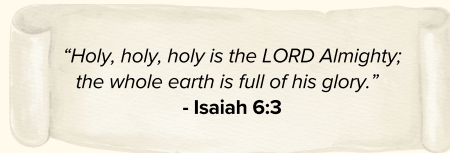


Q:

Can anyone explain God's glory?

The "glory of God" is one of the most often repeated and least understood phrases in Christianity.

Do it for the glory of God. Give glory to God. Glorify the Lord.



Is it a noun? A verb? Do we give it? Receive it? Partake in it?

Yes, all of the above.

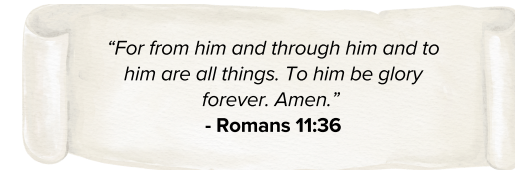
We are told to give glory God, but most of us don't even know what "glory" means.

When I think of glory, I envision radiant light, trumpets, flowing robes, long processions, adoring crowds, and throngs with hands raised in worship.

But glory as a concept is quite difficult to explain. We accept it as reasonable without grasping it intellectually. We feel it more than we'll admit to knowing it. But if we were forced to give a definition it would be something like...

God's glory is the visible weight of who God is - order, truth, goodness, beauty, wisdom, love, balance, harmony, power, infinity, completeness.

All of it. Everything all at once, now, from the beginning, and without end. (Try and wrap your mind around THAT.)



We attempt to give glory a name and assign it recognizable imagery because, like God, it's too big to grasp.

Too much for the mind to put into words or capture in mental pictures.

The finite mind trying, without success, to comprehend the infinite.

WORD ON THE WORD: The Hebrew word for glory is "kavod" meaning weight or heaviness. In the Septuagint, it was translated into Greek as "doxa" which is more closely related to honor, reputation, splendor, or what is recognized as worthy. Then it was once again translated into Latin in the Vulgate as "gloria" – fame, renown, visible splendor.

God is not an object but a substance - a substance not known but distinctly present.

A presence that is the living source from whom all things exist, through whom all things are sustained, by whom all things are revealed.

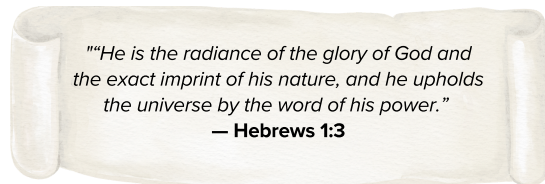
We seek a way to explain this divine presence as not necessarily perceived but objectively known - like the force of gravity.

Q:

Can anyone explain God's glory?

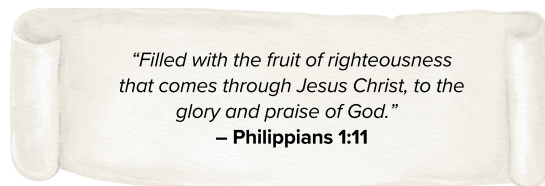
Christian apologist R.C. Sproul summed it up best:

"The whole earth is full of God's glory — is an assertion that the universe is saturated with a presence so qualitatively different from the creature that encounter with it is always, at minimum, destabilizing."



In Christian theology, Jesus is the perfect revelation of God's glory. The divine presence made visible in human form to all of creation. An inexplicable encounter with transcendent reality.

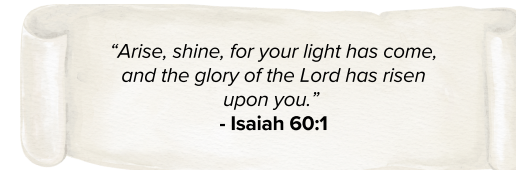
In Jesus, we find order, truth, goodness, beauty, wisdom, love, balance, harmony, power, infinity, completeness.



So, when we are told to give glory to God, or all the earth is filled with God's glory.

Do not fear.

The creature cannot reach the Creator by effort or intellect. God's glory can only be received. Like grace, we accept it willingly and openly without knowing exactly what it is.



EXODUS 33: 19-20
 ISAIAH 43: 7
 ISAIAH 6: 3
 ISAIAH 48: 9-11

RADIANCE

WORD APPEARS
606 TIMES
 IN THE BIBLE

DEFFERENCE
 REVERENCE

- GLORY
- HONOR
- RESPECT

KAVOD [HEBREW]

- ★ → ■ HEAVINESS ← ★
- WEIGHT
- IMPORTANCE

ENORMITY
 IMMENSITY
 ETERNITY

A MIGHTY
 STORM

G L O R Y

significance

"THE WEIGHT OF ALL THAT GOD IS, THE FULLNESS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING, VIRTUE, AND HAPPINESS."
 - JOHN PIPER

SPLendor
 +
 MAGNIFICENCE

WRATH

- the creation
- the flood
- the plagues
- the resurrection
- the judgement

PERFECTIO

* PRESENCE *

- ↳ SEEN AND UNSEEN
- ↳ MORE FELT THAN SEEN

"... for the praise and glory of his name."

truthfulness
 +
 faithfulness



HOLINESS

A VISIBLE
 POWER



"GOD DOES EVERYTHING HE DOES FOR HIS OWN GLORY."
 - THE RIGHTIST

וּלְהַלְלוֹתוֹ

READ RIGHT TO LEFT

④ **dalet:** A DOOR OR DOORWAY, AN ENTRANCE TO LIFE OR DEATH, A PLACE WHERE CHANGE TAKES PLACE.

③ **vav:** AN IRON NAIL OR WOODEN PEG, MEANS TO SECURE, TO BIND TOGETHER, CONNECT 2 THINGS SEPARATE FROM ONE ANOTHER.

② **beyt:** A TENT MEANS THE HOUSE OR THE FAMILY (FIRST WORD IN THE TREATY THAT IDENTIFIES THE SON OF GOD.)

① **kaf:** THE PALM OF THE HAND. MEANS TO COVER (OR UNCOVER) TO OPEN OR ALLOW.