

Chapter 48

Here Comes the Glory of the Lord: The Majesty of God's Presence



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Forty Days of Spiritual Renewal: A Guided Devotional Journey

Chapter 48: Here Comes the Glory of the Lord: The Majesty of God's Presence

Preface

In this devotional, we embark on a spiritual journey to explore and embrace the concept of God's glory as it unfolds in the scriptures. The Glory of God, a theme that has captivated believers throughout the ages, is not just a theological concept but a living experience that transforms lives. These pages delve into biblical passages highlighting the majesty, beauty, and transformative power of God's glory. From the Old Testament revelations to the New Testament fulfillment in Jesus Christ, we seek to understand how the glory of God impacts our lives today.

Introduction

Welcome to "Here Comes the Glory of the Lord," a devotional guide designed to deepen your understanding and appreciation of God's glory. As we stand at the threshold of 2024, we are reminded that while years come and go, the glory of God remains eternal, unchanging, and ever-present.

This devotional is anchored in Psalm 24, which magnificently portrays God's sovereignty over the Earth and invites us to consider who is worthy to stand in His holy place. As we traverse through various scriptures, we will see how the glory of God has been revealed from the beginning of time and how it continues to be revealed in our lives today.

Each section of this devotional is designed to provide insight into the biblical text and offer practical applications and reflections relevant to our contemporary setting. Whether you seek a renewed sense of awe in your faith journey or are curious about the biblical concept of God's glory, this devotional aims to guide, inspire, and challenge you.

As we journey through these pages, may our hearts be open to the revelations of God's glory, and may our lives reflect His radiant splendor in this year and beyond.

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Scriptures and Reflections

Exodus 33:18-23:

- ○ **Scripture:** Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence."
- **Reflection:** This passage reflects the deep intimacy and boldness in Moses' relationship with God. It teaches us about the nature of God's glory – closely tied to His goodness and name, revealing His character. As believers, we are invited to seek and experience God's glory, manifested in His goodness and presence.

Psalm 19:1:

- ○ **Scripture:** "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
- **Reflection:** This verse speaks of the natural world as a testimony to God's glory. The vastness and beauty of the universe reflect the magnificence of the Creator. It invites us to acknowledge and worship God in nature's everyday miracles.

Isaiah 6:3:

- ○ **Scripture:** They called one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."
- **Reflection:** This powerful scene from Isaiah's vision reveals that the whole Earth is filled with God's glory. The repetition of "holy" emphasizes the perfection and otherness of God. This verse calls us to recognize God's glory in all creation and to revere His holiness.

John 1:14:

- ○ **Scripture:** "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- **Reflection:** The incarnation is a profound manifestation of God's glory. Jesus, as the Word made flesh, embodies the divine glory, bringing it into the human experience. This verse invites us to see God's glory in Jesus – His life, teachings, death, and resurrection, and to receive the grace and truth He offers.

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2 Corinthians 3:18:

- ○ **Scripture:** "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
 - **Reflection:** This verse speaks to the transformative effect of beholding God's glory. As Christians, we are becoming more like Christ, reflecting His glory more and more. This transformation is a work of the Spirit, accomplished as we focus on the Lord and His glory.

Hebrews 1:3:

- ○ **Scripture:** "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."
 - **Reflection:** Jesus is described as the radiance of God's glory, highlighting His divine nature and role in the universe. This verse reassures us of the deity of Christ, His power, and authority. In Jesus, we see the full manifestation of God's nature and glory.

Psalms 24:7-10:

- ○ **Scripture:** "Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."
 - **Reflection:** This Psalm is a call to welcome the presence of God. It's a symbolic invitation to open every area of our lives to God's rule and reign. The "King of Glory" coming in signifies God taking His rightful place in our hearts and circumstances.

Romans 8:18:

- ○ **Scripture:** "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."
 - **Reflection:** Paul offers a perspective of hope. The future glory that believers will share in Christ far outweighs any current hardships. This verse encourages us to endure, keeping our eyes on the eternal glory that awaits us in Christ.

Revelation 21:23:

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- ○ **Scripture:** "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."
- **Reflection:** This vision of the New Jerusalem symbolizes the ultimate fulfillment of God's glory. In God's eternal kingdom, His glory is the source of all light, eliminating the need for natural light sources. It points us toward the ultimate hope, where God's presence will be fully and permanently experienced.

Psalm 29:3:

- **Scripture:** "The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters."
- **Reflection:** This verse from Psalm 29 emphasizes the mighty and majestic voice of the Lord, likening it to thunder over great waters. It vividly depicts God's authority and strength as master over nature. This imagery of thunder, a powerful and awe-inspiring force, is a metaphor for the impact of God's voice and presence in our lives. Just as thunder commands attention and respect, so does the voice of the Lord. This passage calls us to listen attentively to God's voice, respect His commands, and be in awe of His majestic power that can create and command the natural world.

