

2 Corinthians 3.7-18

“Ever Increasing Glory”

Many of us been in Churches some Argue > OLD Way is ONLY Way

OLD Covenant - UNILATERAL Agreement – from time of Moses to Paul

Regulated Every Aspect of Israel’s Social, Physical, Civil, and Religious Lives

Given by God of GLORY -- Word GLORY 5 X’s // GLORIFY 2 X’s

OLD Covenant was LIFTED HIGH – GLORIOUS and GRACIOUS

NEW Covenant Lifted HIGHER – GREATER GRACE – ENDLESS GLORY

Paul: GOD Announced OLD Way gotta GO...

1. Deadly Glory

a. Perfection Expected

v. 7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone...

RABBI’s would be OFFENDED by Paul’s words about MOSAIC Covenant

Ministry of DEATH? --- NO, FOR THEM IT WAS LIFE --- A Way of LIFE

Moses: “For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 32.47

The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Isaiah 42.21

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law

Deuteronomy 4.7,8

GOD extended SINCERE Offer to anyone who Could KEEP Law FULLY

You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; *if a person does them, he shall live by them*: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 18.4,5

BIG PROBLEM is that Little word IF – Can we REALLY KEEP God’s Law?

LAW was Gracious, Glorious, Good >> Israel was GUILTY, Guilty, Guilty
v. 9 there was glory in the ministry of condemnation,

The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin,
seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it
killed me. Romans 7.10,11

by works of the law no one will be justified Galatians 2.16

LAW was NEVER intended to SAVE > SANCTIFY those ALREADY Saved
LAW like MIRROR to show DIRTY Faces > NOT Able to WASH our Faces

People WRONGLY think that OT Believers SAVED by KEEPING the LAW
ONLY Salvation in ANY PART of BIBLE > By Grace Alone thru FAITH Alone

b. Protection Extended

Our TEXT today is Paul's INSPIRED Commentary on EXODUS 32-34

God makes MOSES an Offer many Pastors would give RIGHT ARM For ---

“I will KILL all Members of CONGREGATION --- Do great things for You!”

Moses NOT building PERSONAL Empire “Prophet Moses Ministries, INC”

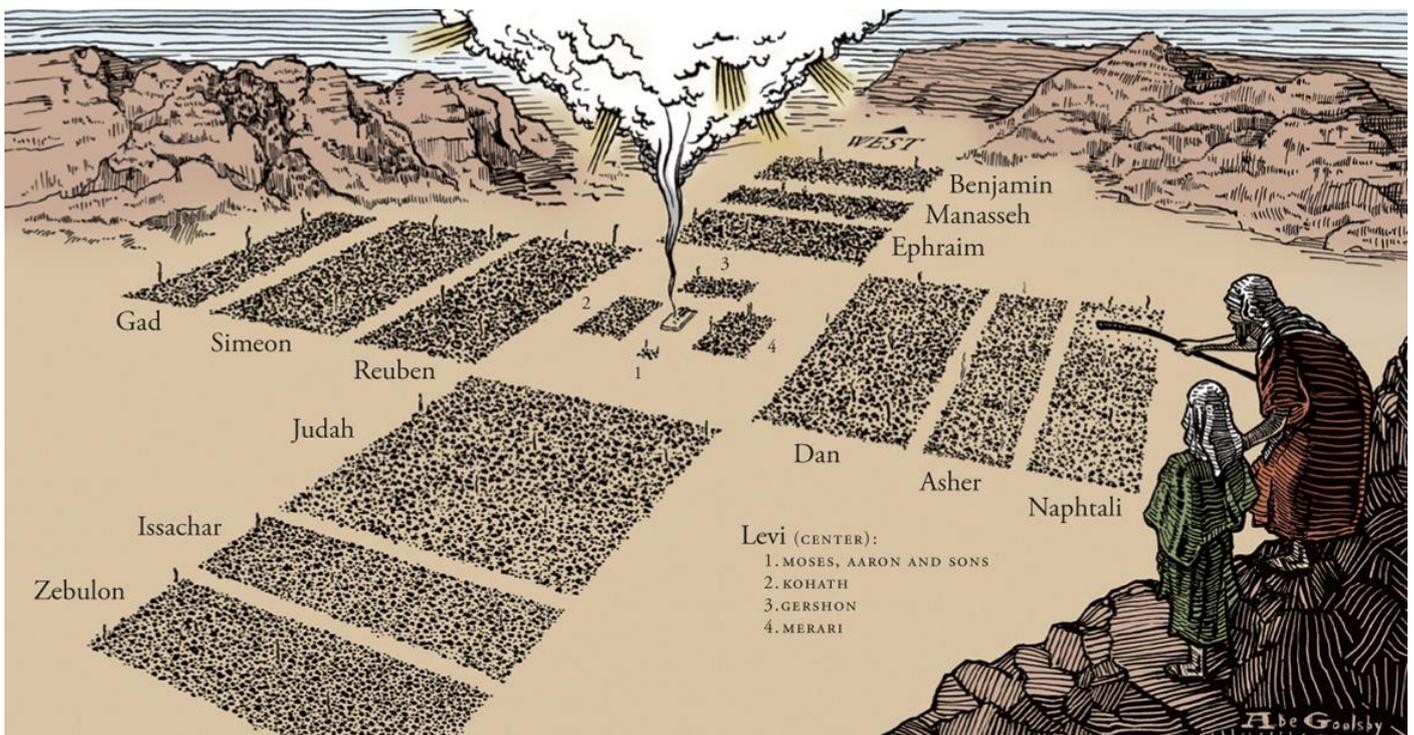
PLEADS with God for Glory of his Name among ENEMIES

