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The Wonder Of Christ

Introduction

When our Lord prayed for His own (Jn. 17:1-26) one petition in particular is very remarkable. His words were, "Father, that they may behold my glory" (Jn. 17: 24). That is not just something in the future, which is a perfectly true fact, but it is our blessedness and God's desire for us now to be "with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18).

- a) The scripture relates to a number of men who beheld a little of the glory of the Lord.
 - i) Moses asked the Lord, "Shew me thy glory" to which the Lord answered, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee . . . Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." (Ex. 33:19-23).
 - ii) Ezekiel was by the River Chebar when he saw the heavens opened. With successive unfolding he eventually saw above the firmament the likeness of a throne and One sat on it. In utter awe he recorded His musings saying, "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake." (Ezek. 1:28).
 - iii) John with Peter and James saw something of the glory of the Lord on the mount of transfiguration (Matt. 16:27-17:2). Later Peter and John independently wrote of that experience. John wrote, "We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (Jn. 1:14), and Peter wrote, "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount" (2 Pet. 1:16-18).

These were experiences none of them would ever forget.

Meditation

When we muse on the Lord we very quickly realize that we are pondering on One who is inconceivable. He Himself proclaimed, "No man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father" (Lk. 10:22), clearly indicating that no human, angelic or demonic mind, irrespective of rank, can fully grasp the glory of His person. Throughout life there may be seconds or even minutes when the Holy Spirit gives a glimpse of the excellencies of the Lord, when the glory of His person breaks upon ones spirit. It may be His eternity, offices, qualifications whither for governmental and religious responsibilities. He is more than sufficient to fulfill every office and work. Well has the hymn-writer penned the words:

Thou art the everlasting Word,
The Father's only Son,
God manifestly seen and heard,
And heaven's beloved One:
Divine, O Son of God, art Thou,
In Thee God's fulness find we now.

In Thee most perfectly expressed
The Father's glories shine;
Of the full Deity possessed,
Eternally divine:
Divine, O Son of God, art Thou,
In Thee God's fulness find we now.

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But the high mysteries of Thy Name
An angel's grasp transcend;
The Father only, glorious claim!
The Son can comprehend:
Divine, O Son of God, art Thou,
In Thee God's fulness find we now.

No mortal can fathom the magnitude of our Lord who spans eternity and through whom every channel of blessing flows uninterruptedly (Eph. 1:3). His work needs never to be redone for He has finished it to the entire satisfaction of God, and thereby procured salvation for the "whosoever".

He alone is the source and substance of every aspect of divine truth, the securer for all the purposes of God (2 Cor. 1:20); the Vanquisher of the Devil and death (Heb. 2:14) and every satanic assault whither by direct temptation (Matt. 4:1-11) or human rebelliousness (Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-2, 7-10). He who was rich and became poor has wealth geographically (Ex. 19:5) and intellectually (Col. 2:3). He alone has the right to assess without peer or deliberation all humanity judiciously (Jn. 5:22; Rom. 14:9-12; Rev. 19:11-14) and with every work committed to Him there will be no waning or waxing. The purposes of God for all history is for Him to be Head of all (Eph. 1:10). All dispensations are conveyed/moved along by Him (Heb. 1:2), and all eternal truths are secured by Him (2 Cor. 1:20).

The musing on His multi glories cause the heart to bow in worship.

- a) As one looks at the perfection of the blade of grass to the delicateness and fragrance of a rose, He created them all. From the tiniest of fairy-flies to the mighty elephant, He organized and formed every part of their beings. Lifting our eyes from things terrestrial to things celestial we gaze upon the wonder of the rings of Saturn or the vastness of the millions of sparkling galaxies, and He made them all.
- b) However, the greatest work was not that of forming the mighty universe or the minuscule respiratory system of the fairy-fly, it was His mighty work at Calvary, His entrance into death and victorious resurrection. Because of those works, there is no boundary for salvation to the people of the world. It is for the whosoever will (Jn. 3:16). Because of His fullness there is more than sufficient cleansing in His sacrifice for the darkest of sinners (1 Tim. 2:4). The grace of God knows no limit nor does His mercy know restrictions to those willing to repent and take His salvation.
- c) When the Holy Spirit had it written, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16), it was to stand like a mighty rock of refuge or a beaming lighthouse in the midst of a turbulent and stormy sea of religiosity. Like John, Isaiah could say, "This is Him of whom I spake" (Jn. 1:15) when he wrote, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:22).
 - i) Such is the magnitude of His work that no one can ever say, "There was never sufficient in his work for me".
 - ii) In that work we behold the wisdom of God, His unbounded compassion, unlimited mercy, and the fulness of forgiving grace.
- d) The heavens declare His creating and sustaining glory, but how much greater will be the eternal glory which shall arise to Him when with celestial anthems the redeemed of a thousand generations raise their voices in praise and sing, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10). Then to that number is added one hundred million (ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands (Rev. 5:11) who say, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing" (Rev. 5:12). Then as a mighty chorus, "every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea", in unison praise

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saying, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev. 5:13).

What glories belong to Him who holds the distinguishing titles of:

The great Almighty Saviour	Rev. 1:8; Lk. 2:11
The Shepherd of God's Flock	Mk. 14:27
True God and Righteous Advocate	1 Jn. 5:20; 1 Jn. 2:1
The Way, my Lord and Rock.	Jn. 14:6; Acts 7:59; 1 Cor. 10:4
The Gift of God, Last Adam	2 Cor. 9:15; 1 Cor. 15:45
Emmanuel, God with us	Isa. 7:14
O Friend of sinners, Jesus	Matt. 11:19; Matt. 1:21
Blest Bearer of God's curse.	Gal. 3:13
Arm of the Lord, Redeemer	Isa. 53:1; Isa. 59:20
Redemption and Righteous Branch	1 Cor. 1:30; Jer. 23:5
Plant of Renown and Prince of Life	Ezek. 34:29; Acts 3:15
Creator of all, not chance.	Rev. 3:14
The Lamb of God, Great Shepherd	Jn. 1:29; Heb. 13:20
My Prince of Peace and rest	Isa. 9:6; Matt. 11:28
Blessed and only Potentate	1 Tim. 6:15
Great Lord of the Harvest.	Matt. 9:38
The Captain of Salvation	Heb. 2:10
First Begotten from the Dead	Rev. 1:5
Fountain of every blessing	Zech. 13:1
Of every man, the Head.	1 Cor. 11:3
Prophet and Root of David	Deut. 18:15; Rev. 5:5
Righteous Servant, Branch and Judge	Isa. 53:11; Jer. 23:5; 2 Tim. 4:8
King of the Jews, yea King of Kings	Matt. 2:2; 1 Tim. 6:15
As man many miles you trudge.	1 Tim. 2:5
Horn of Salvation, Image of God	Lk. 1:69; Heb. 1:3
Holy Thing and Great I Am	Lk. 1:35; Jn. 8:58
Shiloh and Son of the Father	Gen. 49:10; 2 Jn. 1:3
Typified by Abraham's Ram.	Gen. 22:13
The Covert from the Tempest	Isa. 32:2
True Neighbor and Defense	Lk. 10:36; Psa. 94:22
The Offerer, Offering and Altar	Heb. 10:12; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 13:10
Both Myrrh and Frankincense.	Ex. 30:23; Ex. 30:34

Well might we sing "O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"

May the Holy Spirit lift our eyes to gaze unashamedly on the glories of our wonderful Lord.

. *Rowan Jennings*