by Wayne Goff

The New Testament has much to say about the subject of "glory." It is defined as "high renown or honor won by notable achievements" in our English dictionaries.

## **God's Eternal Glory**

The greatest number of times "glory" is used to describe God and His eternal honor.

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matt. 6:13) is the ending of the Lord's prayer. Often the glory given to God seems to be a doxology in the Scriptures (Gal. 1:4-5; Phil. 4:20; 2 Tim. 4:18). God is certainly worthy of all praise, honor and glory! Everything originates and ends with Him, and man is the product of His power.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Lk. 2:14) sang "a multitude of the heavenly host" as Jesus, God's only begotten Son, was born into the world to save mankind! A multitude of Jesus' disciples likewise praised God for all the mighty works of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on a colt for the final time (Lk. 19:38): "'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Jesus Himself declared that He did not come to the earth to seek His own glory, but the glory of the Father (In. 7:18).

Repeatedly in the Bible, men have been given glimpses of God's "glory" — Abraham (Acts 7:2), Isaiah (Is. 6:1-4; Jn. 12:41), Stephen (Acts 7:55), and the high priest (Heb. 9:5). Undoubtedly these were representations of God's glory made available for human amazement, but man has been wholly awed by them.

## The Glory Of God's People

"Glory" is used to describe the **relationship** of disciples with God in the New Testament. Jesus said in His prayer to the Father: "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one" (Jn. 17:22). God's gift to the faithful is "eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor and immortality" (Rom. 2:7). Christians "...have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2). Perhaps we should reflect more upon the **glory** that shall be ours at the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). This is what changed the lives of the faithful while they were here on the earth. They sacrificed anything and everything to obtain that eternal glory. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," (2 Cor. 4:17). I cannot help but hear the words of the old hymn we sing about receiving heaven as our reward. The refrain is "that will be glory for me!"

## The Glory Of The World's Kingdoms

Most men are **short-sighted** and will sacrifice that eternal glory for a little glory here upon the earth. Satan offered Jesus in the third temptation "...all the kingdoms of the world and their glory" (Matt. 4:8) if only He would fall down and worship Satan! Make no mistake about it — there is much temporal glory in the riches of this world — but it is *temporal* indeed. John's revelation says of heaven: "And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it" (Rev. 21:24). (I must confess that I'm still working to comprehend this statement!)

So much more could be said about "glory" just in the New Testament! My plan is to prepare a sermon soon to discuss the subject even further.

313103