

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

PROGRAM 4 (#912119)

WEEK 1 (#912325)

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SERIES: Living For God's Glory

TITLE: Program 4 – Glory Or No Glory?

THURSDAY

OPEN

If you were to look at your life, if you were to hold up a mirror and look in that mirror, I want to ask you a question. Would you see the glory of God reflected in that mirror? Would your life so reflect the glory of God that no one would say to you “Ichabod: no glory” but they would look at you and they would say, “You are so transformed; more and more I see Jesus in you”?

PART ONE

Welcome Beloved, to our series on glorifying God, holding forth His glory, manifesting His glory to the world around us, guarding His glory. When we talk about glory and we look at the Old Testament word, it is “kavodh” and “kavodh” means this: something that has weight, something that has honor, something that has respect. And so when we talk about the glory of God we’re talking about giving a revelation of who God is so that we see an exact representation of Him. That’s to bring Him glory. It’s to honor God as God. It

is to treat God as God. It is to fear God. It is to respect God. It is to obey God. And what God wants us to do is, God wants us more and more as we behold Him in the Word of God as in a mirror, to reflect His glory. Listen to this in 2 Corinthians chapter 3, verse 18. It says, **“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)** What God expects in your life and in my life is for us more and more to become like Jesus. How does that happen? Well we look at the Word of God. And looking at the Word of God we see who God is. We see His commandments. We see His character and how He behaves and how He reacts and what He likes and what He dislikes. And as then, I see that, and I begin to conform to that image of God, to those commandments of God, to those characteristics or attributes of God, like He’s kind; I should be kind. He’s merciful; I should be merciful. He’s compassionate; I should be compassionate. He’s a God of justice; I should be just. He’s a God of righteousness; I should be righteous. Then what happens, I’m changed from glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ so that when people see me they see hey, you’re just being transformed before our eyes. You’re becoming more and more like what I think a Christian should be or what I think a child of God should be or what I think a follower of Jesus Christ should be like. Well we’ve been looking at what happens when the glory of God departs. And we were looking at 1 Samuel chapter 4 and that’s where I want us to go today, to 1 Samuel chapter 4. So if you’ll just open your Bible and go to the Word of God, I want to show you the word “Ichabod”; “I-c-h-a-b-o-d.” And I want you to get this in your mind because “Ichabod” means “no glory.” And that shouldn’t be true of you. In 1 Samuel chapter 4, when Eli dies, when Hophni and Phinehas, his two sons, die because the ark of God is taken into battle and they lose the battle and the ark of God is taken by the Philistines into their camp, Phinehas’s wife has a baby, a baby boy that is born at that time when she hears about the death of her father-in-law, the death of her

husband, and the departure of the ark. And so as she is dying she gives birth to a boy and this is what she says in verse 21. **“And she called the boy Ichabod, [Ichabod] saying, ‘The glory has departed from Israel....’” (1 Samuel 4:21)** Now “Ichabod” means “no glory.” It’s gone. There’s no glory here and it says, **“...‘The glory [of God] has departed from Israel,’ because the ark of God was taken and because of her father-in-law and her husband. [And] she said, ‘The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God was taken.’” (1 Samuel 4:21-22)** We saw in Exodus chapter 40, the last chapter of that book, we saw what happened when the Ark of the Covenant was moved into the tent of meeting, or the tabernacle, then a cloud came down and filled that temple with the presence of the Lord. They saw that there was a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. And that cloud during the day and that pillar of fire showed the presence of God. When the cloud moved they were to pack up the tent and they were to move and they were to follow the cloud. When it stopped then they were to stop and they were to erect the tent. Now I want to fast forward from the days of judges from the time of Eli, who was a judge for forty years, then Samuel became a judge, then the children of Israel asked for a king. They wanted a king to rule over them like other nations. And so we have Saul becoming the first king of Israel. Then Saul is replaced by David. It’s during David’s reign that David has a desire to build a permanent temple for the Lord. But God says “David, you can’t do it. You can’t do it because you have bloody hands. You’ve been a man of war.” (See 1 Chronicles 28:3) And the whole purpose of the tabernacle; listen very carefully, the whole purpose of the tabernacle, which would become the temple, was a picture of reconciliation to God, a place of the enmity between man and God being removed, or being taken care of, or being covered by a sacrifice, by worshipping God as He really is by giving a correct estimate or opinion of God. So God told David that his son, Solomon, would build the temple. Now I want us to go to 1 Kings, and I want us to go to chapter 6, where we have an account of the building of that

temple. And there's going to be a fabulous picture here for you that is going to help you want to guard the glory of God. And to guard the glory of God is to guard your glory. Now if you haven't gone online to "preceptsforlife.com" and downloaded the study guide, you need to do it right away because you want to study along with us. And the whole purpose of this program is to teach you how to discover truth for yourself. That's what Precept Ministries International is all about. So that more and more as we're in this Book we are changed from glory to glory into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) Now 1 Kings chapter 6 and I just want to orient you. All right, verse 1. **"Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."** (1 Kings 6:1) Now I want you to see what God has to say about the house of the LORD. So go to 1 Kings chapter 6, same chapter, verse 11. **"Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon saying, 'Concerning this house [that] you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word...which I spoke to David your father.'" (1 Kings 6:11-12)** And that was the Davidic covenant, that David was always to have someone to sit on the throne. (See 2 Samuel 7:12-16) **"I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."** (1 Kings 6:13) Now when it says, "I will dwell among the sons of Israel," how did He dwell among the sons of Israel? He dwelled in the presence in the cloud of His presence. We call it the "Shekinah". That's what we came to call it. So He dwelt in the cloud of His presence, in the pillar of fire by night. (See Exodus 13:21) Now let's go to 1 Kings chapter 8, 1 Kings chapter 8 and we want to look at verse 1. They've got the temple built. And it says, **"Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring**

