

Title: The Glory of the Son
Passage: John 1:9-14
Date: 4 September 2022
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Series: See God's Glory

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Read John 1:9-14

Have you followed the progress of the James Webb telescope? [geek out]

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In 1996 began a replacement for the Hubble Space telescope. After 25 years and \$10B spend the James Webb Space Telescope was launched on 25 December 2021 arrived 1.5Mkm from earth at the Sun–Earth L2 Lagrange point in January 2022. [video]

- Has a mirror with 18 hexagonal segments made of gold-plated beryllium, which combined create a 6.5-meter-diameter (21 ft) mirror. Designed to magnify infrared light and can see farther into the universe than anything humanity has ever built.
- Engineering tricky
- Placing it in space precarious

Extraordinary feat of science and engineering.
Displays human ingenuity & brilliance

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But that pales into insignificance when we peer through its lens. Can see a span of space 13billion light years across. Images collected are

- Cosmic Cliffs [slide]
- Southern Ring Nebula [slide]
- Deep Field [slide] [slide] [slide]

Countless galaxies each full of countless stars, countless planets.

The greatest glories of humanity is insignificant compared to these glorious heavens.

Impossible to comprehend.

Then there are questions we do not know answers to, what is beyond this?

Ultimately, how did this come to be? Who or what is holding this all together?

Even the glory of the universe has something deeper, greater that surpasses it.

Psalm 19:1 says “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

In Hebrew the word for glory was kabod. Which had a sense of weight or heaviness. That when something or someone had glory, there something substantial, great, amazing that carried weight.

When we speak of glory, we are saying there is something incredible here, something significant. Something that makes us think this is beyond amazing. It is glorious.

Psalmist looks to the heavens and sees in it the glory of God...

But this is not apparent to everyone.

Many see the glory of the heavens, and glorify the heavens, or make false gods, or even glorify their own ingenuity.

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Paul writes in Rom 1:20-21

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The heavens declare glory, but it seems only eyes of faith can see it.

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John 1 writes of Jesus

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

This is the Word through which the universe is formed.

- Our World was made through him
- He is with God, is God.
- Has come among us becoming flesh.
- “we have seen his glory...”

But it has to be said very few, if any, really saw his glory.

“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

As Paul writes in 1 Cor 2:8

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Jesus was born in glory, with angels declaring “Glory to God in the highest”

In John 2:11 he first revealed his glory – turning water into wine.

“the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”

He was transfigured with glory, as he met with Elijah and Moses

Luke 9 ... when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

Martyr Stephen saw Jesus ascended in Glory
But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:55–56).

Hebrews writes Jesus reflects God's glory
in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

John sees Jesus in a vision in overwhelming glory
Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

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In John 11 Jesus heard his dear friend Lazarus was sick.

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

Tragically Lazarus died, and his sisters Martha and Mary were quite clear when Jesus arrived, late,
"if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Jesus asks Martha to believe in him because he is
"the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Jesus raised Lazarus to life, through this God is glorified, and Jesus is glorified.
But not everyone saw it that way.

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.
"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here

is this man performing many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation."

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"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

- It is not the miracle that relies on Martha's belief, it is her capacity to see.

Those who believe, see the glory of God.

We are surrounded by God's Glory.

In Jesus his glory is powerfully before us. In his radiance of God's glory and his fullness of grace and truth.

"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Do you see God's glory surrounding you, and most importantly in the person of Jesus?

As you reflect on his grace and truth, are you filled with a weight of his significance, the wonder of his words and work?

Do you want to see more of God's glory?

To have eyes, hearts, open, ready, experiencing, speaking, honouring, the glory of God.

Because when we experience the glory of God, we will glorify Him; not only by our worship, but also by the ways in which we live our lives.

Response/Prayer/Care cards