

BLESSED BE THE GLORY OF THE LORD

In the Old Testament, the presence of the glory of the Lord was visible by fire, thick clouds, great earth quake. These phenomena happened when God came down to Mount Sinai to covenant with Israel (Exo. 19:18). We read in Exodus 19:18 the following: "Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. Israel reacted to this with fear and trembling, saying to Moses, You speak to us and we will listen, but let not God speak to us, lest we die; and the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was" (Exodus 20:19,21). The glory of the Lord is His holiness. No man can comfortably experience the glory of the Lord and be the same as before. When the holy meets the unholy there will be shock, shame and fear. For man's nature is sinful from his birth. When Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, He described it saying, I say the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up. And the skirts of His train filled the temple; above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings; with the two [each] covered his face, and with two [each] covered his feet, and with two [each] flew. A one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! "Woe is me" was the expression of conviction Isaiah experienced when beholding the glory of the Lord.

"Blessed is the glory of the Lord" should be the declaration of every person that beholds it. For Isaiah, it came in its glorious manifestation of God Himself. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, was the sound of praise that came from the seraphim in adoration to God's holiness. "The Lord of hosts" is a title for YAHSHUA. Isaiah was indeed on holy ground. Seraphim are six-winged powerful angels. Who surrender the throne of God declaring the holiness of God. They are fiery angels. Isaiah received forgiveness when he repented and one of the Seraphim came to him with a live coal in his hand; with it he touched his mouth and said, Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity and guilt are taken away, and your sin is completely atoned for and forgiven (Isaiah 6:6-7). That was the Glory of God manifested through forgiveness and cleansings of his sins. "Then he heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send? And who will go for us? (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit). Then said Isaiah, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 68-9). Joshua also experienced the glory when seeing a Man standing near him with His drawn sword in His hand. Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What says my Lord to His servant? He said, Loose your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy" (Joshua 5:13-15). He surrendered to God and He instructed him on what to do next, which was the destruction of Jericho.

The blessed glory of the Lord is visible in nature. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows and proclaims His handiwork; day after day pours forth speech and night after night shows forth knowledge; there is no speech nor spoken word; their voice is not heard, yet,

their voice goes out through all the earth, their sayings to the end of the world..." (Ps. 19:1-4). Nature manifests the glory of the Lord quietly, yet loudly through God's wisdom and knowledge in its beauty and radiance. Paul asks the question: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable, are His ways; who has known the mind of the Lord, who has understood His thoughts, or who has been His counselor? For from Him and through Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen" (Rom. 11: 33-34,36). The Prophet Isaiah declared, "It is God Who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; it is He Who stretches out the heavens like curtains and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in" (Isaiah 40:22).

The glory of God shone all over the Garden of Eden as He was creating the world. All that He created, pleased Him and He said, "It is good." Blessed be the glory of our Lord. At His birth, the Shekinah glory shone brighter than any other star. We read that it was a star, but it was the glory of God shining His gift to the world. Magi came from afar to give YAHSHUA homage in their beautiful horses and their belongings with their servants accompanying them. It was the most significant entourage the world experienced. It took them about three years to arrive where YAHSHUA was living with His mother and Joseph. Our knowledge of this event is very lean and void of the background history of these Magi. It had been prophesized by Isaiah saying, "A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Median and Ephah; all the men from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). "And on going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to Him gifts-gold, and frankincense and myrrh." (Matt. 2:11). These are very special gifts; gold for a king; myrrh for sacrifice; frankincense for a high priest. The meaning of these gifts was prophetic in their symbolism. Gold, speaks of His future kingdom, when every knee shall bow; every tongue confess that He alone is king forever; Myrrh, speaks of redemption; "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29); and for by a single offering, He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy; He bore our burden of sin once and for all. As our High priest, He made it possible for us to enter the holy of holies. Frankincense, speaks of our great and wonderful and noble Priest over the house of God, "let us all come forward and draw near with true hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith, having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water, so, let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable and faithful to His word" (Heb. 10:22-23).

The beauty of God's glory shines in every person who knows Him and has a relationship with Him. They shine it through their love and behavior. They mirror the presence of the Holy Spirit, by shining His presence into the world of darkness; shining His peace, where there is no peace; shining the joy of the blessed hope, where there is no hope, where only hopelessness is felt. The glory of His presence causes sin to flee through repentance and confession of sin. The

closer that we walk with Him, the more that we will experience His glory, for He is always God with us, always faithful, always loving, always eternal forever and ever.