subtle or it can be more obvious and powerful. We see that in the bible. God was always with his people, but there were times when his presence was easily recognizable and even their enemies could see that God was with them. We need his presence, his glory, to be revealed.

Isaiah prophesied about the last days in chapter 40:3-5, "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.

"In the Presence of Jehovah... troubles vanish, hearts are mended"

The comfort of knowing someone is near. (late at night, on the road, etc.) (years ago, gunshots at our house, comfort of me coming home)

The Christian finds safety, not in the absence of danger but in the presence of God.

--Jim Cymbala... Revival (a revelation of the glory of God) will not happen by doing methods or programs. We need an invasion from heaven.

2. ☞ His Glory has Power

John 2:11 (water into wine)

☞ This, the first of his **miraculous** signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory...

John 11:38-45 (raising Lazarus from the dead)

Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Think about the miracles of God and Jesus (his glory has power!)

When God's glory is present...

- *Mt. Sinai shook and burned under his presence*
- ☞ **Blessing** on Obed-Edom because of the Ark of the Covenant
- *Uzzah died because of incorrect handling of the Ark of the Covenant*
- *1 Sam. 5:1-4 Philistines/Dagon's statue broken (power of sin is broken)*
- ☞ *Saul the menace changed to Paul the missionary (**transformation**)*
- *NT – Jesus, who is the epitome of the presence and glory of God, caused the **lame to walk, blind to see, dumb to talk, captives set free**. He fed the 5,000; he walked on water; he calmed a storm; he rose from the dead.*

There is power in the Glory of God.

3. ☞ **His Glory brings Protection & Direction**

Protection:

Isaiah 4:5-6

...the glory will be a canopy. 6 It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Exodus 14:19-20

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel...

Isaiah 58:8-9 (after fasting)

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

There are many stories of God's protection. The Israelites were kept safe in the desert; Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were kept safe in the fiery furnace; Daniel was kept safe in the lion's den; Paul was kept safe from the bite of a poisonous snake, etc. His glory brings protection.

Direction:

Exodus 40:36-37

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; 37 but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out--until the day it lifted.

Before that, when Moses hadn't fully experienced God's presence yet, he saw a burning bush and went to look closer. That was a manifestation of God's glory, and through it, Moses received very clear direction. His glory brings direction. Sometimes his direction comes gradually and in a subtle way, and other times it comes very powerfully in obvious ways.

There were times in the scriptures when people like Paul simply sensed the leading of the Spirit. But then other times, Paul experienced very clear direction from God. He wanted to go to Asia, but the Holy Spirit forbid it. He tried to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit him to. Then, he went to Troas where he learned that God wanted him to go to Macedonia.

In my own life, way back in high school, I felt a call to serve the Lord, but didn't know what that meant. I went to bible college thinking that I would eventually become a missionary pilot, since I loved flying and yet felt a call from the Lord. But little by little God changed my plans and I was called to be a youth pastor. That all happened in very subtle ways. Then in 1999, everything began to change. I again felt a call from the Lord, but didn't know exactly what it was. It started off subtly with that tug in my heart. But as time progressed more obvious direction came. God used some extraordinary circumstances to get my attention and to be brief, I became a lead pastor, which was something I did not want. But God made it so clear that I had to follow.

God's presence, God's glory brings direction. I pray for more of God's glory, partly, so I can discover and see more clearly where he is leading! We need his direction!

His glory is his presence. His glory has power. His glory brings protection and direction.

☞ **These facets of God's glory tend to be sequential.** His power, protection and direction are not necessarily automatic. His interaction with believers comes through a covenant relationship. So, **as we faithfully follow him and walk in his presence, he will reveal his power, protection and direction.**

We need more of God's glory; more of Jesus! We need His Presence, His Power, His Protection & Direction

I want God's glory to be seen in our church. And in me! How about you?

The Power of Your Presence