

JESUS' MAJESTIC GLORY

Submitted by Pastor G. Grant Verdoold

Background:

Matthew 17: 1-8 “After six days Jesus took with HIM Peter, James and John, the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There HE was transfigured before them. HIS face shone like the sun, and HIS clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for YOU, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is MY SON, whom I love; with HIM I am well pleased. Listen to HIM!” When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” HE said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.”

Revelation 1: 12 – 18: “I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was Someone like a SON OF MAN, dressed in a robe reaching down to HIS feet and with a golden sash around HIS chest. The hair on HIS head was white like wool, as white as snow, and HIS eyes were like blazing fire. HIS feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and HIS voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In HIS right hand HE held seven stars, and coming out of HIS mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. HIS face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw HIM, I fell at HIS feet as though dead. Then HE placed HIS right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am The Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

2 Peter 1: 16 -18 “For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of HIS majesty. HE received honour and glory from GOD the Father when the voice came to HIM from The Majestic Glory, saying, “This is MY SON, whom I love; with HIM I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with HIM on the sacred mountain.”

Introduction: Have you ever taken your ‘phone to bed with you and been wakened by a sudden call through the night or in the early morning? You are jolted awake and startled by the call. Just imagine receiving a message from GOD, when you are least expecting it!

Someone said to an old saint, “You cannot see GOD’s face and live!” The old saint then replied, “Let me see GOD’s face and die! I will be glad enough to die a hundred deaths if I may see Christ!”

The Hook:

Jesus was always glorious (2 Peter 1: 16-18)

HE came down from glory in heaven to be with us. **“The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.” Luke 1: 35** Then HE returned to glory in heaven.

While our Lord, Jesus Christ was here upon the earth, HE was as much Divine in every single moment, separated from HIS humanity. **“The LORD reigns, HE is robed in majesty; The Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. YOUR throne was established long ago; YOU are from all eternity.” Psalm 93: 1 & 2.** Christ only showed HIS Divine Glory in bursts, but HE was always divine. HE was therefore always glorious!! Yet, there was a greater glory about HIM on this day than could usually be seen. This may seem a paradox, but it is none-the-less true!

For Christ to be glorious was almost a lesser matter than for HIM to restrain or hide HIS Divine Glory throughout HIS earthly ministry. It is forever to HIS glory that HE concealed HIS glory, and that, though HE was rich, for our sakes HE became poor! **“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though HE was rich, yet for your sake HE became poor, so that you through HIS poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8: 9**

Though HE was GOD over all, blessed forever, HE made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man. **“Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen!” Romans 9: 5,** **“rather, HE made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” Philippians 2: 7** Our Lord’s humiliation was all perfectly voluntary. Here, HIS face shone brightly with a majestic glory, Peter says. HE was radiant in every degree on this occasion of HIS transfiguration.

If you carefully read the 4 Gospels, I think you will see that there are indications that HIS glory was always there, ready to flash forth! What was it that made those who came to HIM in the Garden of Gethsemane go backwards and fall to the ground when HE said, “I am HE”? **“When Jesus said, “I am HE,” they drew back and fell to the ground.” John 18: 6**

What was it? It was GOD’s glory, the radiant majestic glory of the living GOD!!!!!! The same glory demonstrated at the resurrection was shining forth here! **“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of The Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6: 4,** The same glory that caused John to fall at HIS feet as though dead, **“When I saw HIM, I fell at HIS feet as though dead. Then HE placed HIS right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.” Revelation 1: 17,** the same glory that made the disciples collapse, unable to get up when Christ was transfigured in Matthew 17: 6, the same glory that made Abram collapse when GOD spoke to him, **“Abram fell face down, and God said to him,” Genesis 17: 3,** the same glory that caused Joshua to faint when he experienced the presence of The LORD, **““Neither,” HE replied, “but as Commander of the army of The Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked HIM, “What message does my Lord have for HIS servant?” The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5: 14-15.** This same glory caused Ezekiel to collapse twice when the glory of The LORD appeared to him. **“Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around HIM. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of The Lord. When I saw IT, I fell face down, and I heard the voice of ONE speaking.”, “So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of The Lord was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell face down.”, Ezekiel 1: 28 & Ezekiel 3:23;** the same glory that caused Daniel to collapse when he encountered GOD’s glory. **“As HE came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,” HE said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.” Daniel 8: 17, & “While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.” Daniel 10:15;** the same glory that made Paul fall to the ground when he heard the voice of Jesus on the Damascus Road. **“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME?” Acts 9: 4.**

My friends, a holy, wonderful, awesome radiance shines forth from Christ for HE was full of grace and truth! **“The WORD became flesh and made HIS dwelling among us. We have seen HIS glory, the glory of The one and only SON, who came from The Father, full of grace and truth.”** John 1: 14. This glory always shone from HIM, but it was restrained, cloaked behind a veil, but on this occasion HE took the veil off, and exposed HIS full glory!!!! **“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of HIS majesty. 2 Peter 1: 16**

When our Lord’s disciples **did** see HIS great glory, it was revealed in an amazing light!!! This may teach us how truly Divine HE is!!! We can know this because **“This is the message we have heard from HIM and declare to you: God is light; in HIM there is no darkness at all.”** 1 John 1: 5.

