

The ~~Weight~~ "Wait" of Glory

God's End-Time Agenda is five-fold:

1. End-Time Shaking

- Today, the world is shaking in alarming ways. And this is just the beginning. Nations, institutions, economies, families, individuals, the earth's environment, the cosmos, the spiritual realm--in every dimension and sphere of life, we will see powerful waves of shaking that disrupt the course of our lives and take away our false sense of security in earthly resources, compelling us to return to our Creator.
- The main purpose of these shakings is to judge the people of the world for their sin and rebellion against God.
- God is using the shaking we are now experiencing to refine believers so we will be purified to become the remnant that is ready for Jesus's imminent appearing.

Isaiah 17:4-8 - "In that day it shall come to pass *That* the glory of Jacob will wane, **And the fatness of his flesh grow lean.** ⁵It shall be as when **the harvester gathers the grain** and reaps the heads with his arm; It shall be as he who gathers heads of grain In the Valley of Rephaim. ⁶Yet gleaning grapes will be left in it, **Like the shaking of an olive tree, Two or three olives at the top of the uppermost bough, Four or five in its most fruitful branches,**" says the Lord God of Israel. ⁷In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel. ⁸He will not look to the altars, The work of his hands; He will not respect what his fingers have made, Nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.

- i. Glory . . . made thin, . . . fatness . . . wax lean,"—a time when the church is not meeting with favor in the world, apparent progress slow.
- ii. "As when the harvestman gathered the corn." It will be the time of the harvest; that which remains will be gathered into the garner.
- iii. "As the shaking of an olive tree." When a tree is shaken by a mighty wind, only the sound fruit clings to the branches, the defective fruit falls to the ground. Defective fruit cannot endure the shaking. The trials and tests of the last days bring the shaking process; it is then that the church passes through the time of Jacob's trouble.
- iv. "Two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches." There is to be a remnant that will stand the shaking, and cling firmly to the tree, which is the body of Christ, the church.

2. End-Time Awakening

- As we respond to the shaking with repentance and wholehearted devotion to God, we will be prepared to take an active role in the coming last-days revival in which God's sovereign glory will be revealed!
- There will be an all-inclusive supernatural movement characterized by miracles, healings, salvations, financial provision, prophetic visions, renewed holiness, powerful worship, strong discipleship, and profound love.

Isaiah 17:7-8 - ⁷In that day a man **will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.** ⁸He will not look to the altars, The work of his hands; He will not respect what his fingers have made, Nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.

Isaiah 54:2-3 - Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for **thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left;** and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

- I believe with several Bible scholars that Isaiah's prophecy has a dual application. It speaks not only about natural Israel after captivity in Babylon, but also about the spiritual Israel that was to come: the body of Jesus Christ, the church. Paul quotes from Isaiah 54 when he refers to the "Jerusalem which is above...the mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26). **Paul saw Isaiah's prophecy as directed "to the children of promise," those in Christ by faith.**
- If Isaiah addressed his prophecy only to natural Israel, it would mean his promises haven't yet been fulfilled. In short, it has not yet come to pass that "thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles" (Isaiah 54:3). Yet that word was clearly fulfilled in Christ, at the cross and at Pentecost. Think about it: when Isaiah delivered this message, some 42,000 Israelites had come out of Babylonian captivity. By the time of Jesus, their number had increased only to about 3 million.
- Isaiah refers to his prophecy as a promise from God, a sworn word from heaven. We see the Lord swearing by the mountains and even referring back to his covenant made with Noah. He says, in essence, **As surely as I won't allow another Flood on the earth, I tell you there will be an awakening of my church in the last days.**

3. End-Time Harvest

- A biblical Greek word, *kairos*, describes a unique season of possibilities. By sovereign grace, God has chosen that your life be woven into “the *kairos* hour” for world evangelization. When Scripture uses this word, it is usually in reference to a brief, specific season of God’s favor. Using this word, Jesus refers to a “time of harvest” in Matthew 13:30 (NKJV) and Paul speaks of a “due season” for reaping in Galatians 6:9 (NKJV). And in such *kairos* seasons of opportunity, the Bible urges us to be “redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:16 NKJV). One translation reads, “Buy up the opportunities.”
- Our current era is a season the Bible would describe as the fullness of time. Throughout history God has made major transitions in His dealings with humanity in two thousand year increments. This leads many Christians to believe that extremely momentous events are poised to occur. As we race toward a new millennium, it is difficult to overstate the importance of the next few years for world evangelization.
- For roughly two thousand years the church has been under mandate to disciple all nations. To put it bluntly, we have failed. But now, for the first time in two millennia, almost every major stream of Christianity is giving world evangelization top priority. On every continent, with the possible exception of North America, the church is advancing. And even in North America and Europe, there are hopeful signs of deep spiritual hunger. Consider these exciting facts:
 - o During the twentieth century, Christianity has become the most extensive and universal religion in history.
 - o There are now more Christians in the Southern Hemisphere than in the Northern Hemisphere. The new centers of vitality for the church in many ways are in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This more than counterbalances the decline in the North Atlantic nations.
 - o Each day welcomes a net global increase of at least 176,000 Christians.
 - o Each week approximately one thousand new churches are planted in Asia and Africa alone.
 - o Christianity is now a genuinely international family of faith. Christianity has surged ahead in the world’s less developed countries. From being predominately white, Christianity is now an amalgam of the races and peoples of the world, with whites dropping from more than 80 percent to about 35 percent.
 - o The proportion of Christians to the whole population will increase in Asia more than in any other region of the world.
- Even secular analysts like John Naisbitt in his book *Megatrends 2000* predict a simultaneous series of worldwide revivals.
- The Chinese character for the word *crisis* well illustrates our current situation. The Chinese word is composed of a mix of the characters of two other words: *danger* and *opportunity*. Consider the dramatic political changes that are occurring almost weekly. Some call it “crisis;” spiritually alert believers should see it as both “danger” and “opportunity”.
- Just as God demolished the formidable walls of Jericho, He is destroying walls of opposition today. This is why Dick Eastman, international president of Every Home for