And GOOD of his UNDESERVING PEOPLE

And he (Moses) said to him (God), “If your presence will not go with me, do not
bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your
sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I
and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” And the Lord
said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have
found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Please show me
your glory.” Exodus 33.15-18

Moses was SO CAPTIVATED by WONDER of GRACIOUS God
 PRAYS prayer that DELIGHTED God but was DIFFICULT to ANSWER

GLORY of God would SCORCH SINNERS like Atomic Bomb over Landscape
 Glory of GOD like Piercing LASER his Holiness, Purity, Power, Righteousness
 And he (God) said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will
 proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will
 be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said,
 “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” And the Lord said,
 “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my
 glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my
 hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see
 my back, but my face shall not be seen.” Exodus 33.19-23



GOD is in MIDST of his PEOPLE / but SEPARATED from his PEOPLE
 His TENT is Right in MIDDLE of their TENTS of 12 Tribes of ISRAEL
 But God’s Tent Separated by COURTYARDS and thick CURTAINS
 God is CONSUMING FIRE – SINNERS cannot ABIDE in his PRESENCE!

“You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong”
Habakkuk 1.13

As the LORD gave his LAW on Mt. SINAI...

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Exodus 20.18,19

Priest enters Holy Place > Rope around Leg > Died pull Out without Going In

v. 7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory

SIMILARLY Moses was in MIDST of People as GOD’S Covenant Messenger
But MORE he dwelt in God’s Presence, more he was TRANSFORMED by God
REFLECTED Radiant GLORY of God > also DANGEROUS for the SINFUL
VEIL was NOT because Glory was FADING, because it was FATAL

v. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory

VEIL was NOT MAGIC > Trying to HIDE that GLORY was LEAKING Slowly
Veil was MERCY > CONSUMING FIRE DEADLY for the GUILTY!

Glory of God on Moses’ Face would have Destroyed Stiff-Necked Sinners

Precisely BECAUSE Glory was NOT Fading what made it so FEARSOME!

c. Punishment Enacted

VEIL was NOT INTELLECTUAL but MORAL --- Heart Veil, not Head Veil

NOT that ISRAEL COULD NOT Understand and FOLLOW

SAD Fact is they WOULD NOT Understand > Rebelled would NOT REPENT

History of ISRAEL is SAD LEGACY of COVENANT BREAKING

v. 9 there was glory in the ministry of condemnation...

As Paul thinks of VEIL > Perhaps mind goes to...

