

AWESOME IN GLORY a dramatic reading for three voices Doug Porter

A O God, you are my God,  
BC I seek you;  
A my soul thirsts for you,  
B my body longs for you,  
C as in a dry and weary land where there is no water  
A I have looked upon you in the sanctuary  
 beholding your power and your glory  
B Because your love  
C your steadfast love  
A is better  
B better than life  
C than life  
ABC my lips  
B will glorify  
C glorify you [*Psalm 63.1-3*]

[THE GLORIA]

A Glory  
B Glory  
C Glory  
A Glory to God  
B in the highest  
ABC Glory  
A And on earth  
B peace  
C to people of good will

AB The people praise You  
BC We bless You  
AC We worship You  
AB We glorify You  
C Glory  
B Glorify  
ABC We glorify you

A You who take away the sins of the world  
B have mercy on us  
C have mercy

A You who take away the sins of the world  
B receive our prayer  
C our prayer  
A You who sit at the right hand of the Father  
B have mercy on us  
C have mercy

A For You alone are holy  
BC holy  
A You alone are Lord  
BC Lord  
A You alone are the Most High  
B Most High Jesus Christ  
C with the Holy Spirit  
A in the Glory  
B the Glory of God  
A of God the Father  
C in the Glory of God the Father

#### [WHAT IS GLORY?]

A The Scriptures again and again make mention of glory  
B What is this thing called glory?  
C This glory?  
A We gather here each Sunday  
B to worship God  
C to encounter God in his glory  
A to encounter the glory of the living God

B When you meet to worship God,  
C what is this encounter that you are looking for?  
A What is this glory that you are approaching?  
C that you long for?  
A How do you recognize it?  
B How do you know when it is present?  
C How is it known?

A In everyday conversation we no longer speak of glory  
B speak of glory  
A except in the praise  
C of emperors, dictators and champions of sport

- A But Scripture speaks of glory often
- B Glory fills the pages of Scripture
- A It is Scripture's primary concern

[BY THE DICTIONARY]

- B According to the dictionary
- A glory is understood as
- C great honour, praise or distinction
- B majestic beauty and radiance
- C splendour
- B brightness
- C brilliance
- A power and might
- B a weighty and imposing presence
- C that cannot be denied or ignored

[BY SCRIPTURE : ENCOUNTER IN CREATION]

- B In Scripture
- A the glory of God is encountered in many ways
- C in the splendour of creation
  
- A The heavens declare the glory of God
- B the skies proclaim the work of his hands [*Psalm 19*]
- A The glory of the Lord is a radiance around God
- B like the shining of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day
- C The glory of the God of Israel
- A has a voice like the roar of rushing waters
- B and fills the land with radiance
- A The voice of the Lord is over the waters
- C the God of glory thunders
- A the Lord, over mighty waters
- C The voice of the Lord
- B is powerful
- C the voice of the Lord
- A is full of majesty
- C The voice of the Lord
- B flashes forth flames of fire
- C The voice of the Lord
- A shakes the wilderness

C The voice of the Lord  
 B causes the oaks to whirl  
 A and strips the forest bare  
 B Splendour and majesty are before him  
 C Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary [*Psalm 96.6*]  
 A and in his temple all say  
 B Glory! [*Psalm 29.3 .7 .8*]  
 C Glory!  
 ABC Glory!  
 A For the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth

[WHERE IS THE GLORY?]

A When you wake in the morning,  
 B where is the Glory?  
 A do you see the Glory?  
 C do you know the Glory?  
 A When you greet your friends in the street  
 B where is the Glory?  
 A When you labour in the workplace  
 B where is the glory?  
 A do you feel the Glory?  
 B Where is the glory  
 C in your life?

[BY THE SCRIPTURES : ENCOUNTER IN HISTORY]

A God's glory is encountered in powerful events  
 B and saving acts initiated by God  
  
 C Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
 A Who is like you, majestic in holiness  
 awesome in glory  
 doing wonders? [*Exodus 15.11*]  
 C The Lord gained glory for himself  
 through Pharaoh and all his army  
 A when they pursued the children of Israel into the desert  
 B when horse and rider were thrown into the sea  
 A when the Lord's right hand  
 B glorious in power  
 C shattered the enemy [*Exodus 14.4*]

- A While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community  
they looked toward the desert
- B and there was the glory of the LORD  
appearing in the cloud *[Exodus 16.10]*
- A When Moses went up on the mountain  
the cloud covered it  
and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai
- C For six days the cloud covered the mountain  
and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses  
from within the cloud
- B To the Israelites the glory of the LORD  
appeared as a consuming fire on top of the mountain *[Exodus 24.15-17]*
- A When Solomon finished praying  
fire came down from heaven  
and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices
- B and the glory of the LORD filled the temple
- C The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD  
because the glory of the LORD filled it.
- A When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down  
and the glory of the LORD above the temple  
they knelt on the pavement
- B with their faces to the ground
- A and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying
- ABC He is good  
his love endures forever *[2 Chronicles 7.1-3]*
- A For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise  
he is to be feared above all gods
- B Splendor and majesty are before him;
- C strength and glory are in his sanctuary. *[Psalm 96.5,6]*

**[WHERE IS THE GLORY?]**

- A When you labour in the workplace
- B where is the glory?
- C Do you know the glory?
- A When you lay down to rest for the night
- B where is the Glory?
- C do you hear the Glory?
- B do you know the Glory?
- A Where is the glory  
in your life?

