

The Glory of God
Romans 4:20

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Today's lesson may be short. But, I will bracket the lesson with preaching. Initially, I want to encourage a healthy life style. At the end I want to preview Matthew chapters 1-4 which at some point in the future I will delve into from the perspective of the Angelic Conflict.

This past week, I came across an interesting interview of Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong by Tucker Carlson. Whether you like or follow either is immaterial. Whether you believe what the doctor has to say is not as important as asking yourself about living a healthy life. It is a rather long interview (about 2 hours). You can listen to it on "X" here: <https://x.com/tuckercarlson/status/1904941620283253060?s=61>

From Wikipedia:

“Patrick Soon-Shiong (born July 29, 1952) is a South African and American businessman, investor, medical researcher, and transplant surgeon. He is the inventor of the drug Abraxane, which is used for lung, breast, and pancreatic cancer. Soon-Shiong is the founder of NantWorks, a network of healthcare, biotech, and artificial intelligence startups; an adjunct professor of surgery and executive director of the Wireless Health Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles; and a visiting professor at Imperial College London and Dartmouth College.¹”

One of the things doctor Soon-Shiong brings up is the concept of “dogma.” Without going into a dictionary definition, this term, “dogma,” is often associated with information that must be accepted without examination. Dogma is sometimes associated with religious organizations. When I grew up in a Catholic tradition, dogma was

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Soon-Shiong

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embodied in the catechism which was taught in Sunday school and something that was part of the faith one was to accept.

When I teach Bible Doctrine, some think “doctrine” is the same as dogma. That is not how I view what I teach. What a pastor teaches is supposed to be information gleaned from the Word of God itself. It is presented for your review. If you choose to believe it and live by it is a matter of your own volition. Your free will.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Timothy 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Now for today’s lesson.

Romans 4:20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

Paul is talking about believers giving glory to God. But a natural question is “What is the glory of God?” As a student of the Word of God, I have heard different descriptions which include light and intense radiance. But those never really communicated to me. Let us attempt to look at the glory of God from an objective point of view.

What is glory?

From Merriam-Webster on-line:

“a: praise, honor, or distinction extended by common consent : renown
b: worshipful praise, honor, and thanksgiving²”

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/glory>

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This seems too mundane to describe the Biblical concept of God's glory. Let us look at the Hebrew and Greek words for glory.

From Biblehub.com

“**Usage:** The Hebrew word "kabowd" primarily denotes the concept of "glory" or "honor." It is used to describe the weightiness or significance of something or someone, often in terms of reputation, wealth, or splendor. In the context of God, "kabowd" refers to His majestic presence and the manifestation of His divine attributes. It can also imply the honor and respect due to individuals or objects of significance.³”

“**Usage:** In the New Testament, "doxa" primarily refers to the glory and majesty of God, encompassing His divine nature, attributes, and the honor due to Him. It is used to describe the visible manifestation of God's presence and the honor and praise that are rightfully His. "Doxa" can also refer to the glory bestowed upon believers, reflecting their transformation and sanctification through Christ.⁴”

In simple terms, glory of God refers:

- 1) God's majestic presence (essence),
- 2) Manifestation of God's divine attributes (manifestation) and
- 3) Honor (recognition for God's actions).

Essence. The essence of God is the source of His glory.

Manifestation. The essence of God is unknowable apart from His manifestations through works and revelation.

Actions. The glory of God, once manifested, produces a response from His creation. He is honored.

3 <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3519.htm>

4 <https://biblehub.com/greek/1391.htm>

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This lesson is not a checklist of items. It is not deep theology. It is a journey through observing the revealed glory of God through the Scriptures.

Moses wanted to see God's glory.

Exodus 33:12 Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.'

Exodus 33:13 Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people."

Exodus 33:14 And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."

Exodus 33:15 Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.

Exodus 33:16 For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?"

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Exodus 33:17 The Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name.”

Exodus 33:18 Then Moses said, “I pray You, show me Your glory!”

Exodus 33:19 And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”

Exodus 33:20 But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!”

Exodus 33:21 Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock;

Exodus 33:22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

Exodus 33:23 Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”

Isaiah had an encounter with God’s glory.