up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the city of David which is Zion.” (1 Kings 8:1) So they’ve got the temple built. Now they want to take the most important piece of furniture, the Ark of the Covenant. It’s the same Ark of the Covenant that departed from Israel in the time when Eli died and when Phinehas’s wife gave birth to Ichabod. No glory, because the glory of God’s presence was over the Ark of the Covenant. So they’re going to bring this Ark of the Covenant to the temple that they have just built. Now look at verse 6 and listen carefully. **“Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, of the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim.” (1 Kings 8:6)** When they built the temple, there were cherubim in the holy of holies. And it was under there that they put the Ark of the Covenant. And what’s going to happen? We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I promise that when we finish this series on the glory of God you will never look at that word in the same light. And every time you look at it, God is going to remind you: Are you glorifying Me in your body, which is Mine, because I bought you with a price and I want you to glorify Me? And God’s going to use it just as you and I go through the various experiences of life, when God is going to whisper to us by His Spirit, “Guard My glory.” We start to lose our temper. We start to lip off. We start to do something that’s wrong. “Guard My glory. Guard My glory.” We start to respond less than God would have us respond. “Guard My glory.” We start to walk in the flesh instead of walking in the Spirit. “Guard My glory.” And God’s gonna bring it home again and again and again. But for you to guard His glory, I want you to have the whole picture. I want you to see how this is such a key theme throughout the Word of God: the glory of God. So let’s go back to 1 Kings and remember the temple is built and now they are bringing up the Ark of the Covenant. They’re taking the

Ark of the Covenant into the holy of holies. There's only one piece of furniture in the holy of holies and that is the Ark of the Covenant, and it represents the very throne of God. You know you can read about this again in Hebrews 8 and 9 and 10 and it is just absolutely awesome. You can look at this diagram of the temple and you can get in your mind what is happening at this point. So they go into the holy of holies. Now in that permanent temple, there were two cherubim and they slide the Ark of the Covenant underneath it. And it says in verse 9, **"There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."** (1 Kings 8:9) So in that ark, there's just the Ten Commandments, the tables of stone. And **"It happened...when the priests came from the holy place, [that] the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 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) Now we told you how to mark "glory". Put a purple cloud around it. We told you to color the inside of that yellow for the glory of the Lord, for the light of the world. So here you want to put like a tornado kind of thing over cloud and then the glory of the LORD and all this is shown to you in your free study guide that you can get by going to "preceptsforlife.com". But then you want to mark **"...the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD."** (1 Kings 8:11) It just filled the house of the LORD, so much so, that the priests could not stay in the house. All right, now, let's go to 1 Kings chapter 9, 1 Kings chapter 9 and let's see what God is teaching us here. And then we're gonna put it all together for your life and for mine. **"Now it came about when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all that Solomon desired to do, [then] the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as He...appeared to him in Gibeon. [And] the LORD said...'I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before**

Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. As for you...,” He says **“... if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I...commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever....”**(1 Kings 9:1-5) What is He calling for? He is calling for a life of obedience. And He’s telling him that this is where His name is going to be and this is where He has consecrated this house for His name. Now watch what He says, **“But if you...,”** verse 6, **“...or your sons indeed turn away from following Me and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and [from] the house which I...consecrated for My name, [and] I will cast [them] out of My sight....And this house will become a heap of ruins....”** (1 Kings 9:6-8) So God’s presence is going to be over that house for as long as they walk in obedience to God, as long as they keep His statutes and ordinances, which are represented by the Ten Commandments that are in the Ark of the Covenant. Do you know that in the days of Ezekiel saw what was going to happen because they ceased to obey God, because they ceased to glorify God as God. I want to take you to Jeremiah again, chapter 2, and this is where we began our study, using Jeremiah chapter 2. And this is what He says in Jeremiah 2:11. **“Has a nation changed gods when they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.”** He says, **“Be appalled, O heavens...and shudder, be very desolate,”** [says] **the LORD. For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, [and they have hewn out] for themselves...broken cisterns [which cannot] hold...water.”** (Jeremiah 2:11-13) What did they do? They turned from glorifying God as God and

they went into idolatry. God spoke to them time and time again through the prophets that He sent. They did not listen. So what happens? Well in Ezekiel chapter 10, Ezekiel is a contemporary with Jeremiah. In Ezekiel chapter 10 they see the glory of God departing from the temple. It says in verse 4, **“Then the glory of [God] went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of [God].” (Ezekiel 10:4)** And then you drop down to verse 18. **“Then the glory of [God] departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.” (Ezekiel 10:18)** And what you see is, you see the glory of God departing. It departs from the temple where it's over the Ark of the Covenant and then it goes to the corner of the temple and then in Ezekiel 11, verse 23 **“The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.” (Ezekiel 11:23)** Ichabod! There was no glory anymore over the temple. Why? Because the children of Israel had not obeyed God. They had changed their glory for that which does not profit. O, Precious Ones, listen to me: When you don't live for God, when you don't steep yourself in the Word of God and obey that Word, then the glory of God is diminished from you and people don't see it. That's what happened in those days. You don't want it to happen today.