[ENCOUNTER : MOSES]

A To behold God  
B To behold God in all his glory  
C is not just a matter  
A of seeing with the eye  
B of common everyday recognition  
C of being in the right place at the right time

A The angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush.  
B And Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.  
A So Moses thought,  
C I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”  
A When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to look,  
God called to him from within the bush,  
B Moses! Moses!  
A And Moses said  
C Here I am.”  
B Do not come any closer, God said.  
Take off your sandals,  
for the place where you are standing is holy ground.  
Then he said,  
I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”  
A At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. [Exodus 3.2-5]

A And the LORD said to Moses  
B “I will do the very thing you have asked,  
because I am pleased with you and I know you by name  
A Then Moses said  
C Now show me your glory  
A And the LORD said  
B “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  
But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live”  
A Then the LORD said  
B “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock  
When my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft in the rock  
and cover you with my hand until I have passed by  
Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back  
but my face must not be seen” [Exodus 33.17-23]

- A When Moses came down from Mount Sinai  
with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands  
he was not aware that his face was radiant
- B because he had spoken with the LORD
- A When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses  
his face was radiant
- C and they were afraid to come near him *[Exodus 34.29,30]*

**[ENCOUNTER: THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL]**

- A When the people of Israel heard the voice out of the darkness  
while the mountain was ablaze with fire
- B all the leading men of their tribes and their elders came to Moses
- A And they said
- C The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty  
and we have heard his voice from the fire  
But now, why should we die?
- B This great fire will consume us
- C and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer
- B For what mortal man has ever heard  
the voice of the living God speaking out of fire
- C and survived? *[Deuteronomy 5.23-26]*
- B Enter into the rock and hide in the desert  
from before the terror of the Lord
- C and from the glory of his majesty  
when he rises to terrify the earth *[Isaiah 2]*

**[ENCOUNTER : ISAIHAH]**

- A To behold God
- B To behold God in all his glory
- C is not just a matter
- A of seeing with the eye
- B of common everyday recognition
- C of being in the right place at the right time
- A When Isaiah beheld God sitting on a throne
- B high and lofty
- A the hem of God's robe filled the temple

B and the temple was filled with smoke  
 C and six angels called to one another  
 A Holy  
 B Holy  
 C Holy  
 ABC is the Lord of hosts  
 A The whole earth  
 ABC is full of his glory

A And Isaiah cried out  
 C Woe is me!  
 Woe is me!  
 I am lost  
 B lost  
 C for I am a man of unclean lips  
 B and I live among a people of unclean lips

**[GLORY DENIED, GLORY LOST]**

A A man of unclean lips  
 B A people of unclean lips

B For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God  
 C nor gave thanks to him  
 B but their thinking became futile  
 C and their foolish hearts were darkened  
 B They loved illusions and pursued false gods  
 A And although they claimed to be wise  
 B they became fools  
 C and exchanged the glory of the immortal God  
 B for images made to look like mortal man  
 C and birds and animals and reptiles. *[Romans 1.21-23]*

A God declares  
 B I am the LORD  
 that is my name  
 I will not give my glory to another  
 C or my praise to idols. *[Isaiah 42.8]*

A In such a state  
 B To encounter God's glory directly  
 C was to be placed in unmistakable judgment



B placed in the depths of fear and terror

A On that day

I will become angry with them and forsake them

B And I will certainly hide my face on that day

because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods. [*Deuteronomy 31:17-19*]

A Your iniquities have separated you from your God;

B your sins have hidden his face from you,

C so that he will not hear. [*Isaiah 59:1, 2*]

A God's face was concealed  
from his people

B just as our faces were concealed from God

C just as our hearts were concealed from God

B Glory is

A great honour, praise and distinction

majestic beauty and radiance

power and might

B a weighty and imposing presence

C that cannot be ignored or denied

#### [IMPOSSIBLE GLORY]

A Glory

B Glory

C Glory

ABC Glorify

A Glorify the Lord God

the Lord of hosts

B Glorify God in worship

C Glorify God in praise

A We are to glorify God

B to give God the glory

C We are most ourselves

when we give glory to God

A But we are all creatures who have chosen our own way

B and fallen

- C fallen  
 A fallen far short of the glory of God  
 A We must do without  
 B make do without  
 C God's glory
- A Your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
 B your sins have hidden his face from you,  
 C so that he will not hear. *[Isaiah 59:1, 2]*
- A How can we ever  
 B give glory to God?  
 A How is it ever possible  
 C to glorify the Lord?  
 A How can we reflect God's glory  
 B return to God his glory?