Christ, refers to this season as the “Jericho hour” for world harvest. “Recent miracles in once dark places globally give us cause for great hope,” Eastman writes. “I truly believe this is the Jericho hour for the body of Christ. But we must capture the momentum of this season of suddenlies if our generation is to witness closure of the Great Commission.”²

4. End-Time Glory

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the **knowledge of the glory** of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:9 - They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, **For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

- The prophet Ezekiel testifies, “He brought me through the waters” (Ezekiel 47:3). In a vision, God took the prophet on an amazing trip through water. Carrying a measuring rod, the Lord paced off 1,000 cubits, about one-third of a mile. The Lord and Ezekiel then began walking in the water, which was flowing about ankle high.
- The Lord kept urging the prophet onward, deeper and farther into the river. After another 1,000 cubits, the water came up to the knees — and it was still rising. Do you see what’s happening here? Ezekiel was walking into the future, right into our time.
- Christians today live in the final 1,000 cubits of the river in this vision. We’re in the very last measurement of water and Ezekiel says that when he stepped to the edge of this measure, the water was too deep for him, too overwhelming. “I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim” (47:5). In other words, the water was over his head.
- The Lord reveals in this prophetic vision that in the very last days, the church of Jesus Christ will be more glorious, more victorious, than in its entire history. The Lord’s true body isn’t going to weaken and sputter; it’s not going to dwindle in numbers or decrease in power or spiritual authority. No, his church will go out in a blaze of power and glory. And it will enjoy the fullest revelation of Jesus that anyone has ever known.

- Ezekiel writes, “Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many” (47:10). Ezekiel is saying that a body of believers will swim in rising waters of the Lord’s presence and God’s presence among his people is going to increase until the very end.
- In the midst of all the death and destruction we see happening, the Lord’s prophecy thunders, “My river is going to rise and everything will live where my river flows.” You see, the river of life, which will crest just prior to the Lord’s coming, brings life wherever it goes.

5. **End-Time Resurrection** – The coming of the Lord for His Body!

Transition...the Glory of God...

The Glory is the manifest presence of God - It is who He is and what He has. In the Old Testament the Glory was first seen in the Garden as God manifested himself in the cool of the day. With the Children of Israel, it was the tangible presence of God in manifestation: fire by night, cloud by day, fire on the mountain, smoke, thunder / lightning.

- Wherever the glory manifested every need was supplied.
- Wherever the glory was seen sick bodies were healed
- Wherever the glory was seen deliverance from enemies took place
- Wherever the glory was seen enemies were conquered and destroyed.

Kavod

- Like many Hebrew words, glory in Hebrew – *kavod*, holds more than one meaning. I like to imagine that God designed the ancient language of Hebrew precisely in this way, to give dimension to our understanding of Him and His love for us.
- *Kavod* is a term with both social and moral implications, and stems from the root word for weight. It can mean glory, honor, respect, distinction, and importance.
- Sometimes when we hear the word glory, we might think of the fame won on the battlefield, in a patriotic sense. We might also think of glory in terms of beauty, especially in an artistic or conservative application.
- But biblically, *kavod* indicates worth and value, and results in praise. Glory in Hebrew should be seen as abounding in honor and reverence, almost to a degree that it is terrifying. Exodus 24:17 is a prime example of this “terrifying glory”: “**Now the**

appearance of the *glory* of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”

- This description of *kavod* as glory serves as a signal to the human soul the respect God is worthy of. His glory, also referred to as the majesty of God, should activate a response of reverence and praise.

The Weight of Glory

- Another interesting facet to glory in Hebrew, *kavod*, is that it can mean something heavy. It can be both in a positive and a negative sense, used both literally and metaphorically.
- For example, in Psalm 3:3, *kavod* refers to God’s shield, His battle armor. Lo and behold, the root word of *kavod* is “heavy” and is connected to the meaning of “armament”: *“But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.”*
- Think about the arms soldiers use in combat and the armor they cover themselves with from head to toe, as they prepare for the battlefield. They need a strong and sure defense to protect them.
- But note yet another understanding of the Hebrew word *kavod*. Exodus 17:12 describes Moses’ hands as feeling heavy, literally: *“But Moses’ hands became heavy (kavod).”*
- So once again, *kavod* can mean literal heaviness, as well as figurative, in the case of God’s presence in the Temple.

Glory in the New Testament

When you come to the New Testament, the word translated glory is “doxa”. You likely recognize this word from the English word “doxology.” This word was used outside Scripture to refer to someone’s reputation i.e. an opinion or estimate of someone. The greater a person or object is, the greater it’s “doxa” or it’s reputation. In Revelation 4:11, this word appears next to a word “time” which is translated “honor”. This word means “a value” or esteeming something. So, in both the Old and New Testaments, it seems that **“glory” refers to the significance, the reputation, the value of something.**

Romans 3:23 - ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...

- Yes “Doxa” speaks of the great value of God, however it can also mean “opinion or estimation”
- God has an opinion of us and estimation of who he has created us to be and what he has designed us to do.

What if “Sin” is us not living up to God’s opinion and estimation?

Colossians 1:26-27 - ²⁶ **Even the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:²⁷ To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory **of this mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory**