

UPWARD CALL

I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God IN KING JESUS. (Philippians 3:14)

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Glory Fills the Earth

All the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. (Numbers 14:21)

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Isaiah 6:3)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

The common thread of these opening verses is the word *glory* and the declaration that God’s glory fills the whole earth. We might not recognize His glory clearly in this day (although, in some measure, it is here in the earth now), but we can be assured that a day is coming when the glory of the Lord will burst forth in unimaginable ways.

Depending on the translation, the word *glory* appears in English translations upwards of roughly 600 times. Needless to say, glory is a major tenet of scripture, right up there with grace, love, truth, and kingdom, for example. However, glory is a challenge to define.

The reason glory is a challenge to define, specifically and especially in relation to God and His creation, is because, as a noun, it has two primary components rolled into one: it is both [*metaphysical*](#) (i.e., abstract) and **concrete** (i.e., tangible to be seen, heard, or touched). Thus, glory must be explained and understood metaphysically and concretely as one unit. More explicitly, it is the joining together of reality (the abstract) and light (the concrete). There is a third component: when glory is used as a verb it becomes an **action**, such as *give glory to the Lord*. In a sense, glory (the noun) elicits glory (the verb), or more clearly, seeing glory brings out a response or declaration of glory.

According to Strong’s Concordance, the Hebrew word *kabod*, translated *glory* in the above verses, means ***“properly weight, figuratively in a good sense.”*** We could say it is something **weighty**, meaning it is **highly important or consequential, something momentous**. The comparable word for glory in the Greek is *doxa*. The *Concordant Greek Text* sublinear word for *doxa* is ***esteem***, which means ***“to regard highly or favorably; regard with respect or admiration.”*** The *Greek-English Keyword Concordance* word for *doxa* is ***seem*** and is defined as ***“a highly favorable opinion and that which impresses on the senses or the mind.”*** According to English dictionaries, *seem* is derived from a Middle English word that means ***“to conform to”*** or ***“to bring into agreement.”*** It is defined as ***“to appear to be,” “to appear to exist,”*** or ***“to be apparently true.”***

Normally, I build my answer to a question by using scripture (in this case: *What is glory?*), but I’m going to break from this approach by cutting to the chase, as they say, and offer a definition.

Notice the expression *to bring into agreement*. I submit that glory means reaching God’s ultimate destiny and purpose for being—to be in agreement with God, and God being in agreement with His entire creation; to exist in the true state in which God always intended man and creation to be. Glory is arriving at the full [*reality of God in His Son*](#) who is “true” because He is the Truth. In His reality, the effects of sin and death are absolutely no more—totally obliterated, never ever able to infect God’s new humanity—

and we are bathed in pure love and light, living in true freedom and oneness with one another and in absolute union with God the Father of all. Consequently, glory is the full manifestation of [God is All in All](#)—all new and all in love.

Glory is the full manifestation of God's creation as it was always intended to be. Simply, it will seem right. When we come into this full and perfected state, which is best described as the [new creation in Christ](#), we will experience the pure holiness and happiness of our Creator. We will be bathed in the pure essence of God Almighty's light and love. We will rejoice that ***we have finally made it home; we have finally arrived at what God intended us to be all along*** (and this includes all of creation). It will seem; that is, it will be God's ultimate reality, and all of creation will join in one chorus: *Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord!* Our response will be "Wow." This is glory.

However, glory is more than an abstract; it is tangible, best described as light. As John tells us: ***God is light*** (1 John 1:5). In his vision of New Jerusalem, John wrote: *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it* (Revelation 21:23-24). Light can mean to enlighten one's understanding; however, the Greek word translated most often as *light* is *foce*, meaning "luminousness in its widest application." This is the word used in referring to God and His Son as light, meaning they are luminous—they are light emitters because light is part of their essence. In the very beginning, Elohim declared: ***Let there be light***. Light shone brightly in the darkness that enshrouded earth in that day. The very essence of God went forth as a declaration, later repeated to the sons of Israel: ***All the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord***. God declares the end from the beginning!

Let us not forget that the one declaring light into the world was none other than God's Son, through whom and in whom all things are created. He is ***the Light of the World*** and ***the Light of Life***. He is the visible luminous of the invisible luminous, meaning that in the very beginning of the restoration of this earth, God purposed that His visible, tangible light, described as the glory of God, would manifest throughout His creation through His Son and many sons brought unto glory.

Throughout scripture, there are a multitude of ways to further prove this. You are encouraged to search them out. However, there is one more matter involving glory filling the earth, and it involves all of us who will soon be ***transformed into conformity with the body of His glory***, the one we are eagerly waiting for to break into our realm, once again (Philippians 3:20-21). God is going to fill the earth with His glory through His people filling the earth. This goes to the very heart of ***Christ in you, the expectation of glory***. Paul gives us an indication of this in his Colossian letter where he uses the expression ***saints in light*** (Greek *foce*). He just as easily could have expressed it as ***saints in glory***. This is our inheritance in the kingdom of the Son of God's love, and the reason Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to ***walk worthy of God who invites you into His own kingdom and glory***. If you want to know the kingdom of God, you must know the glory of God; the two are inseparable. Why? Because the Son of glory is ***bringing many sons unto glory***.

Our new creation bodies—spirit-animated ones—will have an amazing luminescence. In the kingdom of light, everything is as pure as the Son of God is pure. There is no imperfection in this kingdom. The saints in light will be as pure as the Son is pure. New creation will manifest as one blazing glory of light. Praise God; a day is coming when the glorified body of Christ, the complement of the Lord of glory, will fill the whole earth with glory, meaning the earth is going to be filled with the true sons of God that creation has been groaning and longing to see. Can you imagine what it will be like when the earth is a full blaze of glory and all of creation is set free? Wow! This is not only our destiny but that of God's entire creation, starting with the earth.