

Worship as a Lifestyle- Joining the Song of Creation

† Introduction

- We hear the word glory quite a bit:
 - Movie titles:
 - *Glory Road*
 - *Glory*
 - Bands
 - New Found Glory
- What is glory? (Dictionary.com)
 - Great honor, praise, or distinction accorded by common consent; renown.
 - Something conferring honor or renown.
 - Renown- (as defined by Louie Giglio the founder of Passion Conferences) eternal fame
- Glory is a word that we so commonly use for things that cannot even begin to compare to the true glory of God.

† Glimpsing the Glory

- We get several glimpses of God's glory in scripture:
 - First display of God's glory as recorded in scripture
 - Genesis 1
 - "In the beginning, God..."- Genesis 1: 1
ESV
 - Before the beginning, there was God.
 - What was God doing?
 - What was God thinking?
 - We do not know.
 - This statement is a highly debated topic. If Charles Darwin or one of his followers were to write a Humanist Bible and write it in a similar wording as this Bible that we read today, the book would start out with "In the beginning, there was a random pool of primordial soup." No God. No heartbeat. No driving force. No ruling King. No glorious one. No

divine inspiration. No touch of a loving Maker's hand. No creative artist waiting to paint a picture of His awesome glory on the face of a planet formed by His very hands filled with people specifically handcrafted by their Maker to shine forth His glorious image.

- When you reduce the glory of creation to some random collision of atoms that happened by random chance to spark this cycle of evolution which through becoming different forms of mutant creatures we somehow arrived at this status of an animal that we have attained, you end up with a system that leaves man with no worth or purpose and a world that lacks the glory of the divine.
 - Darwin came to this realization and at the end of his life was filled with regret that he had even written what he did.
- "...created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and the darkness was over the face of the deep."- Genesis 1: 1-2a
- Darkness is an interesting experience
 - Desoto Caverns
 - In the darkness, there is no way to see the glory of God, but He is still there.
 - "...And the spirit of God was hovering over the waters."- Genesis 1: 2b
 - Even in the midst of the darkest of caves and darkest of times, God is still with us even when we cannot see him due to the darkness that surrounds us.

- But all of a sudden out of this darkness God decided that it was time to unveil His glory and power. The glory that had reined the heavens in eternity past was about to make its presence known in a marvelous and illuminating way.
 - “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” – Genesis 1: 3 ESV
 - At one sentence being spoken from the mouth of the Creator, at the speed of 186,282 miles per second light shot across this dark and lifeless planet. As the light shot across this planet earth it was declaring the glory of its Maker. The light was performing the function that it was created for. It was not seeking to bring glory to itself but to point others to the divine artist that designed every portion of the spectrum that made up the light. It is declaring the glory of the Creator. It is worshiping.
 - Psalms 19: 1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above displays His handiwork.” (ESV)
 - Glimpses of the glory of God in heaven
 - Isaiah 6
 - Isaiah gets a glimpse of God on his throne in heaven:
 - “...I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered

his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to the other and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” – Isaiah 6: 1b-3

- These seraphim sit there for all of eternity and proclaim the greatness and glory of their Creator.

- Revelation 4

- In the book of Revelation which was written years after Isaiah, we catch another glimpse of heaven.
- In this glimpse we see the seraphim once again continuing in their song of praise: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.” – Revelation 4: 8b ESV

† Grasping the Glory

- God’s glory is His goal in everything that He does and created
 - Creation is to display his glory
 - Psalms 19: 1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above displays His handiwork.” (ESV)
 - God’s glory is mentioned 329 times in scripture
 - Packer, J. I. - “If it is right for man to have the glory of God as his goal, can it be wrong for God to have the same goal? If man can have no higher purpose than God’s glory, how can God?...The reason it cannot be right for man to live for himself, as if he were God, is because he is not God. However, it cannot be wrong for God to seek His own glory, simply because He is God.” (*Hot Tub Religion*)
- God’s does not want to share His glory with any other
 - “I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.” – Isaiah 42: 8 ESV
 - Redman, Matt - “In our celebrity-obsessed culture fame rises up and then fades away – one minute someone has it, the next minute he or she is nowhere to be seen, and then someone else enjoys or endures the same fifteen

minutes of fame. God, on the other hand, will never allow Himself to be defamed, nor will He allow His glory to pass on to another. He is the undisputed heavyweight King of all glory.” (*Facedown* p. 33)

✠ Displaying the Glory

- Shining the Glory in Cooperate Worship- Our worship times should be Christ centered and Spirit led
 - Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 have a chat about worship. When in response to a question about where the “right place” to worship God is Jesus responds:
 - “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and truth.” – John 4:23-24 ESV
 - *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*
 - Worship in truth is to worship God through Jesus.
 - Worship in spirit is to worship Him by the Holy Spirit in the way that the Spirit leads.
 - So our call to worship God through the leading of the Holy Spirit based on the saving work of grace through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.
 - Owens, Ron - “When we come to worship, we come to a throne ... [and] everything else arranges itself around that throne.” (*Return to Worship* p. 53)
- Shining the Glory in Personal Worship
 - We are called to worship Him by living lives of holiness
 - “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”- Psalms 29: 2 ESV
 - “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” – Romans 12: 1 ESV
 - When we are focused on living lives that follow Christ and serving Christ, our lives will reflect Christ’s glory to others.

- “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” – John Piper in *Desiring God*
- Redman, Matt - “The worshipping life is an exciting pilgrimage into the depths of God.” (*Facedown* p. 53)
- When our sole hearts and minds affection is Christ, thoughts of him and praise for him will constantly flow from our lips. We will have been satisfied by Him and filled up to the brim with Christ that He will flow over into every area of our lives.
- Redman, Matt - “Worship is always in reply to revelation. As we begin to see the all-deserving worth of God, it produces an all-consuming response in us – every thought, word, and deed submitted in reply to His Lordship. It is worship with a price, a living sacrifice.” (*Facedown* p. 55)
- That is what a life of worship truly is: the overflow of a heart that is so infatuated with Jesus that He overflows into our every thought, word, and deed.

† Pray

† Let’s now join in with the song of creation and the song of the seraphim as we glorify the Creator and King.