Psalm 24:

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- **Verses 1-2:** "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Reflection: These opening verses of Psalm 24 set the stage by affirming God's ownership and sovereignty over the entire earth. It reminds us that everything we see, including ourselves, belongs to God. This acknowledgment forms the foundation for understanding stewardship and reverence for God.

- **Verses 3-4:** "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

Reflection: These verses pose a rhetorical question about who is worthy to be in God's presence. The answer focuses on purity, integrity, and faithfulness. This challenges us to examine our lives, encouraging us to live in righteousness and sincerity in our relationship with God.

- **Verses 5-6:** "They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Reflection: Here, the psalmist speaks of the blessings and vindication for those who earnestly seek God. It's a promise of reward, not just in material terms, but in the spiritual richness of knowing and being known by God.

- **Verses 7-10:** "Lift up your heads, you gate; be lifted up, your ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord is strong and mighty; the Lord is mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gate; lift them up, your ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of Glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of Glory.

Reflection: These closing verses of Psalm 24 are a triumphant call for the gates (symbolizing our hearts and communities) to open wide for the King of glory. The repeated questions and answers emphasize the might and power of the Lord. This passage invites us to welcome God's rule in every aspect of our lives, recognizing His supreme power and authority.

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Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

- **Reflection: This scripture is a profound reminder of God's infinite power and grace, surpassing our understanding and expectations. It reassures us that our human imagination or requests do not limit God's capabilities. The verse also emphasizes the significance of God's power actively working within us, suggesting that we are vessels through which His extraordinary works are manifested. It encourages humility and trust in God's greater plans, offering comfort, especially when our abilities seem insufficient. This scripture calls for a deepened faith in the divine, acknowledging that we can witness and be part of His immeasurable and extraordinary works with God's power within us.**

Decrees for Here Comes the Glory of the Lord

I commit with unyielding faith and boldness to fully embrace the Majesty of God's Presence, as revealed in Psalm 24 and resonating throughout His Word. This year, I recognize that the Earth and all within it belong to the Lord. In awe, I marvel at His creation, as proclaimed in Psalm 19:1. I declare that my life will mirror the eternal splendor of His glory as the heavens showcase His craftsmanship.

Echoing the words of Isaiah 6:3, I acknowledge that the Earth is filled with His glory. I aim to live in profound reverence of His holiness and magnificence. Following the example of John 1:14, I embrace the glory of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, allowing His grace and truth to transform my existence profoundly.

As stated in 2 Corinthians 3:18, I decree that by gazing upon the Lord's glory, I am being metamorphosed into His likeness, advancing in spiritual maturity and increasingly mirroring His character. In concordance with Hebrews 1:3, I affirm that Jesus Christ manifests God's glory and is my sustainer.

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Inspired by Psalm 24:7-10, I open my heart's gates to the King of Glory, inviting His sovereign dominion over every facet of my life. Embracing the teachings of Romans 8:18, I understand that current sufferings are insignificant compared to the glory to be revealed in me, and I cling to hope and endurance.

I eagerly anticipate the ultimate realization of God's presence, as depicted in Revelation 21:23, where His glory will be the perpetual light. With reverence, I listen to the voice of the Lord, as majestic as thunder over great waters, as described in Psalm 29:3, committing to follow His direction and wisdom.

This year marks a journey into a deeper comprehension and appreciation of the Majesty of God's Presence. I open myself to the transformative impact of His glory, prepared to observe His works within and around me, living a life that emanates His grace, truth, and love. Amen.

This renewed commitment integrates the teachings of these scriptures into a comprehensive spiritual pledge, drawing me into a more profound encounter with God's presence and glory in every aspect of life.

Ephesians 3:20 Decree

"I decree, in alignment with the divine truth of Ephesians 3:20, that I am a recipient of God's immeasurable blessings and capabilities. I affirm that the Lord, in His omnipotence, is able to do far beyond all that I ask or imagine, according to His power at work within me.

I embrace this promise with unwavering faith, acknowledging that God's potential and power in my life transcend my understanding and expectations. I trust in His supernatural ability to manifest greatness and miracles beyond my highest hopes and deepest prayers.

I commit to living in a state of expectancy and openness, allowing God to work through me in ways that showcase His glory and might. As I walk in faith and surrender, I am a living testament to His boundless grace and power.

My limitations or doubts do not confine God's work in me. Instead, He operates in a realm of divine possibility, bringing forth extraordinary and transformative outcomes.

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With this decree, I affirm my role as a vessel for His majestic works, ready to be used for His purposes. I stand in awe of His power actively at work within me, shaping my life and destiny with His glorious plan.

In this acknowledgment, I pledge to seek His will, remain in His presence, and reflect His love and power to the world around me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This decree is a powerful affirmation of faith in God's limitless power and a commitment to being an instrument of His divine purpose, inspired by the profound message of Ephesians 3:20.

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1. Exodus 33:18-23:Decree

: "I decree that, like Moses, I seek the Lord's glory in my life, confident in His goodness and presence surrounding me. I am open to profoundly experiencing God's character and nature."