It also teaches us how HE has come to us as The Light of GOD which lights up everything! **“the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”** Matthew 4: 16. HE does not come to us in blackness or darkness so that we would be overwhelmed by fear and desperation **“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** John 1: 5

But Christ is the True Light, the visible image of the invisible GOD **“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”** Colossians 1: 15 Who said to us, **“When Jesus spoke again to the people, HE said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows ME will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””** John 8:12. And when Jesus came, HE brought that light for everyone who believes!! **“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”** John 1; 9 **“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through ME”.”** John 14; 6

That is a powerful truth! And when we see HIM, we shall perceive the full truth of it!

The glory that the disciples beheld was a light that was perceptible by the eyes and there is in the glory of Jesus, a pure moral, mental, spiritual light of purity and grace and awesome truth and holiness, which we shall see some day. **“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like HIM, for we shall see HIM as HE is.”** 1 John 3: 2!!

Yes, my friends, each of you, as believers, will once in your life see this blessed, holy, awesome, light of HIS glory!!!!

Friends, our eyes are meant to see light, and spiritual eyes are intended to see and acknowledge Christ!!! My friends, how is your eyesight this morning? Have you seen Christ?

The Book, Point 1: HE was transfigured, NOT transformed!

Jesus Christ was transfigured, but HE was NOT transformed into another person or being. I want you to take note of that. HE did NOT transform, HE remained the same Saviour the disciples had known before.

Matthew 17: 2 says, **“There HE was transfigured before them. HIS face shone like the sun, and HIS clothes became as white as the light.”**. Acts 7:56 It was HIS face the apostles saw. HE was the same Saviour they had known before. All the familiar features of HIS countenance were there, though they were illuminated with supernatural radiance! So whatever glory may come to Christ in the future, it will be the same clear features that will be lit up with heavenly brightness.

As there was no change in HIS features, so there was no change in HIS nature. HE is The SON of GOD and the SON of man forever!! **“Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, HE saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on HIM like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are MY Son, whom I love; with YOU I am well pleased.”** Mark 1: 1 The transfigured Christ was the same Christ, was the same Saviour the apostles had known before.

Nothing has changed in HIS heart or in HIS purposes or in HIS Holy Designs towards HIS people. Furthermore, when HE was glorified, the disciples were with HIM, for Matthew 17:2 says that Jesus **“was transfigured before them”**.

Here is a vital truth, our precious Lord will not forget HIS disciples when HE is in HIS Highest glory. This says something about HIS great humility, even in the midst of HIS great glory! Even then, the disciples were with HIM for this part of His great intercessory prayer for them. **“Father, I want those YOU have given ME to be with ME where I am, and to see MY glory, the glory YOU have given ME because YOU loved ME before the creation of the world.” John 17: 24**

Circumstances can change a lot of people. They rise in the world, maybe even becoming bitter due to those circumstances, and leave behind friends and relations. But Christ was NOT changed in HIS heart by the wondrous transfiguration under which HE had gone, being clothed in light. **(Matthew 17:2) “Praise The LORD, my soul. LORD my GOD, YOU are very great; YOU are clothed with splendor and majesty. The LORD wraps Himself in light as with a garment;” Psalms 104**

After the transfiguration, HE spoke to HIS disciples in the same gentle, human, tender tones as before.

HE laid HIS hand gently on them and said, “Arise and do not be afraid.” **(Matthew 17:7)**

“Do not be afraid.” is the most repeated command in the Bible. In fact, it occurs 365 times, once for every day of the year!! Amazing that we should need to hear it that often!

In fact, this is the same command that HE gave them as HE was walking on the water. **“But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”” Matthew 14: 27**

So here is another truth for us this morning. If we know HIM, we need not fear anything!

My friends, do you know HIM here? Then you shall know HIM hereafter!!

Trust HIM now!!!! and you will see HIM in glory!!!!

The Book, Point II:

The glory of Christ surpasses everything!!

