



GLORY AND HONOUR

PART 6

GOOD NEWS: GOD STILL CARES FOR YOU



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GOOD NEWS: GOD STILL CARES FOR YOU

“And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV)

“I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:” (Isaiah 45:2 KJV)

Misinformation, misinterpretation, and misrepresentation often lead to a misalignment of purpose and destiny. Indeed, those three m-words somewhat describe our world in the last 20 years and things are getting worse, more so since the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation of things remind us of the biblical concept of 'the day of the Lord' found in Prophetic literature. For example, Malachi prophesies,

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (Malachi 4:1)

While people may expect things to continue the usual way and continue to get away with lawlessness, this scripture says otherwise. It reminds us that the day is coming when this earth will burn like an oven. Think of that imagery for a minute. Do you know how hot an oven can get? It can bake and it can destroy whatever you put in it. The more we look at the situation of things around the globe, the more we come to realize that 'the day of the Lord' has come upon us. The incident of COVID-19 in the last two to three years cannot be described as anything less than an oven burning up! According to WHO, about 6.3 Million people—about one percent of the world population—have died due to the pandemic. Many are terribly sick with almost permanent disability. The world economy is not faring well as this horrible disaster continues to rage. Many family units are in total disarray as the home front suffers its worst blow across the world. Divorce is on the rise and diseases of unknown origin are surfacing daily.

While I can continue to highlight the bad news all around us, I will choose, rather, to spotlight the other side of it and tell you about the goodness of God. Malachi 4 tells us of the people who will continue to face the woes—those who are proud and do wickedly. Those who are 'proud' in this sense are those who believe they don't need God and can figure things out on their own. By reasoning as such, they do 'wickedly.' Are you one of those people? I hope not.

However, the Scriptures also tell us what the people on God's side will get in the midst of all that is happening:

“And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)

“I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:” (Isaiah 45:2)

Let me break it down for you; if you are on God's side as a child of God who had surrendered to the lordship of Jesus, you get to enjoy the following:

- THE LORD WILL GO BEFORE YOU
- HE WILL BE WITH YOU
- HE WILL NOT FAIL YOU
- HE WILL NOT FORSAKE YOU
- HE WILL MAKE CROOKED PLACES STRAIGHT
- HE WILL BREAK IN PIECES THE GATES OF BRASS
- HE WILL CUT IN SUNDER THE BARS OF IRON

What precious benefits await those who belong to God! If you are born again, no matter how hot the world gets, God will always lead you in and out of them all. But if you are not born again, your inner temperature is about to get hotter and maybe your eternal destination might be hotter than anything you can ever imagine. You can change your destination today by asking Jesus to come into your life. Say after me, ***“Lord Jesus, come into my life. I accept and receive You today. I confess and forsake my sins and my old lifestyle. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus' name.”*** If you are doing this for the first time, let me be the first to welcome you into the Kingdom of Christ.

GLORY AND HONOR (Part 6)

God is a good God. This is readily confirmed from the opening verses above (Deuteronomy 31:8; Isaiah 45:2). God is committed to our glory and honor. He promised to go before us and clear all evil out of the way. I want you to picture a president's motorcade in your mind; there's always an entourage leading and following the president, right? That's how God goes before us in glory and honor.

We have been looking at some scriptural evidence to establish the fact that God is committed to our glory and honor. Here's another one:

“so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)

Let me remind you that you are a product of The Word of God. God said in Genesis 1:26, ***“let us make man in our image and after our likeness . . .”*** If you can happen because God said it, then the case for your glory and honor is settled. What God cannot do does not exist! He said His words will not return to Him void; His words cannot go back to heaven until they have accomplished their purpose. You are a testament to the truth that the Word of God is alive and well.

A second piece of evidence for us to consider today is in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. He writes,

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, Neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

This scripture always gets me going! It shows me that God has my interest at heart. He has reserved for me things that eyes haven't seen—even things that are yet to enter into the hearts of men. No wonder the scripture says that what we shall be when we are fully glorified is yet to manifest. This simply means our glory and honor is an ongoing daily reality from one level of glory to another. This pattern of glory-to-glory and honor-to-honor is hidden in God and secures your glorious destiny. Don't let the devil deceive you into

believing that it is all over for you. You are just starting! Your best is yet to appear! Your glory and honor are already settled in heaven and are bound to manifest on the earth.

ANCHOR TEXT

As we have repeatedly established, for every child of God, glory and honor are included in their portion in life. If you are truly God's child, you are not a second-class citizen but a man or woman with a glorious destiny. However, with all that God gave us, He also gave us the free will to choose what is right. God created Adam and gave him a garden to tend and till; he had dominion over all of creation. God even gave him the privilege to name all of the animals! (What a glorious task that must have been!) As such, whatever name he gave each animal became its name simply because Adam said so. He had a wife called Eve and they were both blessed with the mandate of dominion and fruitfulness. However, they both decided to go against what God has told them in clear terms not to do, and as a result, they lost their glory and honor. Their story reminds us that we must always use our free will to amplify the glory and honor which God—and only God—bestows upon us.

Our foundational text is found in the Psalms,

*“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
And hast crowned him with glory and honour.” (Psalm 8:5 KJV)*

Always remember that every time God calls you to do anything, He has more people He could have called! It's a privilege that He chose to call you. I pray, therefore, that we will not misuse the privilege God has given us in Jesus' name.

WHY ARE THE GLORY AND HONOR FADED?

So far, we have considered four reasons, viz:

1. SIN
2. STRANGE FIRE: THE CASE STUDY OF NADAB AND ABIHU
3. THE EFFECT OF TERRITORIAL POWER
4. THE PRESENCE OF STRONGHOLDS IN A FAMILY AND A NATION
5. WRONG DECREES THAT CAN KILL YOUR DESTINY

Let's continue from there today.

6. COMMITTING A GRAVE MISTAKE

“On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.” (Esther 1:10-12 KJV)

The scripture we started this episode with (Malachi 4:1) has spoken to us in many ways and has given us

two classes of people who will not witness glory and honor. The first class of people are 'the proud ones.' Pride is a terrible problem to have. It will always take you farther than you are willing to go, cost more than you are willing to pay and keep you longer than you are willing to stay. It is no surprise how Solomon puts it,

“Pride goeth before destruction, And an haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

If you are proud, you will fall, and if you fall, no one can see the glory and honor upon your life while you are on the floor.

The second class of people is those who 'do wickedly.' The truth is that a prideful person will also be wicked, even to generations yet unknown! This is where the story of Queen Vashti comes in. She disobeyed the king's order, and she probably forgot that a queen exists only because there's a king in the palace. From her moment of disobedience, she fell from glory and honor. I did a little digging about her story and found that Bible historians couldn't find any further details or records about her life. It was almost like she never existed in life! She became irrelevant and lost in history. This is a big lesson for wives; it doesn't matter how little or how insignificant their husband may be, he should still be accorded his adequate respect—and vice versa from husbands to their wives.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you confused?

Are you still experiencing the heat of the earth?

Are you guided and led by God?

Do you believe that God's word is the final authority on all matters?

Are you madly in love with God?

Are you proud?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “PRIDE AND SHAME”

“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: But with the lowly is wisdom.”
(Proverbs 11:2 KJV)

The opposite of glory and honor is shame and pride is the common denominator to both. If you are proud, shame is on the way; if you are humble, glory and honor are on the way. At the end of the day, the choice is yours.

Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, multiply my grace for humility in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, watch over Your Word concerning my life and bring them to a glorious and honorable fulfillment in my life in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.