

## ☞ Welcoming the Glory

--Nelson's Bible Dictionary... While God's glory is not a substance, at times God does reveal His perfection to man in a visible way. Such a display of the presence of God is often seen as fire or dazzling light, but sometimes as an act of power.

--Warren W. Wiersbe... The glory that dwelt in the tabernacle eventually left the camp because of the sins of the people. It returned at the dedication of the temple, but then the Prophet Ezekiel watched it depart because the nation had become so sinful. The glory came to earth when Jesus was born and tabernacled in Him, but sinful people nailed that glory to a cross. Today, God's glory dwells in the bodies of His people, in each local assembly of His people, and in His church collectively. One day, we shall see that glory lighting the perfect heavenly city that God is preparing for His people.

### **Glory = His Presence, His Power, His Protection & Direction**

Last week: We must **prepare** for his glory by giving God the proper **place of priority**. We must be **obedient** and **humble** to welcome his presence with us. Today, let's take a look at another scripture that gives us guidance on welcoming the glory of the Lord...

### ☞ **Leviticus 9:6ff**

**Then Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you."**

There was a sequence of events at the tabernacle to make atonement for the people before the glory of God appeared. The whole of idea of **atonement** is to restore a right relationship with God. **Our sin has created a gap between us and God, and that gap must be closed before we can experience his presence and glory.** In the OT this was accomplished by following ceremonial practices of sacrificing animals and grains. In the NT we find that Christ has become the ultimate sacrifice and atonement for us. When we put our trust in Jesus, admitting that we are sinners, our relationship with God is restored. (1 John 2:2) And then it's possible to experience the glory of the Lord.

So, we don't need to kill animals and burn sacrifices on a literal altar today. Christ has accomplished all of that once and for all. However, we can still make some personal application from the example found here in Leviticus. Here is the sequence of events we find...

1. **The sin offering v. 15**
2. **The burnt offering v. 16**
3. **The grain offering v. 17**
4. **The fellowship offering v. 18**
5. **The wave offering v. 21**
6. **The blessing v. 22-23**

### ☞ 1. The sin offering v. 15

This represents acknowledging our sins before God. It is **confession and repentance**. Christ died once for all, but we need to keep on confessing and repenting.

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

*Four preachers met for a friendly gathering. During the conversation one preacher said, "Our people come to us and pour out their hearts, confess certain sins and needs. Let's do the same. Confession is good for the soul." In due time all agreed. One confessed he liked to embellish the stories of his childhood and admitted that he was actually lying. The second confessed he liked to drink and sometimes went a little far, getting drunk. And the third one confessed that he liked to play cards and sometimes would gamble to the point of recklessness. When it came to the fourth one, he wouldn't confess. The others pressed him saying, "Come on, we confessed ours. What is your secret?" Finally he answered, "It is gossiping and I can hardly wait to get out of here."*

☞ To **confess** is to **admit that you've done wrong**; that you've fallen short of God's best. To **repent** means to change your mind; to **turn away from what you've been doing wrong**.

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

*Patrick Morley writes that the church's integrity problem is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior."*

If we want to hold on to our sin and continue in it, we will not see the glory of the Lord.

### ☞ 2. The burnt offering v. 16

*--International Standard Bible Encyclopedia... This was sometimes called the "whole" offering. It means "that which goes up to God." This term applies to the sacrifice when entirely consumed upon the altar, except for the hide which was taken by the priest. This was perhaps the most solemn of the sacrifices, and symbolized worship.*

☞ We should **offer ourselves fully to God** and to his service.

*--Martin Luther... I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess.*

☞ **Romans 12:1**

I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God — **this is your spiritual act of worship**.

We sing and worship the Lord with music, but the ultimate form of worship is to give yourself fully to God. Some will say they are willing to give themselves to God, but are just waiting for God's direction. His direction is important, but how about while you wait, you simply offer yourself to God to do whatever is needed at the moment? Some may say they are willing, but nobody ever asks them for help. How about you simply offer to help in any way that is needed? Offering yourself to God and his work is worship.

