

# GRACE GAZETTE

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*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13*

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## OUR GLORY

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:17-18*

Isaiah records a most momentous event which surely changed his life from that time forward. He was given a clear vision of something few men have been given the privilege to see with mortal eyes. *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."* (Isa 6:1) Moses asked the LORD to show him HIS glory when he was on Mt. Sinai. The LORD told him, *"Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."* (Exo 33:20) Yet HE did reveal unto Moses, HIS GOODNESS, (see Exo.33:19) which HE caused to pass before him. HE made provision to protect Moses from destruction as HE hid him in a "CLIFT of the ROCK" and covered him with HIS HAND as HE passed by and enabled Moses to see but a glimpse of HIS GLORY.

John saw the same vision that Isaiah did, (see Rev.4:8). Isaiah cried out, *"woe is me for I am undone."* John records his initial reaction to seeing the LORD, *"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead."* (Rev 1:17) Daniel's reaction was much the same when he had a similar vision by the River Hiddekel. *"I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."* (Dan 10:8) Ezekiel recorded his own vision of the same and his reaction is the same as theirs. *"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."* (Eze 1:28)

Moses, Ezekiel, and Daniel were all Old Testament prophets, while John was an Apostle who had walked with the LORD JESUS during HIS ministry here on the Earth. Yet that which they were given the privilege to see confirms for us but a measure of the immensity of the beauty and splendor which surrounds HIM who is the KING of kings and the BEGINNING and the END. David speaks of HIS GLORY in the Psalms, over fifty times; Isaiah over thirty times. John has fifteen mentions of the same in the REVELATION.

We understand that there is an essence of the absolute glory of GOD that cannot be seen by mortal men. Thus, the LORD told Moses *"there shall no man see me, and live."* John says, *"No man hath seen God at any time."* (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12) Paul declares that HE is *"eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God."* (1Tim 1:17) *"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting."* (1Tim 6:16) Isaiah said, *"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy (i.e.: set apart, alone, self-existent); I dwell in the high and holy place.(i.e.; an elevated and unattainable sacred place)"* (Isa 57:15) The Psalmist extols HIS GLORY. *"The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high".* (Psa 113:4-5) *"For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods."* (Psa 97:9)

By such scriptures we are made to see the absolute inability of man to come into the presence of GOD by his own will and power. We understand that such an approach is impossible. Apart from the grace of GOD and HIS abundant mercy and pity upon the sons of men all would perish without having seen HIM or actually been acquainted with HIM, though all are completely accountable to HIM, having witnessed the glory of HIS creation, but choosing to worship and serve the creature more so than the CREATOR, as Paul

plainly sets forth. *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.” (Rom 1:19-25)*

We read in HIS WORD that HE not only *“inhabiteth eternity”* but that HE is also pleased to dwell *“with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isa 57:15)* Some have surmised that such repentance is within the power of men to instigate and carry out, yet apart from the same mercy which has made a WAY for men to escape, no man will ever humble himself nor bring about a contrite spirit since such is contrary to his nature. Yet the promise of GOD is sure to HIS elect, as HE said through Ezekiel; *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you.” (Eze 36:26-27)* This is the same “operation” which the LORD described to Nicodemus when HE said, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)* So, what is an impossibility for men is a sure promise from the LORD HIMSELF.

We read John’s words that *“No man hath seen GOD at any time”* yet we also read that HE said in the same verse *“the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” (John 1:18)* Thus we understand that though HE dwells *“in the LIGHT to which no man can approach”*, it has pleased HIM to approach unto men to lift them out of darkness and reveal HIS glory according to HIS own pleasure and purpose. Paul set forth his own testimony to this revelation; *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor 4:6)*

If any man should ever be given the privilege to behold the GLORY of GOD, it will be as CHRIST JESUS the LORD is revealed unto him. There is none other means or PERSON by whom GOD has been pleased to make HIMSELF known in the Earth. *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand (i.e.; the seat of power) of the Majesty on high.” (Heb 1:1-3)* If any should doubt that HE is indeed the GOD besides whom there is none else, let him think on HIS testimony to Phillip who asked HIM to show them the FATHER, *“Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?” (John 14:9)*

CHRIST is possessed of HIS own glory, which no man can see, embrace, or partake of. It is HE who said, *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another.” (Isa 42:8)* HE is the same one who told those Jews as they picked up stones to stone HIM, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)* Exactly what HE told Moses at the burning bush. HIS glory cannot be enhanced or diminished, for HE is GOD and there is none else.

This same ONE who is possessed of LIFE in HIS very PERSON is pleased to condescend to the sons of men and to grant unto them eternal LIFE according to HIS pleasure, which they could never know apart from HIS mercy. *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” (1John 5:11-12)* This LIFE is the glory which HE is pleased to grant unto those whom HE has loved with an everlasting love. They can neither earn it nor lose it, because they are hidden in HIM as the objects of HIS mercy. HE, being willing to make them heirs and joint heirs with HIM, has removed every impediment and obstacle in bringing many sons to glory. *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1Pet 3:18)* *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)* Have you beheld HIS GLORY?