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Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

Isaiah 6:2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Isaiah 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

The disciples, Peter, James and John, had encounter with the glory of God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 17:1 Six days later Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

Matthew 17:2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

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And it was not just select disciples that were blessed to encounter the glory of the Lord, but also everyday shepherds.

Luke 2:8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

Although Job does not see God’s glory, God Himself recounts actions He accomplished that no living human being could do. They are actions that point to God’s glory.

Job 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

Job 38:5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it?

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Job 38:6 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:8 “Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;

Job 38:9 When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band,

Job 38:10 And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors,

11 And I said, ‘Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop’?

God goes on for chapters (38-42) providing Job, and us, with insights into the world that scientists today refuse to take notice of. In the end, Job expressed his humility. We should do the same when standing before God’s creation. Even in the fallen state, earth holds more mysteries that we will ever discover.

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the Lord and said,

Job 42:2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

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Job 42:3 ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

Job 42:4 ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’

Job 42:5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;

Job 42:6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Assuming we have the time, there is a study I am working on that is very exciting. It is an investigation into the testing of Jesus in Matthew chapter 4. It is not yet finished but I thought of giving you a taste or preview of coming attractions.

It started by looking at the testing of Jesus from the perspective of the Angelic Conflict. At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, the Devil gets to question Jesus as a test. As a result we have many questions. Why does God allow this interaction to take place? What is it’s purpose?

In looking at Matthew chapter 4, it is necessary to check the context. This takes us back to the first chapter.

Matthew chapter 1 contains an extended genealogy. At the beginning it references Abraham and David. Why? There is the Abrahamic covenant that contains the a) Land, b) Seed and c) Blessing. Each of these becomes a separate covenant. The Davidic covenant picks up the seed from the

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Abrahamic covenant. This derives from the promise God made in Genesis 3:15 concerning the seed of the woman. The point, in this context, is that the genealogy documents Jesus' qualification as the promised "seed."

Something tangential but necessary to say concerns the "oriental" thinking. In order to answer a question or to address an issue, a person must be qualified. When I was taking Arabic, my first teacher spent an hour going over his qualifications as a PhD, with numerous publications in a Harvard index of publications and his work experience in government. From an Arab perspective, he was documenting his qualification to teach. From an American perspective, all we wanted to know was he a good teacher? He was not near as good, from an American perspective, as a gym teacher who eventually taught us Arabic. But from an "oriental" perspective, the man with the PhD was more qualified.

So here in Matthew chapter 1 God has provided Jesus' qualification as royalty, as the seed and Messiah. This is done from a genealogical perspective. It also includes documentation from the Old Testament that Jesus was born of a virgin. He is fulfilling Scripture. No one else has ever been born of a virgin. This assumes that there is no male involvement from a DNA perspective. A very important verse is:

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

This will come into play at the tempting of Jesus. He is qualified.

Matthew chapter 2 provides documentation of Jesus' birth foretold by Old Testament prophecy. It also sets up Jesus as a type of Israel. Jesus was sent to Israel and represents Israel to God like Moses. Jesus is

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qualified by compliance with prophecy to be the seed which represents by typology the nation Israel. When Jesus goes to the cross, He is judged not just for Israel's sins but for the sins of the world. He is qualified.

Matthew chapter 3 includes John the Baptist as the herald of the king. From the perspective of our study, the baptism of Jesus is of great importance. The baptism is an identification. It identifies Jesus with Israel and His mission. God announces Jesus qualification and readiness for His mission.

Matthew 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,

Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Jesus is qualified by God the Father. It is announced that Jesus is the "Son" of God. He is the ONE.

Matthew chapter 4 contains the "tempting" by the Devil. The word "tempting" could be translated as "examination" or even "evaluation." Within the context of the Angelic Conflict, God declared Jesus as qualified at His baptism. Now the Devil, as the defendant in the appeal trial of Satan, to examine this "exhibit" prior to Jesus ministry. Is there any defect? Satan found none. So Jesus now begins His ministry. He is qualified

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So now a brief summary:

The first four chapters of the Gospel of Matthew present Jesus as “qualified” for his mission. This is necessary for the “oriental” mind but also from a western scientific mind.

Matthew chapter 1: Qualified by genealogy

Matthew chapter 2: Qualified by birth

Matthew chapter 3: Qualified by the Father

Matthew chapter 4: Qualified by Examination and Evaluation