

## God's Nature: Glory and All of His Goodness

1. Observe carefully what God says about His glory. Explore God's answer further by using a lexicon to understand the key Hebrew word.

Then 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. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. (Ex 33:18-19, NIV)

2. What do you observe of the appearance of God's glory?

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. (Ex 24:15-17, NIV)

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. (Ex 34:29, NIV)

3. Consider carefully what God's glory does on earth. Look up any key words you do not understand with a lexicon.

For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the Lord. There I will meet you and speak to you; there also I will meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated by my glory. So I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. (Ex 29:42-45, NIV)

4. With this understanding of God's glory, how do people respond? In contrast, what do Believers see?

The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. (Num 14:20-23, NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (Rom 1:20-25, NIV)

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom 3:21-23, NIV)

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:40-43)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:6-7)

Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/God.Nature.Glory.9-12.pdf>

## God's Nature: Glory and All of His Goodness Teacher Notes

1. Observe carefully what God says about His glory. Explore God's answer further by using a lexicon to understand the key Hebrew word.

Then 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. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. (Ex 33:18-19, NIV)

To help the student with his observation, challenge him: what did Moses see? Did Moses see a person or something else?

It is God Himself who defines what His glory is; it is all of His goodness, which is a part of but distinct from His physical person.

Help the student learn how to use a Lexicon by instructing him with his phone:

1. Go to: <https://Bluelettebible.org> and search "Ex 33" using the version "NIV"
2. Select "tools" at Exodus 33:19
3. Select Strong's Number H2898 of the phrase "my goodness"
4. Read Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon and the following types of meanings are shown:

Goodness, goodness of intelligence, kindness of God  
That which is good or best of anything  
Goods - wealth, property  
Beauty  
Welfare, happiness, gladness, cheerfulness

The above definition encompasses God's divine nature with a focus on His absolute moral standard. When God passes before Moses in Exodus 33:18-19, these qualities are visibly seen!!

2. What do you observe of the appearance of God's glory?

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Help the student visualize the appearance of God's glory.

A consuming fire is a vigorous fire that is being constantly fed fuel. It was a few months earlier that the nation of Israel followed God's pillar of fire while leaving Egypt (Ex 13:21). And when one is in the presence of God's glory, for a period of time, there is evidence of its intense luminosity.

3. Consider carefully what God's glory does on earth. Look up any key words you do not understand with a lexicon.

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Encourage the student to use a lexicon and show how easy it is to use:

1. Go to: <https://Bluelettebible.org> and search "Ex 29" using the version "NIV"
2. Select "tools" at Exodus 29:43
3. Select Strong's Number H6942 of the phrase "and it shall be consecrated"
4. Read Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon and the following types of meanings are shown:

To be pure, clean (i.e. physical purity cleanliness)

To be / regarded holy, sacred

To declare holy

When all of God's goodness comes in contact on earth, whatever God chooses in close proximity is set apart and declared holy. God's whole quality of goodness sets apart areas (Rev 11:1-3), time (Ex 20:8-12; 31:13), objects, and people from the common (profane).

4. With this understanding of God's glory, how do people respond? In contrast, what do Believers see?

The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as (the glory / **all the goodness**) of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw (my glory / **all my goodness**) and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. (Num 14:20-23, NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged (the glory / **all the goodness**) of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (Rom 1:20-25, NIV)

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of (the glory / **all the goodness**) of God, (Rom 3:21-23, NIV)

Try this exercise with the student. Replace "glory" with "all the goodness" and read out loud the passages above.

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:40-43)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:6-7)

Ask the student to compare the first three passages with the last two. Who do these two groups of passages address? What observations do you make about God's glory and people?

In the first three passages, non-Believers: a) do not glorify nor thank God, b) are unable to recognize the goodness of God, c) exchanged the goodness of the living God with dead idols and animals, and d) unable to see that their goodness has fallen short of the goodness of God.

In the last two passages, through Jesus Christ, Believers have seen God, see all the goodness of God, and will receive all the goodness of God.

Ask the student: What do you think it means to glorify God?

It means to give thanks and praise for all the goodness of God.