

The Majesty of God Revealed *Through You*

We conclude our series this month titled *The Majesty of God Revealed*. The majesty of God speaks of his greatness, his splendor, his glory. It was his greatness, his glory that was revealed to the prophets, to Mary and Joseph, to Simeon and Anna, to the world and to you, through Christ.

The psalmist writes:

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. – *Psalms 104:1-2*

The majesty of God, the glory of God, is most often expressed in blazing light, brilliant, blinding light. Track with me this morning, if you would, a journey through the Scriptures on this theme of light.

God's glorious presence was manifested to Moses in the burning bush through a flaming fire. When the people of Israel journeyed out of Egypt, God's presence was displayed in the pillar of fire by night. After the tabernacle was set up at God's instruction, the shekinah glory of Almighty God descended from heaven and filled the Holy of Holies. The same thing happened at the dedication of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem almost 490 years later.

The prophet Isaiah, who ministered from 740-700 B.C., prophesied of the future coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed. We read in chapter nine:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined... For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. – *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Then, as we have seen in our studies, the promises of a Redeemer are fulfilled in the God-man, Jesus. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, thereby bypassing the conveyance of the sin nature, Jesus is born of a woman into the world he came to save. The Apostle John was just a teenager when Jesus called him to be one of his disciples. He writes his Gospel account towards the end of the first century more than fifty years after the death and resurrection of the Christ.

In the prologue to his Gospel, John picks up on the imagery of light. Turn in your Bible to John, chapter one.

John 1:1-18

Jesus, the promised One, is described as light. More significantly, it is the light of the glory of God, the majesty of God, revealed. John says that they saw his glory.

One incident, in particular, must have stuck out in his memory. It is when Jesus went up the mountain, taking along Peter, James and John. Matthew, in his account, describes the scene this way:

And he (Jesus) was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. – *Matthew 17:2*

What did Peter, James and John see? They saw the glory of the Godhead, which was veiled in Jesus' humanity, for a moment revealed, openly displayed. The appearance was bright light, the light of God's majestic glory.

Peter later wrote about what he saw:

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. – *II Peter 1:16-18*

If you are still in John's Gospel, turn over to chapter eight:

John 8:12; 12:34-36

Jesus is the Light of the world. But then the light was taken away, taken up into heaven following his resurrection. What happened to the light? Now watch this.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. – *II Corinthians 4:6*

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. – *Ephesians 5:8-10*

The light incarnated in Jesus Christ is now in you as a believer in Jesus. This presence of God's glory, his majesty, is the Holy Spirit. God himself, the third person of the Godhead, the omnipresent Spirit, dwells in the heart of every believer. Jesus told the disciples this is what would happen when he was no longer here on earth, when he had completed his redemptive mission. In the Upper Room, he told them:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. – *John 14:16-17*

The Apostle Paul uses the Old Testament imagery of the Temple to describe what happens when one places his or her trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ... Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. – *I Corinthians 3:18; 6:19-20*

Anne Ortlund has captured the parallels in this piece titled *Incarnation*.

Incarnation

“The Lord is in His holy house” –
Oh, grace beyond describing,
That Christ in me should please to dwell –
Immanuel residing!
“My soul doth magnify the Lord,”
I sing with lowly Mary,
That God should choose to enter in
This humble sanctuary!

Not now in little Bethlehem,
As in the tender story;
Not now upon mercy seat,
That bright Shekinah glory,
But in the body of His saint
He maketh His residing,
Both He in me and I in Him
In fellowship abiding.

Within my heart a burning bush,
Within, a mountain smoking;
This flesh of mine a temple veil,
The wondrous Presence cloaking;
Within this broken earthenware
A high and holy treasure:
Oh, mysteries!
Oh, grace beyond all measure!

“The Lord is in His Holy house” –
Mysterious habitation!
I feel His presence here within
And offer my oblation.
Keep burning, incense of my soul!
Keep cleansing me, O Laver!
I want to serve and praise my God
Forever and forever!

This is one of what I would call “the great realizations” – when we begin to comprehend that God has come to dwell within us. The light of the glory of God, the person of the Holy Spirit, lives within you. He is really there. Sometimes we don’t realize it, but it’s true.

I love one particular scene in the movie “Hook.” Robin Williams plays a grown-up Peter Pan who has forgotten his childhood. Now known as "Peter Banning," he is a successful corporate lawyer with a wife and two children. Hook kidnaps his children, and Peter must return to Neverland and reclaim his youthful spirit in order to challenge his old enemy. But he has forgotten who he is. And the “forever” kids of Neverland don’t believe Banning is really Peter Pan. And then you come to this scene.

Clip from *Hook*

Maybe people need to look really close, but God does live within you. More than that, God wants this indwelling light of the Holy Spirit to shine through you, to be evident to those around you. Jesus talked about this in his teaching on the mountain, in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. He said:

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put in under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they

may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. –
Matthew 5:14-16

God's desire is that his majesty might be revealed through you. That is, that his presence in your life would be manifested to others by example and by witness. If I can use another word here, it would be ministry. That God would use us to minister to others – to be a witness to his love and grace. William Haley writes:

Our purpose is to be Christ in the world and display God in his fullness through our witness as individuals and communities. As we do that we join God's unrelenting quest to be known in all of his fullness, in the glory of his complete revelation.

This is the life that God calls each of us to – revealing his majesty through our lives. I asked Michelle Bedker if she would share her experience of coming to realize how God wanted to use her to reveal the light of the glory of Christ to others. Michelle is a third-year student at the University of Missouri.

Michelle

God's light shines through us now in this life, his majesty revealed through us. One day the light of God's glory will light the new heaven and earth. It is part of our glorious inheritance as God's children. God's majesty revealed.