

GLORY IMPACT

The subject of the glory of God will appear again and again in the Book of Ezekiel. Some will say that glory is something you cannot see, that it is intangible. I feel that is entirely inadequate and wrong.

Glory is something that produces a sensation on all five of our senses.

1) Glory has size. How big is it? Is it long or square or round? We know that the New Jerusalem is a cube in shape. God's Glory has an immense density; beyond the infinity of space. As humans we cannot yet comprehend all of it.

The Word of God tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork". (Ps 19:1).

The glory of God is seen in this tremendous universe that you and I live in.

2) Glory also has a beauty to it: Glory is beautiful. We read in Scripture that He was

"... glorious in his apparel ..." (Isa 63:1).

When Jesus returns He will wear a beautiful scarlet colored garment. He is really dressed up in garments fit for a KING.

3) There is a majesty about glory: "O Lord our Lord, **how excellent is thy name** in all the earth! **who hast set thy glory above the heavens.**"

(Ps 8:1). This is the majesty of God; it is bright and light, precious and pure.

4) Finally, glory also sets forth honor and dignity.

Daniel said, "O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor" (Dan 5:18).

The very name of God suggests His dignity, His glory. Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord.

The Glory's Impact

- It gave him a message at Telaviv (Chebar)(Ezek 3:12ff, 22ff).
- It transported him from his home in the exile to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court of the Temple in Jerusalem (Ezek 8:4,5).
- It departed from the cherubim in the Temple to the threshold of the Temple (Ezek 9:3; 10:4).
- It mounted up from the threshold to the eastern gate of the Temple's outer court (Ezek 10:15,16,18,19).
- It went up from the midst of the city to the Mount of Olives on the east side of the city (Ezek 11:22, 23).
- But it will return to fill the new Temple and cleanse the people (Ezek 43:2-7; 44:4).

24] Then the spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, **Go, shut thyself within thine house.**

This does not imply that Ezekiel was never to leave his house (cf. Ezek 5:2; 12:3). Instead he was to refrain from open fellowship with the people.

Often the leaders came to him at his house to receive God's word (cf. Ezek 8:1; 14:1; 20:1).

He was to open his mouth only in his own house to those who consulted him privately (v.24; 26:8). This intermittent silence prevailed from the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem until news of the fall of the city was brought to the prophet by a fugitive about two years later (Ezek 24:1, 27).

Then Ezekiel spoke freely, and the people realized that God had spoken. Ezek 3:22.

25] But thou, O son of man, behold, they shall put bands upon thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them:

Not the fettering of a "demented" prophet, but to God's restraining him (cf. Ezek 4:8) except as He bade him speak (vv. 26, 27).

26] And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel started his ministry in silence. Here Ezekiel is struck dumb except as the Lord elects to speak through him.

Saul also started his ministry in silence (at Damascus).

Act 9:8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and **brought him into Damascus.**

Act 9:19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. **Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.**

Damascus was a place of healing; a place of in-filling; a place of learning the ways of God. (Acts 9:1-20)

The Glory of God changed Paul's life. (Acts 22:6)

Act 26:13 At midday, O king, **I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me** and them which journeyed with me.

Act 26:14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, **I heard a voice speaking unto me**, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Act 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for **I have appeared unto thee for this purpose**, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Paul became the greatest of all Apostles. The Glory had such an impact that it had affected his whole ministry life.