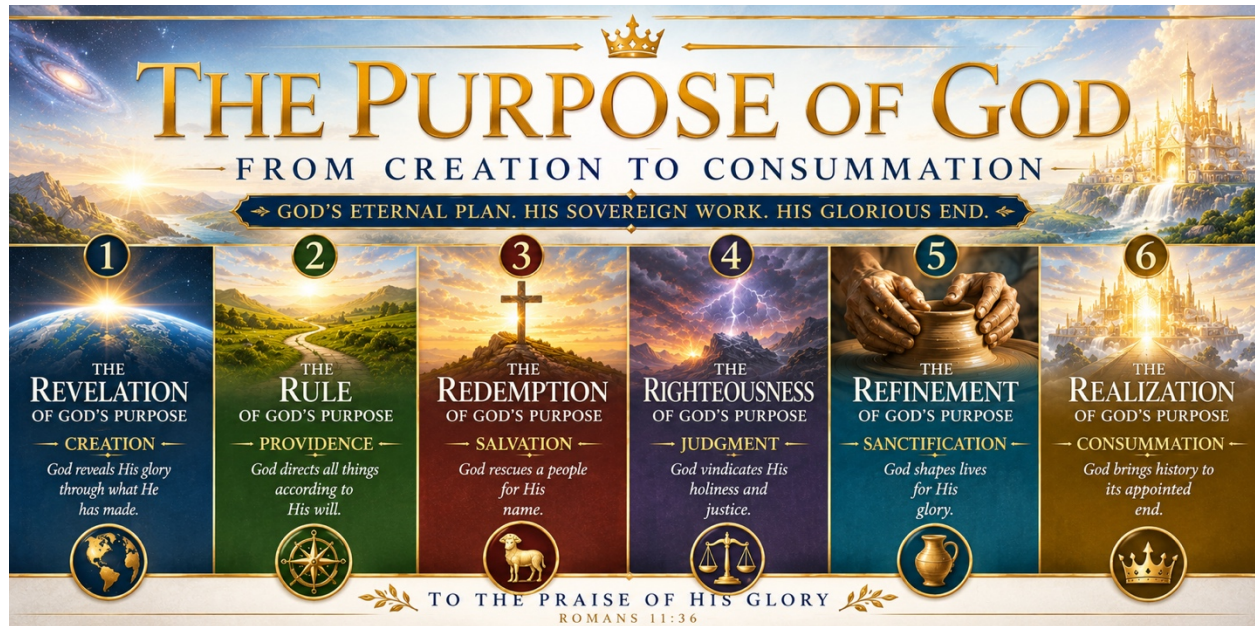




“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things . To Him be the glory
forever . Amen .”

Theme: God does everything to reveal the fullness of His character and to ensure the praise of His glory forever.

Before the creation of the world and before time began, there was God. He existed in perfect harmony, delighting in the unity of the Trinity and expressing love, fellowship, and complete unity. The radiance of His perfection was His glorious presence. This glory was the joy of the Persons of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There was divine contentment in every way. God needed no one or anything else. Indeed, there was no one else. No one outside of Himself existed.

His holiness and justice, His perfection and glory, were things that God determined ought to be enjoyed by more than Himself. Out of His kindness, love, and benevolence God determined that He would provide a witness to His glory through creation. Through Creation, God would display His glory. He would enable the virtues of beauty, order, power, and majesty to exist in the things that He made. He would create angels to witness of His glory and serve Him. He then created man in His own image so that we could enjoy observing the totality of His glory. He gave men mental acuity so that we might know Him, emotional capacity so that we might love Him, and willful choices so that we might obey Him. His design was that we would know Him and thus love Him. We would love Him, and thus obey Him. Through the exercise of these gifts, men would observe the goodness, holiness, righteousness, and perfection of God.

