

FOUNDATION 3: HIS GLORY IS OUR PURPOSE

What is our purpose? Why are we here? What were we created for?

The misdirected conclusion:

“I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold,
all is vanity and a striving after wind.” Ecclesiastes 1:14

Life apart from God is vanity because we are designed by a Creator who has given us purpose.

What is His glory?

HIS GLORY IS WHO HE IS

- The glory of God is what He is essentially
 - Intrinsic:
 - The fullness of His character, nature, and attributes.
 - wisdom, love, beauty, strength, compassion, power, justice
 - Inherent and belongs to Him alone
- He manifests His glory to us
 - Extrinsic:
 - Works of creation
 - Providence
 - Redemption
 - Consummation

All that He created and all that He does is to make His intrinsic glory visible.

THE LORD DECLARES HIS GLORY TO MOSES

¹⁸ Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” Exodus 33:18

⁵ The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:5-7

The Lord declares His intrinsic glory

THE LORD DISPLAYS HIS GLORY

-CREATION

“The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork.” Psalm 19:1

“The beasts of the field will glorify Me,
The jackals and the ostriches,
Because I have given waters in the
wilderness
And rivers in the desert,
To give drink to My chosen people.
The people whom I formed for Myself
Will declare My praise.” Isaiah 43:20-21

-MANKIND

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.”
Genesis 1:27

“...and crowned him with glory and honor.”
Psalm 8:4

“everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7

MANKIND'S FAILURE TO MANIFEST GOD'S GLORY

Verse 20: His glory has been seen (manifested)

²⁰ “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God** or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God** for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” Romans 1:20-23

“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23

GOD'S GLORY MADE MANIFEST IN CHRIST

Christ is God's glory made visible in mankind

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,” Hebrews 1:3

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6

GLORY IN THE CROSS

“When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,’” John 17:1

GLORY IN UNION WITH CHRIST

Why were you saved?

“To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 2:14

How should we live?

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

What is to come?

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”
1 Peter 5:4

All He has created and done in His work of redemption is to make His intrinsic glory visible.

This means He created YOU and redeemed YOU to reveal His glory.

1. Your purpose is to **display** His glory through your actions and attitudes.
2. Your purpose is to **tell of** His glory through His Word.
3. Your purpose is to **declare** His glory back to Him in worship.
4. Your purpose is to **be transformed** into His glory.

HIS GLORY IS YOUR PURPOSE

FOUNDATION 4: HIS PRESENCE IS HIS PROMISE

The second question then is: What has God promised you?

A comfortable life without suffering?
A husband and children?

Easy retirement?
Perfect health?

He promises us His presence

His presence in the Garden: Intimate Fellowship

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3:8

“He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”
Genesis 3:24

“The *cherubim* guarding Eden represent more than armed guards. They signal the beginning of God’s presence drawn back to the heavens, and a mediated presence on earth through symbols and messengers/angels.”
-Dru Johnson in *The Universal Story: Genesis 1-11*

The Tabernacle

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:34-35

The Temple

“And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.” 1 Kings 8:10-11

- His mediated presence was always one of great glory leading to fear and trembling.
 - “Woe is me!” (Isaiah 6)
 - The shepherds were terrified of the angels (Luke 2)
- His Presence was only approachable through sacrifice, the high priest, and the holy of holies.

Yet still, He promises:

“I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.” Leviticus 26:11-12

“And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Ezekiel 37:26b-27

Intimate presence: walking among, dwelling among, in their midst forever

Just as the Lord walked in the garden with Adam and Eve,
He promises to again live in open fellowship with His people.

The Promise Unfolds:

CHRIST

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“...and they shall call His name Immanuel” (meaning God with us). Matthew 1:23

HOLY SPIRIT

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” John 16:7

YOU

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

THE CHURCH

“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:22

THE NEW CREATION

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” Revelation 21:3

“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.” Revelation 21:22-23

Let's look at Revelation 21:15-26

What does God promise us now?

His presence amidst the guaranteed hardships of life:

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, **for you are with me;**
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

“When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you;**
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.” Isaiah 43:2

- Reflect back on our opening question: what do you think God has promised you?
 - Imagine having any of those things but without God’s presence.
- No desire in life will ever satisfy apart from God’s presence.

“You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
Psalm 16:11

“God’s ultimate purpose in redemptive history is to create a people to dwell in His presence, glorifying Him through numerous varied activities and enjoying Him forever. The story begins with God in eternal glory, and it ends with God and His people in eternal glory. At the center stands the cross, where God revealed His glory through His Son.”

-ESV Study Bible: Dennis Johnson