



WOW: Word Of the Week

Glory

December 15, 2021

One cannot read the Bible accounts of Jesus' birth without encountering 'glory:' Glory to God in the highest! In John's Gospel, "we have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father" (1:14). At the wedding in Cana, Jesus changed water to wine and "revealed his glory, so his disciples put their faith in him" (2:11).

A preaching friend of mine was fond of describing "glory" but focusing on the "glow-ry." Indeed, something special is being communicated. In Scripture, "glory" is a word of praise. We respond to glory with praise.

In Hebrew, *kavod* (KVD) meant weight or heaviness, thus connecting to the idea of importance. Primarily, it meant respect, honor, and greatness, thus power, splendor and majesty. When I think of Hebrew *kavod*, I think of the Spanish *peso*, the verb *pesar* means to weigh. Originally, a peso was a weight, and coins had worth based on weight. Some may have heard of the *shekinah* glory of God, referring to the dwelling of God's divine presence. The same concept is in John 1:14, when Jesus is said to dwell (tabernacle) among us.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for glory is *doxa* (the verb, *dokein* means to appear to be, to seem, to think, to accept). Glory is perceived; glory is what one sees. Seeing Jesus' glory caused the disciples to have faith.

An online quote says this: The glory of God has been described as the "external elegance of the internal excellencies of God." Glory is seen when God goes public with his beauty.

Enough background. A word for life—what should we remember?

- Ultimately, when we see glory, when glory is revealed to us, we see only a small part, perhaps only a shadow, of the totality. God's Glory is beyond description.
- Glory is not just for praising, glory is for believing, glory is for imitating.
- In Jesus' coming, his glory was seen in his life of grace and truth. The glory declared in Luke's Gospel is anticipatory. Visible glory shines all around, but "glory to God" was ultimately fulfilled not in Jesus' birth but in his sacrificial death and life-declaring resurrection, to be exalted and to represent us.
- We as Christians are to declare God's glory, excellencies, and we best do that in lives of grace and truth. Truth exists, truth matters. Untruth will always fall short of bringing glory to God. Truth is for living—graceful living.

Next, week, Christmas week, the last of our four words from John 1, truth. Looking forward to sharing with you then.