Romans 6:13

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

When we give ourselves fully to God we are setting the scene for his glory to be revealed.

### ☞ 3. The grain offering v. 17

The grain was something that people had to work for, preparing the soil, planting, tending and harvesting. It represents working for and **giving your best to God**. Elsewhere in the Scriptures it is used to gain mercy and forgiveness. Other times it is simply a gift for friendship.

Giving your best is about being excellent. Excellence doesn't necessarily mean being better than everyone else – that's being *the* best. Rather, it's about being *your* best. It's about **being better tomorrow than you were yesterday or today**.

--Booker T. Washington... *Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.*

For us, we don't give ourselves to God in order to gain mercy and forgiveness. He has already given those to us through Christ. Rather, we give ourselves to God *because* he has shown mercy and granted forgiveness. And, because he loved us, **Christ died for us, so now**, because we love him, **we live for him**.

### ☞ Colossians 3:23

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart**, as working for the Lord, not for men.

### ☞ 4. The fellowship offering v. 18

This is also called the Peace Offering. These were almost always a free-will offering given to **express gratitude to God**. When you understand the big picture about how we've been separated from God, but he has made a way for us to be restored and have a friendship with him, there's plenty to be thankful for.

Hebrews 12:28

since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

### ☞ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**give thanks in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

*Just as Henry was about to begin his meal, a man approached and asked if he could join him. He invited him to have a seat. Then, as was his custom, Henry bowed his head in prayer. When he opened his eyes, the other man asked, "Do you have a headache?" Henry replied, "No, I don't." The other man asked, "Well, is there something wrong with your food?" Henry replied, "No, I was simply thanking God as I always do before I eat." The man said, "Oh, you're one of those, are you? Well, I want you to know I never give thanks. I earn my money by the sweat of my brow and I don't have to give thanks to anybody when I eat. I just start right in!" Henry said, "Yes, you're just like my dog. That's what he does, too!"*

### ☞ Colossians 2:7

**...overflowing with thankfulness.**

Gratitude sets the scene for his glory to be revealed. Let's share some things we are thankful for right now...

### ☞ 5. The wave offering v. 21

This was a special presentation to God; an offering that would ultimately be the priest's share to eat and live on. In those days, the priests, who were called by God, only served God and didn't farm or raise livestock. So, they received a portion of the offering the ☞ people gave to God. For us, this represents **giving financially to support the work of the Kingdom.**

A few weeks ago, when I was commenting online about the world's current circumstances, I referred to Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. In those writings, the Lord was frustrated and angry with his people and one of the primary reasons was their unfaithfulness in giving. Now, OBC has done very well financially through this pandemic and we are grateful. But there are still some who say they love the Lord, but don't give ☞ financially to God's work. That is wrong. The old adage is, **"put your money where your mouth is."** If you love the Lord, your bank account ought to prove it. Besides that, there's a great blessing and reward when you give to God.

### ☞ 2 Corinthians 9:6

**Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.** ...God loves a cheerful giver.

*--Peter Marshall... Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.*

We follow a biblical example: when we give financially, it is a gift to God. However, we understand that a portion of our gifts will go toward supporting those who are called of God; i.e. pastors, evangelists, missionaries, etc.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

The elders (*pastors*) who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

Like it or not, God's glory is affected by our giving.

### ☞ **6. The blessing v. 22-23**

☞ The act of **declaring**, or wishing, **God's favor and goodness upon others**. The presence and power of God is not just for our own benefit. We are to share this with others; even those who mistreat us.

### ☞ **Luke 6:28**

**bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

1 Corinthians 4:12-13

When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; **13** when we are slandered, we answer kindly.

God's glory is something to be shared.

☞ "This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, **so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you.**"

### ☞ **Confess and repent**

**Give yourself fully to God**

**Give your best in all things**

**Express gratitude**

**Give to support God's kingdom**

**Bless others**

Before you leave you can do a couple of these. Express gratitude to each other and bless each other with words of encouragement.