However, there were aspects of God’s perfections that would only be known through the presence of sin. Beginning with the angels, God granted them the freedom to make choices that would permit them to rebel against God’s perfection. Satan was in the Garden of Eden as a righteous angel, leading the host of heaven in worship of God for

His creative genius. Suddenly, he witnessed God creating man and then giving man dominion over the earth. Although this is not explicitly explained, since man was created lower than the angels, it is likely that Satan viewed this stewardship given to man as a mistake by God. Pride erupted, and Satan rebelled against God. Having betrayed God and determined to be a rival to God, Satan went after the dominion He believed He deserved and enslaved Adam and Eve through temptation and the Fall. Suddenly, Satan became the god of this world, and man became subjects, enslaved to Satan. Sin marred God's creation and was cursed.

God's perfections of holiness, wrath, vengeance, and judgment now came into focus. So did the positive aspects of mercy, grace, forgiveness, patience, and redemption. Things that could not be known about God became clear. The entire picture of God's glory became evident as He revealed His purpose of showing Himself to others.

He determined that He would, throughout the history of the world, manifest His perfections in a variety of ways until ultimately restoring His glory as fully revealed. He would allow sin to run its course in order to display His justice. He would also provide the means by which His righteousness would extend to sinful men, reconciled to Him. Ultimately, even creation itself would be restored, redeemed from under the curse in the consummation at the end of the Age. The story of the Bible provides us a view of God's glory being muted at Creation, manifested throughout history, and magnified at the Consummation.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God making promises to redeem, send a Redeemer, establish a kingdom, and bring all things to completion in His glory. In the New Testament, we see God fulfilling His promises by sending the Redeemer, Jesus Christ; by showing His grace through the Church and continuing to move events toward the Kingdom and the Final Fulfillment of His glory in the restoration of all things to a "better than Eden" eternal state. We are able to see the relentless and purposeful manifestation of the glory of God in a variety of initiatives of God. We see this in:

1. The Revelation of God's Glory - Creation
2. The Rule of God's Glory - Providence
3. The Redemption for God's Glory - Salvation
4. The Righteousness in God's Glory - Judgment
5. The Refinement through God's Glory - Sanctification
6. The Realization of God's Glory - Consummation

I. The Revelation of God's Purpose - *God reveals His glory through what He has made.*

A. God Created All Things – *Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11*

1. The Scriptures clearly state that God created everything, making Him the ultimate authority over all that exists.

2. Because God is the Creator, He possesses absolute ownership rights over His creation – not merely an impersonal influence, but a personal and sovereign ruler.
3. As such, none of His creatures are autonomous – each has its existence, purpose, and continued life from His hand – ***Acts 17:28***.
4. If a person does not comprehend this, one is cast into a hopeless delusion of origin, purpose, and goal, resulting in mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical chaos and despair.
5. Without a direct acknowledgment of accountability to the Creator, sinful men have no objective basis for meaning, morality, identity, dignity, and hope.
6. Only when men understand to whom they belong and bow themselves before Him can they find peace, focus, purpose, and true pleasure.

B. All Creation Exists to Glorify God

1. Since everything exists because God willed it, it exists to promote God's glory – ***Revelation 4:11; Proverbs 16:4***.
2. The Heavens themselves exist to glorify God – ***Psalms 19:1***.
3. God places His attributes on display through what He has created:
 - a) *His Eternal Power* – ***Romans 1:20***.
 - b) *The Power of His Word* – ***Psalms 33:6, 9***.
 - c) *His Wisdom* – ***Psalms 104:24***.
 - d) *His Glory* – ***Isaiah 6:3***.
 - e) *His Sovereignty* – ***Daniel 4:35***.
 - f) *His Goodness* – ***Psalms 145:9***.
 - g) *His Orderliness & Beauty* – ***Psalms 27:4***.
 - h) *His Majesty* – ***Psalms 8:3-4***.
 - i) *His Providence* – ***Psalms 104:27-28***.

II. **The Rule of God's Purpose** – *God directs all things according to His Will through His Providence*

- A. Creation is not Self-Sustaining but is upheld moment by moment by its Creator – ***Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3***.
- B. As such, God governs through His absolute sovereign oversight – ***Psalms 135:6; Ephesians 1:11***.
- C. Even events that appear senseless are accomplishing His eternal purpose

– [Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23; Romans 8:28](#).

