

“A Foretaste of Glory!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Independence Day** – A holiday commemorating the formal adoption by the Continental Congress, *the Declaration of Independence*. And thus, declaring independence from *the Kingdom of Great Britain*.
 - 1.1.1. Spiritually, our **personal Independence Day** is when we declared our **independence** from a kingdom, *the kingdom of darkness*.
 - 1.1.2. **And then**, declared our **Dependence** on **Jesus!**
- 1.2. **As a Nation** we have experienced **Glory!**
 - 1.2.1. **Glory** – from battles won, to **countries helped**(rescuing of Kuwait), to the **Billions** of \$ in aide we give annually to neighbors around the world.
 - 1.2.1.1. House Passed **\$21.3 Billion** Fiscal 2007 Foreign Aid Spending Bill.
 - 1.2.2. We even call our flag “Old Glory!”
- 1.3. **As Individuals** we have all experienced moments of **Glory!**

Q: Which come to your mind as your tops? [well, depends on categories]

 - 1.3.1. **Spiritual moments of Glory** – Your kids give their life to Christ. Got baptized.
 - 1.3.2. **Sports moments of Glory** – My Jr. year football(1978). Suiting up in Angel Stadium locker rooms. (St. Paul vs. Bishop Amat; Pat Haden on the side lines)
 - 1.3.3. **Hobby’s moments of Glory** – **103 lb. Halibut** up in Alaska; & most recently my **250 lb. Wild Bore** up in Paso Robles. 😊
 - 1.3.3.1. But pick you best moments of **Glory**...& that’s what they were... **“moments”!** – **Fleeting moments at best.**
 - 1.3.3.2. This morning we’re going to get a taste of what 1 day will be **not** fleeting Glory, **but Permanent Glory!**

2. **A FORETASTE OF GLORY! (27-36)**

- 2.1. **Remember**, Jesus has now abandoned the performance of miracles, & devoted Himself to the 12 Apostles.
 - 2.1.1. Longer journeys. This case, their up in Caesarea Philippi.
- 2.2. (27) Jesus was possibly speaking of the 3 apostles who would accompany Him up the mountain of transfiguration.
 - 2.2.1. The transfiguration was a foretaste of the glories of the kingdom.¹
 - 2.2.2. They would never forget this experience – **Read 2 Pet.1:16-18.**

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:230). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- 2.3. He loves taking **us** to the mountain tops also!
- 2.3.1. **Look who he took here! Peter** with his blunders(1 just happened, “*not so Lord*”) & the “**sons of thunder**” who before this chapter is over will ask to call fire down from heaven on the very people Jesus came to save!
- 2.3.2. **Here Mnt. Hermon, but usually Mnt. Olives.**
- 2.3.2.1. Every Christian should have **their own** Mnt. Olives!
- 2.3.2.2. **Daniel** did in his room with a view of Babylon.
- 2.3.2.3. **Peter** found a rooftop in Joppa.
- 2.3.2.4. **Martin Luther** found an upper-room in Wittenberg, a place still considered sacred.
- 2.3.3. **Perhaps he will take you today to the mountaintop!**
- 2.4. (28) **Which mountain?** – We’re not positive but just above Caesarea Philippi was Mnt. Hermon. (**border** of Israel & its northern neighbor)
- 2.4.1. Just as high altitude transforms a landscape in the **physical** world, so does real prayer in the **spiritual** realm.
- 2.4.1.1. You climb to the top, & things you thought so massive are now so puny! Other objects you greatly underestimated look very impressive now. (out airplane window)
- 2.4.2. So spiritually, [G.H.Knight] “**from the mountain-top of secret prayer we get a “God’s-eye view” of everything; & it is marvelous how that makes many great things look small, & small things great; how all mere worldly ambitions look surprisingly poor, & heavenly ambitions the only ones worth having.**”
- 2.5. (29) **As He prayed...face was altered...robe became white & glistening** –
- 2.5.1. Reminds me of when I was praying the other day...*Well, no it doesn’t!*
- 2.5.2. Both His **personal appearance** & His **garments** changed.
- 2.5.3. **And note: rejection** in Galilee **behind** & in Jerusalem **ahead**, He solicits no **human** sympathy...only **Divine approval**.
- 2.6. **Altered** – other accounts “*transfigured*” or “*transformed*” [Greek – metamorphoo]
- 2.6.1. **For that brief moment they saw Him as the heavenly Lord.**
- 2.6.2. The prefix “**Trans**” means literally “**across**” (Transatlantic flight)
- 2.6.3. **In the Transfiguration a limit or barrier was crossed!**
- 2.6.3.1. It was the crossing the line between the natural & supernatural; between human & divine.
- 2.7. (30) **Moses & Elijah** – not as patriarchs, but as spiritual heroes.
- 2.7.1. They are God-given guides! (Jesus’ spiritual counselors)
- 2.8. **Moses** – represents the **Law**. Jesus was the prophet Moses foretold(Deut.18:15);
- 2.8.1. **As Moses** led the Jews out of the bondage of Egypt,
So Jesus leads believing sinners out of their bondage to sin.
- 2.9. **Elijah** - represents the **Prophets**. Jesus was the Messiah whom Elijah would precede(Mal.4:5) [This would be the **end** of the **Law**, & **fulfillment** of the **Prophets!**]

