

GLORIFICATION

1. Definition.

- a. Glory is beauty, honour, majesty, mana, radiance, splendour, weight.
- b. Key biblical words.
 - (1) כְּבוֹד: heaviness, burden...riches...reputation, importance...glory, splendour... distinction, honour (*HALOT*, 457).
 - (2) הֵדוּד: weight, power, splendour, majesty (*HALOT*, 241).
 - (3) הִדְדָּר: adornment, splendour (*HALOT*, 240).
 - (4) צִבְיָה: ornament, splendour (*HALOT*, 997-98).
- c. Antonym.
 - (1) חִפּוּר: to be ashamed (*HALOT* 340).
 - (2) Glory is the opposite of shame.
 - (a) **Ps 34:5** 5 Those who look to [Yahweh] are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed (חִפּוּר).
 - (3) God's practice is to change man's glory into shame.
 - (a) **Hos 4:7** 7 The more [Israel] increased, the more they sinned against me. I will change their glory (כְּבוֹד) into shame.

2. God's Glory.

- a. See *God's Glory*.

3. Man's Glory.

- a. See *Image of God*.
- b. God has crowned humanity with glory and honour.
 - (1) **Ps 8:3-5** 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory (כְּבוֹד) and honour (הִדְדָּר).
- c. Men are the glory of God, and women are the glory of men.
 - (1) **1 Co 11:7** 7 ...A man ought not to cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.
- d. Heavenly glory differs from earthly glory.
 - (1) **1 Co 15:39-40** 39 ...Not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.
- e. We live in a society of possible gods and goddesses.
 - (1) "It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics.

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”¹

- f. Special Cases.
- (1) Israel’s priest was to be glorified.
 - (a) **Ex 28:2** 2 ... You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory (כְּבוֹד) and for beauty (תְּפִאָּרֶת).
 - (2) Israel’s king was to be glorified.
 - (a) **Ps 21:3-6** 3 For you meet [the king] with rich blessings. You set a crown of fine gold upon his head. 4 He [David] asked life of you. You gave it to him, length of days forever and ever. 5 His glory (כְּבוֹד) is great through your salvation (יְשׁוּעָה). Splendour and majesty you bestow on him. 6 For you make him most blessed forever. You make him glad with the joy of your presence.
 - (3) Elderly men and women are to be glorified.
 - (a) **Pr 16:31** 31 Gray hair is a crown of glory. It is gained in a righteous life.

4. The World’s Glory.

- a. The kingdoms of the world have a certain glory.
 - (1) **Mt 4:8** 8 ... The devil took [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (δόξα).²
- b. The glory of the kingdoms of the world have been delivered to the devil. He offered this glory to Jesus, but Jesus refused.
 - (1) **Lk 4:5-6** 5 ... The devil took [Jesus] up, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, To you I will give all this authority (ἐξουσία) and their glory (δόξα), for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I desire.
- c. God will defile the pride of man’s glory.
 - (1) **Is 23:9** 9 Yahweh of hosts has purposed it, to defile the pompous pride of all glory, to dishonour all the honoured of the earth.
- d. We are not to build for the glory of our own majesty.
 - (1) **Da 4:30** 30 ... The king [Nebuchadnezzar] answered and said, Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?
- e. Utter shame will come upon the glory of Babylon.
 - (1) **Hab 2:16** 16 You will have your fill of shame instead of glory (כְּבוֹד). Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in Yahweh’s right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory (כְּבוֹד)!
- f. Those who walk as enemies of the cross glory in what will be come their shame.
 - (1) **Php 3:19** 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- g. All the glory of flesh is like the flower of grass.

¹ C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*.

² This is the first usage of δόξα in the New Testament.

(1) **1 Pe 1:24** 24 ...All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.

5. Israel's Glory.

a. God's glory will be seen upon Israel.

(1) **Is 60:1-2** 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you [Israel]. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But Yahweh will arise upon you, and his glory (פְּבוֹד) will be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

b. God will be a crown of glory to the remnant of Israel.

(1) **Is 28:5** 5 In that day Yahweh of hosts will be a crown of glory (יְצָרִי), and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people....

c. In the future, God will fill the Jerusalem temple with glory.

