



The Plumbline

Assessing Current Teachings, Issues and Events with Scripture

"Oh! That Will Be Glory For Me"

The famous hymn line quoted above asserts the biblical teaching affirmed for centuries that glory awaits us when we are present with the Lord at "His glorious return" to earth. Repeatedly future glory is depicted in the New Testament as a future hope and not a present reality. Nevertheless, in Apostolic/Prophetic and Dominion circles, we are challenged to pursue and experience the "glory" in the here and now. Not only are we encouraged to experience the "glory", but unbelievable claims of glory experiences are reported. Just a few examples will make the point. Bobby Conners tosses glory around like someone throwing candy at a parade. "Do you want some?" Here's a sample of glory." He localizes the glory in his hand like a ball and then tossed it to the crowd. Those who jump the highest and catch this glory explode with shaking and appear to be hit by some external terrestrial mystical force.

David Herzog and his wife travel the globe dispensing the glory, for a price however. Herzog often announces that the glory has materialized into a cloud on the stage and he takes people into it. This so-called glory cloud is not visible on TV. Often some obese women appear to loose many waist sizes of weight when they step out of the imaginary glory cloud. Other glory dispensers suddenly announce that the glory is in a certain spot on stage and they takes people to the spot and they collapse on the stage in bodily spasms of euphoria and sometimes what appears to be a painful experience. In addition Herzog has authored a book *Ancient Portals of Heaven* about locating glory portals. He announces that OT portals are still there and if we go to Palestine to a Bethel and etc we can still ascend to the glory or angels and the glory can come down with ease. A portal in prophetic parlance is an opening or channel from earth into the heavenly realm. Angels are said use these celestial freeways to come and go from heaven freely. Some of the practitioners boast of "punching" new portals or vortex's in the sky so that others can make their way to the glory or the glory can come down. "Get under spout where the glory comes out." Pat King and Todd Bentley both admit these are imaginary experiences yet still real. How can one go to the third heaven and leave their body behind. The glory then is not actual but imaginary.

Old Testament expressions of God's glory were real and not imaginary. But these episodes were transitory and always unpursued by man and sovereignly given from heaven. There was no 24/7 praise as at IHOP to entice God to send His glory down. Moses experienced the Glory of God on mount Sinai. But this glory was a fading glory so that he was required to wear a veil lest the people see the fading glory of the Old Covenant. At the completion of Solomon's temple the glory of God came into this temple. It was so intense that the priest's could not enter the sanctuary. In passing, it was not that the priests could not stand up and fell as claimed by many but the Hebrew is clear they couldn't enter the sanctuary. But this also was transitory and it also happened not by the will of man but by the will of God.

The experience of the Jesus' transfiguration was also a temporary event on the mountain. What is interesting is that it was only Jesus who exhibited the brilliance and not the other OT personages. Likewise at Jesus birth a few privileged shepherds saw a display of God's glory but once again it was transitory and totally the sovereign will of heaven. While mankind is in unresurrected and sinful flesh God's glory cannot be experienced except for short glimpses. Man must be shielded from the intensity of God's glory for his own good, lest he be consumed. It is only after man is glorified at the second coming and receives a glorified resurrected body that man can exist continually in God's nearer glory. Even when Moses asked to see God's glory he was hidden in the cleft of a rock as God's glory passed by and Moses was only allowed to see the backside of God's glory for "no man shall see my face and live (ex.33:23). Present apostolic/prophetic people interpret the scriptures is a flat way. If Moses came to a burning bush then it is God's will for all believers to have a similar experience. If a glory cloud took Jesus up to glory then why can't we if we pursue it enough also have glory clouds. There is no encouragement in scripture

to try replicate these events. They were just one time expressions of God's presence with no hint of this being a normative feature for all time in this present age. Prophetic personalities add phenomena of their own like falling angel feathers and gemstones found on the floor. In at least one case an evangelist was caught seeding the floor with what turned out to be plastic gems

The Glory in the NT is seen in Jesus alone and man's hope of seeing and experiencing this glory is only when Christ returns in glory and believers are glorified and receive glorified resurrected new bodies. Then only can we live in the glory safely and permanently. In the NT the "glory" is depicted as a second coming experience and referred most generally as the "hope" of Glory. In my city there is a lady who has started a ministry called "End time Glory Ministries." It is misnamed for it suggests that glory is something that can be sought and experienced before the return of Christ

The New Testament and the Glory

As in the OT sometimes glory in the NT simply refers to human honor and fame. But generally it refers a revelation of the tangible presence of God in the person of Jesus Christ. At the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain it is only Jesus who radiates the glory. The Gospel writer makes mention that Jesus alone could be seen. Moses and Elijah are merely spectators. Additionally, the glory appeared at the ascension of Jesus.

