

Occasional Update #20

30 November 2023

GLORY

Recently I have been thinking about the word “glory”, and particularly the glory of God. The word “glory” occurs about 155 times in the Bible, in about 136 verses! So it’s not uncommon! In fact, Paul uses the word “glory” 14 times in 8 verses (2 Corinthians 3:7-13, 18)

I’m sure a variety of situations in which the glory of God is mentioned, will come to mind; the following, for example. It is great to read about them and think about the glory mentioned.

Moses and the glory he saw on the mountain [Horeb] when God gave him the 10 Commandments (2 Corinthians 3:7-8)

Solomon, as he dedicated the Temple to God, prayed, and heard God’s voice (2 Chronicles 5:13-14 and 7:1-3)

Isaiah, when he saw the Lord, high and lifted up, and one angel called to another saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is filled with His glory.” (Isaiah 6:1-9)

Jesus. In the New Testament we see the glory at **Jesus’** baptism, His transfiguration, Gethsemane, Calvary; His Resurrection, Ascension. Also God’s glory at Pentecost, and **Paul’s** encounter with God on the road to Damascus, etc.

Peter wrote: ... we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to Him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from Heaven, while we were with Him on the holy mountain [of Transfiguration] (2 Peter 1:16-18)

John the apostle, mentions some of the things he saw in the visions God gave him. The word “glory” is used in the book of Revelation 16 times, and “light” is mentioned 6 times.

But there is also another time, before Jesus’ baptism, when the glory of God was seen, accompanied by angels [angels are sometimes present at times of glory], this was at ...

Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:8-21)

In that region [Bethlehem] there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

***"Glory to God in the highest Heaven!
and on earth, peace among those whom He favours!"***

When the angels had left them and gone into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and He was called **Jesus**, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber (1826)

FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Read and think about the verses mentioned above.
- Praise God for who He is.
- Pray for a closer sense of our walk, and talk, with Him.

Pray for the Nation: <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/> ifnz@xtra.co.nz
Coordinator: Brian Caughley