(1) **Hag 2:7-9** 7 ...I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says Yahweh of hosts. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares Yahweh of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says Yahweh of hosts.

d. To the Jews belongs a certain glory.

(1) **Ro 9:4** 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory (δόξα), the covenants, the giving of the Torah, the worship, and the promises.

6. Jesus' Glory.

a. Jesus' ministry of righteousness has far surpassed in glory Moses' ministry of death.

(1) **2 Co 3:7-18** 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, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

b. At the transfiguration, Jesus gave Peter, James, and John a preview of his glory.

(1) **Lk 9:32** 32 Now Peter and those who were with [Jesus] were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

c. Jesus was glorified through his death, resurrection, and ascension.

(1) **Jn 12:23** 23 ...Jesus answered them, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

d. Jesus has already entered his heavenly glory.

(1) **Lk 24:26** 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

e. Jesus will come in the glory of the Father.

(1) **Mk 8:38** 38 ...Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

- f. In the new world, Jesus will sit on a throne of glory.
 - (1) **Mt 19:28** 28 Jesus said to [the disciples], Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his throne of glory (δόξα), you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- g. Jesus will sit in his glory.
 - (1) **Mk 10:37** 37 ...[James and John] said to him, Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.
- h. Jesus was taken up in glory.
 - (1) **1 Ti 3:16** 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

7. The Pursuit of Glory.

- a. We are to seek the glory that comes from God.
 - (1) **Jn 5:44** 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
- b. We are to love the glory that comes from God.
 - (1) **Jn 12:42-43** 42 ...Many even of the [Jewish] authorities believed in [Jesus], but for fear of the Pharisees they did not [publicly] confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue. 43 For they loved the glory (δόξα) that comes from man more than the glory (δόξα) that comes from God.

8. The Believer's Present Glory.

- a. Jesus gave his glory to his disciples, and by inference, to us.
 - (1) **Jn 17:22** 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one....
- b. Every person who is justified, will also be glorified.
 - (1) **Ro 8:30** 30 And those whom [God] predetermined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified (δοξάζω, aor.).
 - (a) Our glorification is guaranteed.
- c. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit to guarantee our glorification.
 - (1) **Ro 8:23** 23 ...Not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 - (2) **2 Co 5:4-5** 4 ...While we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
- d. Based on foreknowledge, God has pre-prepared every believer for glory.
 - (1) **Ro 9:23** 23 ...In order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory....
- e. Before the ages, God decreed a secret and hidden Church age wisdom for our glory.
 - (1) **1 Co 2:7** 7 ...We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

- f. As we behold Jesus' glory, we are being transformed from one degree of glory to another.
 - (1) **2 Co 3:18** 18 ... We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord [Jesus], are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- g. Jesus in us is the basis of our confident expectation that we will experience glory.
 - (1) **Col 1:27** 27 To [the saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory.
- h. God calls us into his own glory.
 - (1) **1 Th 2:12** 12 ... We exhorted each one of you, encouraged you, and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- i. God has called us through the gospel so that we may obtain the glory of Jesus.
 - (1) **2 Th 2:14** 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Messiah.
- j. Jesus is bringing many sons and daughters to glory.
 - (1) **Heb 2:9-10** 9 ... We see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons [and daughters] to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.
- k. God has called us into his eternal glory in Jesus.
 - (1) **1 Pe 5:10** 10 ... After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Messiah, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
- l. God has called us to his own glory and excellence.
 - (1) **2 Pe 1:3** 3 [God's] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence....

9. Suffering and Glory.

- a. If we co-suffer with Jesus, we will be co-glorified with him.
 - (1) **Ro 8:16-17** 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Messiah, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be co-glorified (συνδοξάζω) with him.
- b. Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed to us.
 - (1) **Ro 8:18** 18 For I [Paul] consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory (δόξα) that is to be revealed to us.
- c. Our momentary affliction prepares for us an eternal and incomparable weight of glory.
 - (1) **2 Co 4:17-18** 17 ... This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are

seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- d. When we are insulted for Jesus, the Spirit of glory rests on us.
 - (1) **1 Pe 4:14** 14 If you are insulted for the name of Messiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- e. God has called us into his eternal glory in Jesus.
 - (1) **1 Pe 5:10** 10 ...After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Messiah, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

