

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Seeing His Glory

By (Jerry Fite)

God dwells in light unapproachable. No man has seen, nor can see Him. This is the great inspired declaration of Paul (*I Timothy 6:16*). While looking upon God would be certain death for man (*Exodus 33:20*), at times God has allowed man to see His glory. When they did, what did they see? Why did God allow man to see such glory? What occurred next?

Isaiah saw God's glory. He saw God sitting on His throne with spirit creatures exclaiming, “*Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory*” (*Isaiah 6:3*). When God's glory is seen, His holiness shines. Isaiah glaringly saw himself as an unclean man dwelling among sinful people. He felt undone as he looked upon God's glory.

God's glory in terms of “holiness” has not changed. It would do us good to pause and see this facet of God's glory through the eyes of Isaiah. Are we living right before God abhorring evil and cleaving to good (*Romans 12:9*)? Or, do we let sin slide in our lives, brushing away guilt with a swipe of “Oh well, no one is perfect.”? Seeing God's glory of holiness drives viewers to the soberness of one's own lack of holiness. “*I am a man of unclean lips*” was Isaiah's response. Here was a prophet whose mode of

communication, his lips, were not clean enough for his work as a prophet.

God cleansed Isaiah's lips with the application of a piece of coal from God's altar. We then understand why God wanted Isaiah to see His glory: “*Go, and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not*” (*Isaiah 6:9*). Is this not strange? God's people had ignored God's holiness in their lives and were now facing the consequent punishment of foreign captivity. Isaiah was God's instrument to further reveal the hardness of their hearts toward God's Truth.

Who would volunteer for such a depressing mission? One who has seen God's glory, that's who! Isaiah answers the call with, “*Here am I, send me*” (*Isaiah 6:8*). There is no demand, nor amount of inconvenience that stands between us and doing God's will that we are not willing to do when we see the holiness of God. We will be at worship with the saints on the first day of the week, because our Holy God demands and approves it (*Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:7*). We will strive daily to live exemplary lives before the world and gladly extend unto them the word of life. Why? Because a Holy God demands it, and the salvation of souls is a way His glory is manifested in the world

(*Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:14-15, Ephesians 1:6-7*).

Stephen stood before his peers and did something difficult: he spoke the truth to people who did not want to hear it. They responded to Stephen's message by stoning the messenger. Stephen was being faithful, even unto death, to his holy God. Facing death by stoning, Stephen saw something glorious. In the Holy Spirit, he “*looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God...*” (*Acts 7:55*). Passing near the corridors of death, Stephen saw God's glory. He also saw a welcoming Jesus, standing on the exalted right hand of God. This same Jesus had declared God to the world who cannot directly look upon God.

This vision of glory is a comforting experience for the faithful. Stephen accomplishing his godly mission saw a standing Lord and the glorious God welcoming him home. How are you manifesting that you have seen God's glory? Are you busy doing God's bidding by seeking to share the glory of a loving God to lost souls? At crucial moments, are you doing the hard work of telling God's needed Truth? Do you take breaks from a busy life to reflect upon a welcoming Jesus inviting you to eternal glory? Go ahead, See His Glory!