III. **The Redemption for God's Purpose** – *God rescues a people for His Name*

- A. God's Goal in Redemption Is His Own Glory – [Ephesians 1:5-6, 11-12, 14](#).
- B. God's Son Displays His Glory - [John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 4:6](#).
- C. God's Redeemed People Proclaim His Glory – [1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 43:21](#).

IV. **The Righteousness in God's Purpose** – *God Vindicates His Holiness and Justice through Judgment*

- A. God's Judgment Reveals His Holy Character – [Ezekiel 28:22](#).
- B. God's Judgment Vindicates His Righteousness – [Deuteronomy 32:4](#).
- C. God's Judgment Demonstrates His Sovereign Authority – [Acts 17:31](#).
- D. God's Judgment Displays His Wrath against Sin – [Nahum 1:2-3](#).
- E. God's Judgment Demonstrates the Certainty of His Word –
- F. God's Judgment Magnifies the Riches of His Mercy – [Romans 9:22-23](#).

V. **The Refinement through God's Purpose** – *God Shapes Lives for His Glory through Sanctification*

- A. Conformity: God does not merely save sinners from judgment, but He transforms them into people who increasingly reflect His holiness – [Romans 8:29](#).
- B. Cleansing: He uses trials to refine faith for His glory – [1 Peter 1:6-7](#).
- C. Correction: Through discipline, God removes what hinders spiritual growth and cultivates holiness – [Hebrews 12:10-11](#).
- D. Cultivation: As a result, we bear fruit for His glory – [John 15:8](#).

VI. **The Realization of God's Purpose** – *God Brings History to Its Appointed End through Consummation of His Glory*

- A. Everything that God does is for His own glory in its ultimate end – [Ephesians 1:9-10](#).
- B. The universal recognition and participation in His glory is certain – [Habakkuk 2:14](#).
- C. God will remove the curse altogether – [Revelation 22:3](#).

- D. God is bringing all things to their appointed end, where His glory will be perfectly displayed, Christ will be universally exalted, His people will dwell in His presence forever, and God will be all in all – **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**.

All of these things unfold throughout the pages of Scripture. The Bible is divided into two testaments: the Old Testament and the New Testament – Christ Himself being the pivotal point between the Testaments.

I. The Old Testament is divided into the Law, Writings, and Prophets

A. **The Law:** *The Torah reveals God's glory through creation, redemption, holiness, covenant faithfulness, and the formation of a people who would display His character to the nations.*

1. **Genesis:** God displays His glory as Creator, Sovereign, Judge, and Redeemer by establishing His covenant purpose to bless the nations through the promised Seed. It begins with a view of perfect harmony between God and man and initiates the restoration of that harmony after the introduction of sin.
2. **Exodus:** God reveals the glory of His redeeming power by delivering His people from bondage so that they might worship and dwell with Him. A foreshadowing of the spiritual deliverance we will one day enjoy in glory.
3. **Leviticus:** God manifests the glory of His holiness by providing a way for sinful people to approach Him through sacrifice, priesthood, and sanctification, despite being in the wilderness.
4. **Numbers:** God displays the glory of His faithfulness and patience as He preserves His covenant people despite their persistent unbelief as they approach the Promised Land.
5. **Deuteronomy:** God magnifies His glory by calling His redeemed people to wholehearted covenant love and obedience as a witness to the nations. This is a reiteration of the Law given that those who initially received it were all laid low in the wilderness.

B. **The Writings:** *The Writings reveal God's glory through His providence, wisdom, worship, and covenant faithfulness, teaching His people to fear Him and live for His honor.*

1. **History:** the demonstration of God's sovereign providence in accomplishing His covenant purposes despite human failure.
 - a) **Joshua:** God glorifies Himself by faithfully fulfilling His

covenant promises and giving His people the inheritance He pledged to them.