VEIL that Covers the SCROLL of TORAH in the Jewish SYNAGOGUE

VEIL over their HEADS during SYNAGOGUE PRAYERS

Even TODAY Every Sabbath in Synagogue > Reading from Law & Prophets

vs. 14,15 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.

v. 14 – 1st time in all Literature ‘OLD Covenant

VEIL REMAINS over their EYES when the OLD COVENANT is READ

It remains their AUTHORITY but in CHRIST it has been ABOLISHED

Was AIYE – NURSEMAID – Pre-School Teacher >>> to LEAD to CHRIST

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. John 1.11

Paul is not dismissing the law or Moses, but is addressing a misreading of the Law that focused solely on mechanical obedience – which easily became hypocritical. Any relationship to the law that does not touch the heart leads to death.
Issiaka Coulibaly, Cote d’Ivoire

Less than 2 Decades after Paul wrote > Jewish TEMPLE DESTROYED 70 AD
Not One Stone left on Another – SHAMEFUL RUBBLE > GLORY Departed!

2. Life-Giving Glory

NOT that Paul has GREATER Quality of GLORY than MOSES

GREATER GRACE > SAVED by Glory NOT SLAIN by GLORY

Old Covenant still preached in Synagogues, NEW Covenant preached in SPIRIT

NEW Covenant becomes NEW LOCUS of God's GLORY for the NATIONS

v. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

Paul ARGUES from the LESSER to the GREATER – Veiled > Open, Bold

Death > Life / Condemnation > Righteousness / Temporary > Permanent

Paul concludes that if the ministry that was vanishing was ushered in with great pomp and circumstance, how much more spectacular must be the ministry that lasts.

Linda Belleville

Ministry of SPIRIT is more Splendid than Ministry of DEATH

Ministry of RIGHTEOUSNESS far Exceeds Ministry of CONDEMNATION

PERMANENT Ministry is More GLORIOUS than that which comes to an END

a. Righteousness – Law and Gospel

vs. 9,10 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it.

RIGHTEOUSNESS is CONTRASTED with CONDEMNATION

Condemned PENALTY for SIN / DECLARED Righteous One Takes ur Penalty

Righteousness NOT AN ETHICAL Reference > LEGAL STATUS Justification

Not about SANCTIFICATION but about STANDING before HOLY GOD

The office of the law is to show us the disease in such a way that it shows us no hope of a cure; whereas the office of the gospel is to bring a remedy to those who are past hope. For the law, since it leaves man to himself, necessarily condemns him to death; whereas the gospel, by bringing him to Christ, opens the gate of life.

John Calvin

NOW Presence of God's GLORY is Not for Condemnation but SALVATION
 Old Covenant brought CONVICTION – New Covenant gives CONFIDENCE
 Old Covenant brought SHAME – New Covenant SHOUTS Hallelujah in Jesus

b. Relationship – God and His People

Paul argues for PROMINENCE of the NEW COVENANT

ALSO for the POSITION that HE had as MESSENGER of NEW Covenant

v. 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

v. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

The issue at stake is not a contrast between the law and the gospel understood as two qualitatively distinct means of salvation. It is neither the law nor the gospel itself that kills or makes alive, *but the absence of presence of the Spirit.*

Scott J. Hafemann

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8.5,6

MOSES turned to YAHWEH to REMOVE his VEIL

ADVENT of NEW Covenant HOLY SPIRIT opens eyes of God's People in X

NO SINNER – Jew or Gentile – can TURN to God without the HOLY SPIRIT

v. 18 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.

PAUL gave STRAIGHT – UNVARNISHED TRUTH – DIRECT, CLEAR

v. 12 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold

Christian: CERTAIN Hope – SOLID Hope in what we KNOW WILL Happen

MOSES & ELIJAH appeared before Disciples on Mt. of TRANSFIGURATION

But it was ONLY Jesus who was TRANSFIGURED with Glorious Radiance

Father's voice said to JESUS "This is my BELOVED SON...HEAR HIM!"

When the CLOUD lifted ONLY JESUS was standing before the Disciples

Soon AFTER THAT Jesus prayed...