- 2.10. **Decease** - Gk *exodos*, literally, His “departing”.
- 2.10.1. His death, resurrection, & ascension, route.
- 2.10.2. Interesting they’d come to talk about death...both remarkable as to their deaths!
- 2.10.2.1. **Moses’** death was **mysterious** (only man God buried, Deut 34:6); **Elijah’s** was **miraculous** (the original, *Chariots of Fire*, 2 Kings 2:11).
- 2.10.2.1.1. One was a **natural** death but **Divine** burial; the other by **translation**.
- 2.10.2.2. Symbols of 2 classes of believers at 2nd coming of Christ?
- 2.10.2.3. Jn.11:25 “**I am the resurrection & the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.**”
- 2.10.3. This would give Christ’s human soul **encouragement** to go on, because of the sight of the two who had passed on to glory!
- 2.11. Also we learn from them showing up:
- 2.11.1. **Saints that have died:** are still the **individuals** they were (i.e. they aren’t extinct); they have continuing **personalities** (Moses was still Moses, & Elijah still Elijah. There was personal identity & recognizable differentiation); still **human beings** (didn’t grow wings, or become angels, remained human just like Jesus after His res.); alive **consciously** (nothing here of soul sleep, **unless** they were walking in their sleep! But then the greater miracle for both to be sleep walking at the **same time**, in the **same place**, & talking in their sleep about the **same thing!**); in **glorified bodies** (which can suddenly appear or disappear; similar to, yet different from, the bodies they had {like Jesus} “*similar in structure, different in texture*”); enjoyed **fellowship** (here with Jesus); **in touch with earth** (They were alive to concerns here on earth, especially matters of salvation).
- 2.12. (32) **Heavy with sleep** – possibly occurred at night!
- 2.13. They saw His **glory** – “*A snapshot of humanity being glorified!*”
- 2.14. For that brief moment they saw Him as the heavenly Lord.
- 2.14.1. Heb.1:1 “**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory & the express image of His person**”
- 2.15. **[1] Moses Glory** – Ex.33
- 2.15.1. Moses’ face shone with Reflected glory.
- 2.16. **[2] Jesus Glory** – Christ *didn’t reflect* the brightness of divine glory, but His glory **is** the brightness of divine glory.
- 2.16.1. Jesus didn’t **reflect** light but was **the source** of light!

- 2.16.2. This is the glory He **willingly veiled**...for us!
- 2.17. *At crucial moments the splendor of Jesus' deity burst through the cloak of His humanity!* (R.C.Sproul)
- 2.17.1. This was an open display for the disciples to see Jesus' glory that He **had** before the Incarnation; & **also** a **foreshadowing** of Jesus' resurrection & return.
- 2.17.2. Jn.17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with (alongside) Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."
- 2.17.3. This was His own glory showing through!
- 2.17.3.1. Not just a reflection, not just His clothes.
- 2.17.3.2. This showed plainly His divinity...glory from within.
- 2.17.3.3. This is "*glorification of humanity by divinity!*" (Griffith Thomas)
- 2.18. **[3] Our Future Glory** – What is it! What is us being glorified?
- 2.18.1. We are promised on *Paul's golden chain of Redemption* found in Rom.8:30 "whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He **also glorified.**"
- 2.18.1.1. **Past tense** because final step is **so certain**, that in God's eyes it is as good as done!
- 2.19. {a} Its' just like His Glory! – Phil.3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**"
- 2.19.1. Jn.17:22 "I have given them the **glory** that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one"
- 2.20. {b} Our **nature** is made whole; Our **heart** is set free; our **sin** is completely eradicated; the **possibility of sinning** is forever extinguished; it is not fleeting but **permanent**.
- 2.21. {c} Its' timing? – At Jesus 2nd coming!
- 2.21.1. 1 Cor.15:22,23 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are Christ's* **at His coming.**"
- 2.22. {d} It's reaching our final state!
- 2.23. {e} It's the believers great hope for the future!
- 2.24. (33) **Three tabernacles**(tents) – Peter wanted to make the event into a **perpetual Feast of Tabernacles**.
- 2.24.1. From, "**not so Lord**"(in regards to his suffering & death); **to** "let's immortalize this moment of Glory!"
- 2.24.1.1. **Let's stay on this mnt of glory, & not go to Jerusalem & die!**

- 2.24.2. Now that's how I like my Messiah, a **glorified one**, not a **dead one**!
 2.24.2.1. We like our heroes' bright, shiny, strong, w/capes, that can fly.
- 2.25. (35) **Hear him** – the Father interrupted Peter to remind him...“*Hear HIM!*”
 2.25.1. Especially to the cross...**hear Him!**
- 2.26. (36) **Jesus was found alone** –
 2.26.1. **Jesus came & touched them** – Mt.17:7
 2.26.2. **Saw no one but Jesus only!** Mt.17:8
 2.26.2.1. **Jesus only!** The Law & Prophets are gone!
- 2.27. **Lessons:**
- 2.28. **Suffering leads to Glory!**
 2.28.1. Peter emphasizes in his 1st Epistle in **1:6-8,11**.
 2.28.2. So I guess Peter, “**Deity & Death** are not irreconcilable after all!”
 2.28.2.1. They are not a **contradiction**, but **consistency!**
 2.28.2.2. **A means to a great end!**