Except for where the word glory is used of honor or fame, the other NT references to a visible and tangible glory point to a future glory at the time of the second coming and the resurrection of believers. These references to glory await the return of Christ. There are scores passages that point the post second coming glory event. I will cite a number of NT references:

- * **2 Cor. 4:17, 18** "For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."
- * **Col. 1:27** "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- * **Col. 3:4** When Christ who is our life, appears you also will appear with him in glory."
- * **1 Peter 4:13** "But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's suffering, and that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."
- * **1 Peter 5: 1** "So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed."

The NOLR and the Glory

The teaching of present glory is sourced not in scripture but to the NOLR (The New Order of the Latter Rain) that took place in The late 40's and early 50's. This teaching developed from the Sharon Brethren in Canada, which became the home base and the center of the NOLR movement. It is true that the earliest versions of the Pentecostal revival at Azusa Street claimed the title of the Later Rain. But they soon turned from this identification when early Pentecostal leaders reinstated traditional Pre-millennial eschatology. But in the early 50's the New Order people in Canada reclaimed this title and infused it with much new teaching not known at the Azusa Street. The unique feature at Azusa was tongues and missionary tongues. The NOLR introduced the idea of restored apostles, prophets and *The laying on of hands for imparting spiritual gifts and ministering deliverance. Beyond these new teachings the NOLR people introduced the return of the tangible glory to earth. Until recently, we have thought these teachings were original to the NOLR teachers. Recent diligent researchers have established that the concept of the "return of the glory" actually was picked up from certain kabala inspired prophets of the 17th century. Jane Leade and Jacob Boehme taught and prophesied similar teachings which formed the basis of a group called the Philadelphian Society. Hawtin a central figure of the NOLR in Canada was contacted recently before his death and he openly stated that they saw Jane Leade as an inspired prophetess.*

NOLR goes underground

With the sudden death of Wm Branham and the official opposition of the AOG, the NOLR seemed to disappear. However, in the theologically fluid environment of the Charismatic movement, Ern Baxter and Paul Cain and other NOLR hold-overs were able to sow the seeds of the NOLR message into the fertile ground of the Charismatic Renewal. The title Latter Rain became virtually unknown. Other names, such as Dominionism and the Apostolic/Prophetic have moved into the vacuum. The teachings of NOLR have been honed and repackaged and most people have no idea of the source of these teachings. Many of the veterans such as Rick Joyner, Bill Hamon and Francis Frangipane, however, are fully aware of the history of these teachings.

Among many of the teachings sourced from the NOLR and Jane Leade/ kabala is the return of the the glory of Solomon's temple. The return of the glory is a subset of the teaching of an end time church so endowed with miracles as to be invincible, and subduing the nations. (Dominion Teaching). Wagner's teaching of dominionism epitomizes this teaching. This end time glory is related to an elite core of over-comers who defeat not only satan but death itself. This later aspect was called the Manifested Sons of God. This teaching was based on a faulty reading of Romans 8:18. But the reference to the sons of God in Romans 8 can only be manifest at Jesus return. MSG teaching moves this up in time to the end times. The Charismatic renewal gave Latter-Rain teachers an opening to reassert themselves with most people unaware of the source of the teaching

The Return of the Glory at the End of the Ages

The shekinah glory and presence that filled Solomon's Temple is taught to being now restored to the NT Temple, the end times overcoming church. It is asserted that the glory is now returning and it must increase until God moves His throne from heaven to earth and sets up once again in the church.

Tommy Tenney states: "We must shift from momentary visitations to a place of habitation... When the church builds a mercy seat; He will stay... Some church somewhere is going to build a mercy seat for the glory of God. The water that flows from this place will eventually cover the earth." (message, Tommy Tenney, transcribed by Constance L. Sharlow, Jan. 1999).