2. Psalm 19:1:Decree

: "I declare that the glory of God is evident in all of His creation. Observing the world around me, I am constantly reminded of His magnificent artistry and power."

3. Isaiah 6:3:Decree

: "I affirm that the whole Earth is full of God's glory. I commit to recognizing and honoring His holiness in every aspect of my life and the world around me."

4. John 1:14:Decree

: "I acknowledge and receive the glory of God revealed through Jesus Christ. His grace and truth guide my life, and His presence transforms me."

5. 2 Corinthians 3:18:Decree

: "I decree that as I contemplate the Lord's glory, I am being transformed into His image. Each day, His glory in me increases, reflecting His Spirit and character."

6. Hebrews 1:3:Decree

: "I declare that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Knowing He sustains all things, I find strength and assurance in Him."

7. Psalm 24:7-10:Decree

: "I open the gates of my heart to the King of Glory. I welcome God's rule and reign in every area of my life, acknowledging His power and majesty."

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8. Romans 8:18:Decree

: "I affirm that the future glory God has for me far outweighs my current struggles. I am filled with hope and endurance, looking forward to the glory that will be revealed in me."

9. Revelation 21:23:Decree

: "I decree that the glory of God is my ultimate light and guide. In His eternal kingdom, I will dwell in His perfect presence, where His glory outshines all else."

10. Psalm 29:3:Decree

: "I recognize the powerful voice of the Lord over all creation. I commit to listening and responding to His majestic and authoritative voice."

Call to Action

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1. Daily Reflection on Scripture:

- Commit to reading and meditating on scripture daily. Start with the passages explored in this devotional and expand to others that speak of God's glory and majesty.
- Keep a journal to record insights, prayers, and reflections.

2. Intentional Prayer and Worship:

- Set aside dedicated time for prayer and worship, acknowledging God's glory in your life.
- Incorporate praise and gratitude in your prayers, recognizing the manifestations of God's glory around you.

3. Living a Life of Integrity:

Strive to live with clean hands and a pure heart, as Psalm 24 suggests. This involves being honest, ethical, and morally upright, personally and professionally.

4. Community Engagement:

- Actively participate in your faith community. Share insights from your devotional journey and encourage others in their spiritual growth.
- Engage in acts of service and love, reflecting the glory of God through kindness and compassion.

5. Witnessing and Sharing Your Faith:

- Be open to sharing your faith journey and experiences of God's glory with others, offering hope and inspiration.
- Use your personal testimony to witness the transforming power of God's glory.

6. Continuous Learning and Growth:

- Regularly study through books, sermons, or group studies to deepen your understanding of God's Word and His glory.
- Attend workshops, conferences, or online courses to grow your spiritual knowledge and practice.

7. Mindfulness and Presence:

Practice mindfulness daily, being present in the moment and conscious of God's presence and glory in the ordinary.

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8. Regular Review and Accountability:

Periodically review your progress in these areas. Having a spiritual mentor or accountability partner with whom you can share and discuss your journey can be helpful.

Here Comes the Glory of the Lord

As we draw this devotional to a close, let us hold fast to the profound truths we have encountered. The journey through the scriptures, exploring the Majesty of God's Presence, is not merely for a season but a lifelong pursuit that continually shapes and molds us.

In 2024, as in all years, the world will swirl with its rhythms and tides. There will be moments of joy and triumph, as well as times of challenge and uncertainty. Yet, God's unchanging glory and presence will be constant amidst this ebb and flow. It is in Him that we find our anchor, our compass, and our guiding light.

As you step forward from this devotional experience, carry the lessons and insights you have gained. Let them be like seeds planted in the fertile soil of your heart, growing and bearing fruit in every area of your life. Remember, embracing God's glory is not confined to moments of quiet contemplation. Still, it is also found in actively living out of your faith.

Encounter God in the mundane as well as the miraculous. See His hand at work in the smile of a stranger, the beauty of a sunset, the laughter of a child. Be a vessel of His love and grace in your home, workplace, community, and beyond. In every act of kindness, every Word of truth, and every stand for justice, you reflect the radiance of His glory.

Let your journey be marked by continuous growth and learning. Embrace opportunities to deepen your understanding of the Scriptures and to strengthen your relationship with God. Share your journey with others, for in the sharing, your experience is enriched and deepened.

And as you walk this path, remember that you are never alone. The Lord walks with you, His Spirit guides you, and the community of believers stands beside you. Together, we are a tapestry of faith, woven with threads of individual stories, united in the grand narrative of God's redemptive plan.

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As this devotional concludes, it is not an ending but a sending forth. Go into the world with your heart attuned to God's presence. Live boldly, love generously, and earnestly seek the manifestation of God's glory in all things.

"Now to him who can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power within us, to him be glory in the church and Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship be with you today and always. Amen.

Go forth in faith, for here comes the glory of the Lord today, in 2024, and beyond!

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Chapter 48: God Will Not Be Mocked: A Journey through Steadfast Belief and Righteous Living

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