10. The Believer's Future Glory.

- a. After this life, God will receive believers to glory.
 - (1) **Ps 73:24** 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory (כְּבוֹד).
- b. Some shall shine like the brightness of the sky above.
 - (1) **Da 12:2-3** 2 ...Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.
- c. We cannot die anymore.
 - (1) **Lk 20:35-38** 35 Those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, 36 for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.
- d. We are to rejoice in our confident expectation of experiencing the glory of God.
 - (1) **Ro 5:1-2** 1 Therefore, because we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Messiah. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of [sharing] the glory of God.
 - (2) "And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God" (*The Amplified Bible*, Ro 5:2).
- e. We will certainly be united with Jesus in a resurrection like his.
 - (1) **Ro 6:5** 5 If we have been united with [Jesus] in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- f. The creation eagerly waits for our glorification, for it too will be glorified.
 - (1) **Ro 8:19-22** 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory (δόξα) of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
- g. We groan inwardly as we eagerly await our glorification.
 - (1) **Ro 8:23-25** 23 ...Not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is

- seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- (a) At glorification, we will be adopted as sons, and our bodies will be redeemed.
 - (b) As believers, we have something to eagerly look forward to. Unbelievers don't have this.
- h. If there is no resurrection, let us just eat and drink.
- (1) **1 Corinthians 15:30-32** 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers and sisters, by my pride in you, which I have in Messiah Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.
- i. Our resurrection bodies will be imperishable, glorious, powerful, and spiritual.
- (1) **1 Co 15:41-44** 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory. 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable. What is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonour. It is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness. It is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body. It is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
- j. We will bear the image of the man of heaven.
- (1) **1 Co 15:48-49** 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- k. We will be changed.
- (1) **1 Co 15:52-58** 52 ...The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.
- l. We have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- (1) **2 Co 5:1-5** 1 ...We know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
- m. Jesus will transform our body to be like his glorious body.
- (1) **Php 3:20-21** 20 Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Messiah, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- n. When Jesus appears, we also will appear with him in glory.
- (1) **Col 3:4** 4 When Messiah who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- o. We will always be with Jesus.
- (1) **1 Th 4:16-18** 16 ...The Lord [Jesus] himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of

God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- p. We will obtain salvation with eternal glory.
 - (1) **2 Ti 2:10** 10 ...I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Messiah Jesus with eternal glory.
- q. The tested genuineness of our faith will result in glory at the revelation of Jesus.
 - (1) **1 Pe 1:6-7** 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Messiah.
- r. We all will partake in the glory that is to be revealed.
 - (1) **1 Pe 5:1-4** 1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a co-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Messiah, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed....
- s. Elders who faithfully shepherd a local church will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 - (1) **1 Pe 5:2-4** 2 ...Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- t. When Jesus appears, we will be like him.
 - (1) **1 Jn 3:2** 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
- u. We will reign with Jesus for a thousand years.
 - (1) **Re 20:6** 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Messiah, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- v. God will dwell with man.
 - (1) **Re 21:3-5** 3 ...I [John] 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. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new.
- w. The new Jerusalem will have the glory of God.
 - (1) **Re 21:10-11** 10 ...[The angel] carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
- x. We are headed toward a far off country we have never visited.
 - (1) "In speaking of this desire for our own far off country, which we find in ourselves even now, I feel a certain shyness. I am almost committing an indecency. I am

trying to rip open the inconsolable secret in each one of you—the secret which hurts so much that you take your revenge on it by calling it names like Nostalgia and Romanticism and Adolescence; the secret also which pierces with such sweetness that when, in very intimate conversation, the mention of it becomes imminent, we grow awkward and affect to laugh at ourselves; the secret we cannot hide and cannot tell, though we desire to do both. We cannot tell it because it is a desire for something that has never actually appeared in our experience. We cannot hide it because our experience is constantly suggesting it, and we betray ourselves like lovers at the mention of a name. Our commonest expedient is to call it beauty and behave as if that had settled the matter. Wordsworth’s expedient was to identify it with certain moments in his own past. But all this is a cheat. If Wordsworth had gone back to those moments in the past, he would not have found the thing itself, but only the reminder of it; what he remembered would turn out to be itself a remembering. The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.”³

Bibliography

Lewis, C. S. *The Weight of Glory*.

³ C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*.