

It's in the Glory

When I think about the glory of the Lord there are a variety of images that flash through my mind, from the cloud, which appears many times through the Old Testament, to the fire of His presence as seen in books such as Ezekiel and Revelation. When I'm leading worship, my eyes are fixed on the pursuit of the presence of God similar to that seen in Song of Solomon 3:2 which says, 'I must seek Him whom my soul loves'. There is a parallel in this book between the bride who is seeking to find her lover, and us, the church, who are seeking to come into the presence of the Lord.

It is an awesome thing to enter the very presence of the Living God who made the entire universe. He is Holy. In today's culture we often lose the ability to respect authority and therefore we reduce God to just a friend or someone who can get our will done. However, when we see the Lord appearing to people in the Bible we see a holy God, bringing the worshipper to their knees or face. Ezekiel gets to glimpse into heaven, as recorded chapter 1 of his book, when he sees the fire surrounding the Lord Jesus. This causes Ezekiel to fall on His face before the appearance of the glory of the Lord.

Isaiah has a similar encounter as he sees the train of His robe filling the temple and hears the words 'Holy, holy, holy' being sung by the seraphim. His response is to cry out with a realisation of his unworthiness.

However, the person who really encourages me to seek for the glory of the Lord in worship is Moses. In chapters 33 and 34 of Exodus we see that the Israelites have committed gross sin by worshipping a golden idol and so the Lord tells Moses that He will not go with them to drive out the nations due to their unfaithfulness. In this place of incredible pressure Moses chooses to worship (Exodus 33:7) and there he experiences the presence of the Lord as the cloud descends on his tent. In verse 18 of Exodus 33 Moses asks the Lord for the very thing many of us cry for when he says 'show me your glory!'

It's here that we get to understand what the glory of the Lord is. As Moses is given a view of God's back in Exodus 34:5-8 we hear the character of our Lord described in detail; *The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth, who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin, yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...*

The answer to all our needs is found in the glory of the Lord as here we see Jesus and find that He will bring His compassion, grace and lovingkindness into our lives and situations, and subsequently to those whom we lead in worship. When we're leading worship, let's encourage people to wait on the Lord and hear His word for their situations and experience His glory.

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