[CHRIST THE UNCONCEALED FACE OF GOD'S GLORY]

- A In Jesus Christ Messiah God has approached us face to face  
 B In the past  
 C God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets  
 B at many times and in various ways  
 A but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son  
 B whom he appointed heir of all things  
 and through whom he made all worlds  
 C The Son is the radiance of God's glory  
 B and the exact representation of his being  
 sustaining all things by his powerful word  
 A After he had provided purification for sins  
 he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty  
 C in heaven *[Hebrews 1.1-3]*
- B The Word became flesh  
 A the living Word  
 B the Word become living  
 C and made his dwelling among us  
 A We have seen his glory  
 B the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father  
 C full of grace and truth  
 A From the fullness of his grace

we have all received one blessing after another  
 B For the law was given through Moses  
 C grace and truth came through Jesus Christ  
 A No one has ever seen God  
 B but God the One and Only who is at the Father's side  
 C has made him known *[John 1.14-18]*

A We have seen his glory  
 B Jesus rescued a wedding celebration by turning water into excellent wine  
 In this way he revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him *[John 2]*  
 C The sickness of Lazarus did not end in death  
 No, it was for God's glory  
 so that God's Son would be glorified through it *[John 11]*

A Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray  
 As he was praying  
 the appearance of his face changed  
 and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning  
 B Two men  
 A Moses and Elijah appeared in glorious splendor  
 talking with Jesus  
 C Peter and his companions were very sleepy  
 but when they became fully awake  
 they saw his glory and the two men standing with him  
 A While Jesus was speaking a cloud appeared and enveloped them  
 and they were afraid as they entered the cloud  
 B A voice came from the cloud saying  
 C This is my Son, whom I have chosen *[Luke 9]*

A We have seen his glory  
 BC his glory  
 A the glory of the One and Only  
 B who came from the Father  
 A full of grace and truth

C Therefore since we have such a hope  
 A we are very bold  
 B We are not like Moses  
 C who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it  
 B while the radiance was fading away  
 A But we  
 B who with unveiled faces  
 C all reflect the Lord's glory  
 B are being transformed into his likeness

A with ever-increasing glory  
 BC from glory unto glory  
 glory unto glory  
 A which comes from the Lord  
 C who is the Spirit

A The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers  
 B so that they cannot see  
 C the light of the gospel  
 A the light of the glory of Christ  
 B who is the image of God  
 A For God, who said  
 C Let light shine out of darkness  
 A made his light shine in our hearts  
 B to give us the light of the knowledge  
 A of the glory of God  
 BC in the face of Christ [2 Corinthians 3-4]

[ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO THE GLORY]

A The prophets had declared  
 B And the glory of the LORD will be revealed  
 C and all mankind together will see it [Isaiah 40.5]  
 A Arise, shine, for your light has come  
 B and the glory of the LORD rises upon you  
 A See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples  
 B but the LORD rises upon you  
 C and his glory appears over you  
 A Nations will come to your light  
 B and kings to the brightness of your dawn  
 A Lift up your eyes and look about you  
 B All assemble and come to you  
 C your sons come from afar  
 B and your daughters are carried on the arm  
 A Then you will look and be radiant,  
 B your heart will throb and swell with joy [Isaiah 60.1-5]  
 A The sun will no more be your light by day  
 B nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you  
 C for the LORD will be your everlasting light  
 A and your God will be your glory  
 B Your sun will never set again  
 and your moon will wane no more

C the LORD will be your everlasting light  
 A and your days of sorrow will end *[Isaiah 60.19, 20]*  
 B There was no temple in the Holy City  
 A because the Lord God Almighty  
 C and the Lamb  
 BC are its temple  
 A The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it  
 B for the glory of God gives it light  
 C and the Lamb is its lamp  
 A The nations will walk by its light  
 B and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it *[Revelations 21.22-24]*  
 A Then I looked  
 C and heard the voice of many angels  
 B numbering thousands upon thousands  
 C and ten thousand times ten thousand  
 A They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders  
 B In a loud voice they sang  
 AC Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
 A to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
 B and honor and glory and praise!  
 A Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth  
 and under the earth and on the sea,  
 and all that is in them  
 B singing  
 C To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
 A be praise  
 B praise and honor  
 C praise and honor and glory and power,  
 ABC for ever and ever! *[Revelations 5.11-13]*

A I have looked upon you in the sanctuary  
 beholding your power and your glory  
 B Because your love  
 C your steadfast love  
 A is better  
 B better than life  
 C than life  
 ABC my lips  
 B will glorify  
 C glorify you  
 A I will bless you as long as I live  
 B I will lift up my hands

C and call on your name *[Psalm 63.2-4]*  
A To him who is able to keep you from falling  
B and to present you before his glorious presence  
C without fault  
B and with great joy  
A to the only God our Savior be glory  
B majesty, power and authority  
C through Jesus Christ our Lord  
A before all ages  
B now and forevermore  
ABC Amen *[Jude 1.24,25]*