

God's Self-giving Glory – Life for Us

Thomas Robinson, *Life and More Life 3*, May 19, 2019

Philippians 2:1-11 (Translation TR)

^{2:1}Therefore, if there is any **encouragement in our Anointed King** (*Christos*), if any support that flows from **love** (*agapé*), if any **sharing of Spirit**, if any **deep feelings** and **expressions of empathy**, ²**fill up my joy**, which is that **you think** (*phronein*) **with a single focus**, having **the same love, together in soul** and **thinking the one thing** – ³not drawing your thinking from individual ambition or empty glory, but with **humility of thought** considering **each other** more important than yourselves, ⁴with each one watching out not for personal interests, but **each of the group for the interests of others**.

⁵**Think this in yourselves** as a community, which also means **in Messiah Jesus**, ⁶who, Though he was indeed **in God's form**, He didn't consider that **equality with God** as something to be exploited.

⁷Rather he **emptied himself**,
by taking **a slave's form**,
by coming to be in the **likeness of humans**.

⁸And when he was found in **shape as a human**,
he **humbled himself**
by becoming **obedient** to the **point of death**,
even **death on a cross!**

⁹Therefore, **God has both highly exalted him**
and **graced him with the name**
that is **above every name**,

¹⁰so that in **Jesus' name**
every knee will bow,
of those in **heaven**, on **earth** and **under earth**,

¹¹and **every tongue confess**
that "**Jesus Messiah is LORD**,"
revealing **God the Father's Glory**.

Exodus 40:34-5 God's Glory in the Tabernacle/Tent (Cf. 1Kings 8:11, in Solomon's Temple)

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of Yahweh/LORD filled the tent. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because ... the glory of Yahweh/LORD filled the tent.

John 1:14 God's Glory in the Word tenting among us

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and tented among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of one unique from a Father, full of grace and truth.

Isaiah 42:8 Name and Glory Cf. Exod 6:2-3

⁸I am Yahweh/LORD. This is my name. I will not give my glory to any another.

Isaiah 45:22-23 Yahweh solemnly calls:

²²"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³By myself I have sworn; ... a word that shall not return: To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess allegiance."

Habakkuk 2:14 Habakkuk echoes Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah (11:9) and other passages. For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh/LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Acts 2:36 Peter on the day of Pentecost

³⁶ "Let all the house of Israel therefore know unshakably that God has made him both LORD and Messiah (Anointed King), this Jesus whom you crucified."

1 Corinthians 8:6

⁶ But for us there is one God the Father from whom are all things and we into him, and one LORD, Jesus Messiah, through whom are all things and we through him.

Who is God? The Quest to Know God's Glory

What does "God" mean? "We seek to worship and glorify God." Sovereign, omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, glorious beyond imagination. Does that carry over to his people? Paul is in a center of emperor worship: God is real power, Augustus, Rome, empire.

Or is God exalted far from human life, distant watchmaker, maybe breaks in with miracles.

Paul's been dealing with his own chains and the Philippians' suffering. Do they belong to a glorious God? The true God? Then why chains? Why not empire? Where's God's glory when you're in prison, your family in danger. Paul models, challenges, guides.

He describes a way of life focused on a way of thinking – community in Messiah Jesus.

He leads them into a hymn about Jesus centered on the remarkable journey from "God's form" and "equality with God" to "death on a cross." But the hymn is not just about Jesus. It is about God and God's glory. Jesus' resurrection and exaltation by God is God's most emphatic and defining statement about God's identity. Jesus is graced with God's own name "LORD" (*Kurios*) the translation of *Yahweh*. God calls for scripture to be read in a new way – to understand we must see where God is going.

Jesus – The Story of Israel, Humanity, and God

Much of scripture is about revealing God's glory, name, identity. God creates all that exists plus humans in God's image, bearing something of his glory. The Exodus unfolds the revelation of God's glory: his name, deliverance from slavery, manna, Sinai, Tent of meeting. But always with an edge of Israel's brokenness. Is this only Israel's national god? No. God created and claims all that exists, all beings.

Jesus comes as a human like Adam & Eve. He takes a slave's form like Israel in Egypt. He embodies the whole human story: true humanity's rule & broken humanity' suffering and death. But he also comes as one truly "equal to God" revealing true divinity. Being true God is self-giving love that takes on the experience and hope of God's creatures. He shows God's love and intention for his human creation and what he will do in love.

God's Amazing Glory and Our Life

Jesus, God says, is Me, Yahweh, LORD, my Glory! Now truly enfolding you, broken human!

This is what the whole story is about! Take that in! Focus your mind & understanding.

Out of it flows a whole, beautiful, glorious life (even in prison). Encouragement, Love,

God's Spirit, true empathy and mercy, self-giving for others in a whole community.