Today we can measure almost anything. We can measure kilometres. We can measure the use of hydro. We can measure the amount of gas we use in our cars, and the amount of gas we use to heat our homes! In days gone by, we measured things using the words “candle power” to measure light.

But I ask you today, who can measure the sun? How much candle power lies within that great burning ball of light?

Here are some staggering statistics!!! The sun accounts for 99.86% of the mass in our solar system! Over 1 million Earths could fit inside the sun. The sun is composed of hydrogen and helium, existing together in a massive state of nuclear fusion, all kept in perfect balance! Temperatures inside the sun can reach 15 million degrees Celsius. And no-one can look at it without being blinded!

Now friends, if you think that the sun is bright, think of this, Christ’s glory is greater and brighter than even that of the sun! **“In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.” Revelation 1: 16 & 17**

So, it is with Christ that HE has in Himself all the brightness, glory and radiance! You cannot help but be marvellously affected by HIS glory. It is so great that no mortal eye can gaze upon all the splendors of Christ.

Oh, how marvellous to know HIM, as Saint Paul said, **“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all The LORD’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of GOD.” Ephesians 3: 17-19**

This is the inexpressible glory, the majestic wonder and splendors of Christ!!!!

We run out of words to try and express what is beyond being able to be expressed! We can never exaggerate when speaking of the infinite degree of HIS perfection and glory!

We can never go to any excess in praising HIM!

You can never extol HIS glory too much!

You can never exalt HIM too much or Bless HIS Name too much!!

Because if you get a grasp of who HE is, you can never find words to fully describe HIS matchless and boundless, glory, grace, wisdom, power, love, goodness, honour and perfection!!!!

To rave about our LORD is a wonderful thing to do! Sing HIS praises forever!! Laud and magnify HIM for HE truly is GLORIOUS!!!! So Glorious that HE surpasses everything!!!!

The Took:

This is what I have been waiting to say! My friends, the Glory of Christ is such that it can be reflected by us!!! How marvellous!!! Everyone knows the sun's light can be reflected. We owe much to reflected light.

Well, the Glory of Christ is such that it can shine upon you so that you can see it and then, afterwards, you can reflect it, and let it splash upon others!!!!

We are to be reflectors of HIS magnificent, glorious light! **"For GOD, Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made HIS light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of GOD's glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4: 6** and let His light shine out of us and onto others.

Now we, yes even we, can have grace and truth so that we can so live that we shall be the means of "bringing grace to others". **"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5: 16**

Always remember that Grace= GOD's riches at Christ's expense.

= GOD's mercy, GOD's love, GOD's Long-suffering (patience),
GOD's forgiveness, GOD's peace.

We have the honour of bringing and sharing this grace with others! So we can so display, advertise, promote, exhibit, and yes, even flaunt this wonderful, wholesome truth of the loving and living GOD before a dying world so that some, who have not yet looked to Jesus, may look and see something of Jesus reflected in us!!!!!!

But let me also say, some churches and some believers are poor reflectors. It is sad, but true. Reflectors are not of much use when they get dirty. We have a time of "Spring Cleaning" when we clean all the mirrors and windows to let the sun shine in and reflect the warmth of the day. Unless they get cleaned they cannot be of much service.

Brethren, may it not be so with us! May we keep our spirits polished with the Word of GOD. **"For GOD, Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made HIS light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of GOD's glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4: 6**

Reflect the glory of GOD so that people will ask, "What makes his/her countenance so bright?" and the answer will be, "Oh, they are so close to The Saviour that they always reflect HIS light."

My friends, one hour in glory will more than make up for a weary life-time of service, poverty, suffering, neglect or persecution.

In 1 Kings 10: 4 & 5 **"When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cup-bearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of The LORD, she was overwhelmed."**, but he was a mere nobody compared to our wonderful and splendid Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Friends, one day every eye shall see Jesus, even those who pierced HIM! **"Look, HE is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see HIM, even those who pierced HIM"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of HIM." So shall it be! Amen." Revelation 1: 7**

Are you ready for HIS appearing? Don't think that it is someday a long way off. It could be tonight! It could be today! **"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Revelation 1:3** Are you ready?

If you live and die without the Saviour, how will you face HIM? Look and Live now!!! Revelation 1: 14 says, **"The hair on HIS head was white like wool, as white as snow, and HIS eyes were like blazing fire."** HIS eyes will seek you out and burn through your very soul! **"The eyes of The LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." Proverbs 15:3** Look to HIM now!!!!

Look and Live!!!! **"Turn to ME and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am GOD, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22**

Look to Jesus now and live!

Look and Live!