Preston Eby a longtime Latter-Rain teacher recently passed away. He had hoped be "immortalized." Eby stated: "Each elected son becomes a manifestation of the glory cloud of the shekinah. Each son becomes the expression and revelation of the person of deity. There is still only one person of God. But He shall eternally indwell a many-membered body of like ones unto himself, the extension of his own being... what then are these clouds and in which Christ comes again? Why bless your hearts WE ARE" (Preston Eby, *The Coming Clouds*). The Latter-Rain is expressed as follows: "The Glory of the King will so rest upon His latter days 'temple' that a visible presence of the shekinah glory will be upon his sons of glory and the world will witness the Kingdom of God in manifestation... Lets us be found under his cloud. Arise you sons of glory for the light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Now is the restoration of all things." "*Faith Tabernacle Trumpet Prohesies*, Nov. 98).

The often heralded appearance of gold dust and gold filled teeth is stated by those in the know as prefigured in Solomon's temple. Solomon's temple was overlaid with gold. Many leaders when questioned about the gold teeth and gold dust have no ready answer. But many who know latter rain teaching will tell you it relates to Solomon's temple. Mahesh Chavada a current apostolic teacher Asserts: I had a flash of a vision of everything in the room covered with a layer of gold... The Lord is

overlying us with gold.”

Although there is a lack of clarity in the current expression of the Latter Rain, yet there is common disdain of the rapture. Bobby Connors states: “I feel sorry for those guys waiting for the rapture... This ole escape mentality is not going to happen folks. We will reign in power.” (Bobby Connors. *Revolution in the Church*. 5/29/99).

What is expected is not a rapture and personal return of Christ resurrecting believer’s bodies from the grave. Actually I don’t think they have any hope for the resurrection of Christians from the grave. Rather the glory descends on the end time overcoming church in a cloud of Glory. Rather than a resurrection there is an ongoing transformation or a transfiguration. Christ will not return as a person but will be united into a Corporate Christ, one new man. In concert with the glory teaching is the teaching that the glorified church must defeat Satan and last of all death itself. This teaching is called Manifest Sons of God.

Some years ago I received a letter unsolicited from Peter Wagner. In this letter he admitted that he had dispensed with the rapture and etc. Regarding the Latter Rain he claimed ignorance, but said that he would discuss the Latter Rain with Bill Hamon a fellow apostle to whom he deferred for such things. Well! Bill Hamon, Wagner’s eschatology advisor, has been absolutely clear about his eschatology teaching. He writes: “The earth and all of creation is waiting for the Manifestation of the Sons of God. The time when they will come into their maturity and IMMORTALIZATION [defeating of death]... when the church realizes its full Sonship, this bodily redemption will cause a... chain reaction throughout all of creation.” (Bill Hamon, 385, THE ETERNAL CHURCH).

The Latter Rain has taught and teaches that this immortalization is like a birth process. The glorious overcoming end time church gives spiritual birth to the manifested sons of God. Consequently, they are always calling the church to give birth to the Son of God even as Mary gave birth to the Son of Man.

A Manifested Bentley

Bentley, 8.8.08 at Joyner’s Morningstar Conference states: “You know I saw progression in this anointing...” Bentley continues: “I saw each step as an increase of God’s glory... I was surprised that there was a fourth step coming, a fourth floor. [I looked and] the door opened... [it is] THE MANIFESTED SONS OF GOD... It is called resurrection life and glory... We are pressing into the Romans 1:4 anointing.”

Romans 1:4 states: “And [He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.” Bentley and by extension all the apostles, prophets now have named it for what it is, the MSG. There is no turning back or subtle language anymore. They are committed to a teaching clearly opposed to the scriptures. But this is not new stuff. George Warnock, the designated scribe of the NOLR, wrote from the home base in Canada in 1951: “Typify the whole church age beginning with the death of Jesus and consummating in the Sons of God. The kingdom of God upon the earth.” (George Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacles*, 1951, pp.13-20).

The Apostolic Reformation and the Apostolic/Prophetic Movement, though it still tries to hide it, is a GIGANTIC departure from the clear teaching of the NT. They are able to accomplish this by an endless stream of new revelations provided by their expanding stable of prophets in training combined with a brush stroke now then from scripture by allegorizing OT events. **It is time to stamp and brand this false teaching for what it is. As the root so the fruit.**

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