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

John 17.5

Through the ministry of the word of God these Gentile Corinthians have become members of a new covenant of God's people...a new phase of one great covenant of God with his people...the ancient Hebrews are now their forefathers...Today Christians of whatever race or denomination should see themselves as part of this world-wide people of God

Paul Barnett

c. Radiance – Lord and Spirit

I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh Ezekiel 11.19

vs. 17,18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 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.

3rd Member of TRINITY takes STAGE > Sent to Earth by RISEN JESUS

To make WORDS of JESUS known to INCREASINGLY Reveal His GLORY

OBJECTIVE POSITION of Being IN Christ – Inseparably CONNECTED to
SUBJECTIVE POWER of Being FILLED with HOLY SPIRIT

The design of the gospel is that the image of God, which has been defaced by sin, may be repaired with us...the progress of this restoration is continuous through the whole of life, because it is little by little that God causes His glory to shine forth in us.

John Calvin

Jesus ministered on EARTH in the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus now in Heaven ministers on EARTH by Power / Presence of Holy Spirit

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 1 Corinthians 15.45

“through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 1.4

The Lord Jesus is now Lord of the Spirit.

Now in the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus has become inseparably identified with the Holy Spirit.

It is an economic (what God does) union not an ontological (who God is) union.

The three members of the Godhead remain distinct.

The old covenant is now ended, not by a merely Jewish Jesus, a Jesus of the flesh, but by a Jesus who is glorified in heaven and who pours out the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who trust in Him. Paul Barnett

MINISTRY of Moses VEILED > Looking for Life in Old Covenant BLINDED

Ministry of PAUL was OPEN > Look for Life in NEW C. be BORN AGAIN

Moses FAITHFUL IN God’s House – Jesus God’s SON OVER the House

Understand BIBLE? FILLED w/ SPIRIT! Filled w/ Spirit? Understand BIBLE!

As gospel preachers do their job of reflecting the knowledge of God to those around them, transformation occurs. Linda Belleville

This CHURCH – You and Me – This Season – This City for this HOUR

Like COLORED Glass in God’s Kaleidoscope > He turns to Disperse GLORY

TODAY we in this Church join w Christians AROUND the World

Begin our HOLY WEEK > Remember and REJOICE what Happened this Week
2000 yrs ago – WORLD Changed Forever – LIVES Changed for ETERNITY
FULLNESS of GLORY came with FULLNESS of GRACE

Day we call PALM SUNDAY > Remembered around WORLD Today

Only PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION > Jesus ALLOWED in Earthly Ministry
One of FEW INCIDENTS Reported in ALL FOUR GOSPELS

ROMAN Armies > Babylonians before > Rode into Jerusalem WAR HORSES
They came to CONQUER and in Every Way they LOOKED THE PART

There is a GENTLENESS to Jesus SOVEREIGN Kingdom

Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, “Do not be afraid, O
Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

John 12.14,15

Solomon had 12,000 Horses > Now ONE GREATER than Solomon HERE

Zechariah is QUOTING ROYAL PSALM > KING, Greater than SOLOMON

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 72.8

SOVEREIGN RULE > Held in HIS HAND > Hand soon NAILED TO CROSS

2019 > Believers in EVERY NATION > Waving PALMS to King Jesus

Over ONE BILLION > Men, Women, Boys, Girls FOLLOW this KING

STILL 5 billion people who yet need to hear about Jesus and how to know Him

964 people groups yet to be engaged and reached for Christ.

SAFETY of Old Covenant Members insured by VEILS, CURTAINS, Courtyards
SALVATION of New Covenant DECLARED by VEIL Torn > Top to Bottom

And DIVIDING Wall of HOSTILITY being TORN DOWN

ENEMIES being Reconciled and Together lifted up to God for REDEMPTION

Paul has BOLD HOPE: VEIL Lifted > GAZE into Face of God in JESUS 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

Moses got PASSING Glimpse of GLORY from the Back Side of GOD

We behold GLORY in Face of Jesus Christ who is With Us Always >>

To the ENDS of the EARTH to the END of the AGE

Exodus 34.²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3.⁷Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.¹⁰Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory. ¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸And 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.