- b) **Judges:** God displays the glory of His mercy by repeatedly delivering His undeserving people despite their continual rebellion.
- c) **Ruth:** God reveals the glory of His providential grace by preserving the messianic line through covenant faithfulness and redemption.
- d) **1 and 2 Samuel:** God demonstrates that His glory belongs to Him alone as He establishes His chosen king and rejects human pride and self-reliance. He provides the Davidic Covenant that promises an eternal King whose reign will never end.
- e) **1 and 2 Kings:** God reveals His glory through the splendor of Solomon's kingdom while exposing the ruin that results when His people abandon Him. God then vindicates the glory of His holiness by judging covenant unfaithfulness while preserving hope through His faithful promises.
- f) **1 and 2 Chronicles:** God emphasizes His glorious covenant purposes by focusing on David's kingdom and worship centered on His presence. He also displays His glory through the temple, demonstrating that blessing follows humble dependence while judgment follows apostasy.
- g) **Ezra:** God glorifies Himself by restoring His people to worship through His sovereign providence and faithfulness.
- h) **Nehemiah:** God reveals His glory by rebuilding both the walls of the city of Jerusalem and a holy people committed to His Word and devoted to His covenant.
- i) **Esther:** God displays the glory of His unseen providence by preserving His covenant people inside a pagan empire even when His name is never mentioned.

2. **Poetry:** *teach God's people how to live wisely, worship faithfully, trust Him in suffering, and delight in His covenant love.*

- a) **Job:** God magnifies the glory of His infinite wisdom and sovereign rule, calling humanity to trust Him beyond human understanding.

- b) **The Psalms** are poetic prayers of praise, confession, and lament to God. God is exalted as worthy of all worship because His glory fills creation, redemption, and every aspect of life
- c) **Proverbs:** God displays His glory by revealing that true wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.
- d) **Ecclesiastes:** God shows that everything apart from Him is vanity, directing humanity to glorify Him by fearing Him and keeping His commandments.
- e) **Song of Songs:** God reflects the beauty of His covenant love through the faithful love of husband and wife.

C. The Prophets: *The Prophets proclaim that God will glorify His holy name through righteous judgment, irrevocable covenant faithfulness, redemptive grace, and the reign of His coming Messiah.*

1. The Major Prophets:

- a) **Isaiah** – God proclaims the supremacy of His glory through His holiness, sovereign salvation, righteous judgment, and coming Servant-King.
- b) **Jeremiah** – God glorifies Himself by judging sin while promising a New Covenant that will transform His people from within.
- c) **Lamentations** – God vindicates the glory of His justice while offering hope through His unfailing compassion and covenant faithfulness.
- d) **Ezekiel** – God repeatedly declares that He acts “for the sake of My holy name,” revealing His glory through judgment, restoration, and His returning presence.
- e) **Daniel** – God displays His unrivaled glory by sovereignly ruling over every kingdom until His everlasting kingdom is established.

2. The Minor Prophets:

- a) **Hosea** – God reveals the glory of His steadfast covenant love by redeeming an unfaithful people.
- b) **Joel** – God glorifies Himself through the Day of the Lord, calling His people to repentance and promising the

outpouring of His Spirit.

- c) **Amos** – God magnifies His glory by demanding righteousness and justice from those who bear His name.
- d) **Obadiah** – God displays His glory by humbling the proud and vindicating His covenant people.
- e) **Jonah** – God reveals the greatness of His compassion by extending mercy to both Israel and the nations.
- f) **Micah** – God glorifies Himself by promising a Shepherd-King who will establish justice, mercy, and peace.
- g) **Nahum** – God demonstrates the glory of His justice by overthrowing wicked nations and defending His people.
- h) **Habakkuk** – God teaches that faith trusts His sovereign purposes until “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).
- i) **Zephaniah** – God displays His glory by purifying a people who will rejoice in His presence after His righteous judgment.
- j) **Haggai** – God calls His people to prioritize His house so that His glory might once again dwell among them.
- k) **Zechariah** – God reveals the glory of the coming Messiah who will cleanse His people and reign as King over all the earth.
- l) **Malachi** – God magnifies His glory by calling His people to sincere worship while preparing the way for the coming Lord.

II. The New Testament

A. The Gospels - *reveal God's purpose to glorify Himself by sending His Son, the promised Messiah, to fulfill His redemptive plan, reveal His divine nature, accomplish salvation through His death and resurrection, and inaugurate His everlasting kingdom.*

- 1. **Matthew** – God reveals His glory by presenting Jesus as the promised Messianic King who fulfills the Old Testament and establishes His kingdom.
- 2. **Mark** – God displays His glory through Jesus, the obedient Servant, whose authority and sacrificial mission reveal the power of

God.

3. **Luke** – God magnifies His glory by showing Jesus as the compassionate Savior who brings redemption to sinners from every nation.
 4. **John** – God supremely reveals His glory in the incarnate Son, whose person, signs, death, and resurrection manifest the fullness of the Father.
- B. **History** – the Book of **Acts** – God glorifies Himself by empowering His church through the Holy Spirit to proclaim Christ and advance the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- C. **The Epistles** - *reveal God's glory by maturing His people through the gospel, producing holy living, faithful service, and steadfast hope in Christ's return.*
1. Paul's Epistles
 - a) **Romans** – God displays the glory of His righteousness by justifying sinners through faith and conforming believers to the image of His Son.
 - b) **1 Corinthians** – God reveals His glory by sanctifying His church and calling believers to live in holiness for His honor alone.
 - c) **2 Corinthians** – God magnifies His glory through the weakness of His servants, demonstrating that His power is perfected in human frailty.
 - d) **Galatians** – God glorifies Himself by declaring that salvation is entirely by grace through faith apart from works of the Law.
 - e) **Ephesians** – God unfolds the glory of His eternal purpose by uniting all things in Christ and forming the church for the praise of His glory.
 - f) **Philippians** – God displays His glory through the humble obedience and exaltation of Christ, calling believers to share His mindset.
 - g) **Colossians** – God reveals the supremacy of Christ, in whom the fullness of God's glory dwells and through whom believers are brought to maturity.

- h) **1 Thessalonians** – God glorifies Himself by preparing a holy people who eagerly await the return of His Son.
- i) **2 Thessalonians** – God displays His glory through Christ's triumphant return in judgment and the final vindication of His saints.
- j) **1 Timothy** – God reveals His glory by establishing the church as the pillar and support of the truth through faithful leadership and godly living.
- k) **2 Timothy** – God glorifies Himself through the faithful proclamation of His Word and steadfast endurance in gospel ministry.
- l) **Titus** – God displays His glory by producing good works through the transforming power of His saving grace.
- m) **Philemon** – God reveals the glory of the gospel by reconciling believers into a new family marked by forgiveness, love, and equality in Christ.

2. General Epistles

- a) **Hebrews** – God reveals the surpassing glory of His Son, who perfectly fulfills every aspect of the Old Covenant as the final Prophet, Priest, and King.
- b) **James** – God glorifies Himself by producing mature faith that is demonstrated through obedient and righteous living.
- c) **1 Peter** – God displays His glory by refining His people through suffering and preparing them for an eternal inheritance.
- d) **2 Peter** – God magnifies His glory by granting everything necessary for life and godliness while assuring believers of Christ's glorious return.
- e) **1 John** – God reveals His glory through His holy love, calling believers to walk in the light and enjoy fellowship with Him.
- f) **2 John** – God glorifies Himself as His people faithfully walk in truth and love while guarding against false teaching.
- g) **3 John** – God displays His glory through believers who faithfully support those advancing the truth of the gospel.

- h) **Jude** – God magnifies His glory by preserving His people in the faith while judging false teachers and all ungodliness.

D. Prophecy

Revelation – God consummates the revelation of His glory as Christ triumphs over all evil, judges the nations, establishes His eternal kingdom, and dwells forever with His redeemed people.

The Sequence of God's manifestation of His glory

- **The Torah** reveals the need for redemption.
- **The Prophets** announce the coming Redeemer.
- **The Gospels** present the Redeemer.
- **The Epistles** explain the work of the Redeemer and its implications for His redeemed people.
- **Revelation** (the final section) will display the ultimate triumph of the Redeemer, when God's glory fills the new creation forever.

Summary:

From creation to consummation, Scripture unfolds God's eternal purpose to glorify Himself by redeeming a people through Christ who will enjoy and reflect His glory forever.