

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18, Communicable Attributes, God is Glorious Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18, Communicable Attributes, God is Glorious, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's session on **Theology Proper** concludes the study of God's **communicable attributes** by focusing on His **glory**. Peterson explains that God's glory is a **complex concept** found throughout scripture, sometimes referring to God Himself, other times to His attributes, presence, or works. The session distinguishes between God's **intrinsic glory** and its **extrinsic display** through creation, humanity, providence, and redemption, noting how humanity responds by giving glory to God, who in turn shares His glory with believers through Christ. Ultimately, all of this reflects and serves God's **ultimate glory** as the beginning, middle, and end of all things.

**2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18 – Double click
icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Theology Proper:
God).**



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3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18, Communicable Attributes, God is Glorious

Briefing Document: The Glory of God

Overview: This document summarizes Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture on the glory of God, concluding his series on the communicable attributes of God. Peterson emphasizes the pervasiveness of God's glory throughout Scripture and its profound impact on Christian doctrine. He explores the multifaceted nature of God's glory, differentiating between His intrinsic and extrinsic glory, and outlines how God displays, shares, and receives glory, ultimately for His own ultimate glory.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Difficulty and Grandeur of Defining God's Glory:

- Peterson acknowledges that God's glory is "notoriously hard to define although it is as grand as any truth in scripture."
- Despite the difficulty in definition, the concept is fundamental, as "every major section of scripture treats the glory of God and it impacts every major doctrine."

1. Different Designations of God's Glory in Scripture:

- **God Himself:** Sometimes, "the glory of God designates God himself," as seen in 2 Peter 1:17, where God the Father is called "the majestic glory." Peterson notes this is a rare Hebrew circumlocution for God's name.
- **An Attribute or Summary Attribute:** At other times, God's glory refers to "an attribute, or a summary attribute of God." Examples include David calling God "the king of glory" (Psalm 24:8-10) and "the God of glory" (Psalm 29:3), Stephen's use of "God of glory" (Acts 7:2), and Paul's description of "the glorious father" (Ephesians 1:17).
- **Applied to All Three Persons of the Trinity:** Jesus is called "the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8) and "our glorious Lord Jesus Christ" (James 2:1). The Holy Spirit is called "the spirit of glory and of God" (1 Peter 4:14), though glory is less incorporated into His names.

1. **Glory as God's Special Presence:**

- "Glory often emphasizes God's special presence." This is evident in events surrounding the Exodus, such as the "glory cloud" (Exodus 13-14, 16:7, 20, 24) and manifestations of God's glory to Moses (Exodus 3-4, 32-34).
- This connotation extends to the Ark of the Covenant (1 Samuel 4-5), the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5-7), the eschatological temple (Ezekiel 43:1-5), the person of Christ (John 1:1-18, Colossians 1-2, Hebrews 1), the Holy Spirit (John 14-16), and even heaven (Revelation 21-22).

1. **The Interrelation of Glory and Other Attributes & Works:**

- Scripture joins God's glory with other attributes such as **holiness** ("Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is filled up with his glory," Isaiah 6:1-8), **uniqueness** (Isaiah 42:8), and **power** ("Christ was raised by the... glory of the Father," Romans 6:4).
- Glory is also associated with **beauty, majesty, and goodness**.
- God's glory is tied to His **works** of creation (Genesis 1-2, Psalm 19), salvation (Exodus 13:21-22, Ephesians 1), providence (Exodus 16:10-12, 40:36-38), judgment (Numbers 14:10-23, 16:41-45, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10), and achieving victory (Exodus 16:7-12, Psalm 57:5-11, Isaiah 2:10-21).

1. **Glory as Reflecting God's Very Nature:**

- Scripture links God's glory with holistic ideas emphasizing His nature and presence, such as His name (Exodus 33:13-18, 40:34), holiness (Leviticus 11:44, Isaiah 6:1-8), face, Spirit, fullness, and honor (1 Timothy 1:17).

1. **Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Glory:**

- Peterson distinguishes between God's **intrinsic (internal) glory**, which is His "majesty, worth, beauty, and splendor," and His **extrinsic (revealed, manifested) glory**, which is His intrinsic glory displayed externally.
- The displays of God's power, holiness, and presence are all manifestations of His extrinsic glory, suggesting that glory is a broad concept encompassing various depictions.

1. **God's Ultimate End: His Glory:**

- The Bible affirms that God's activities of creation, providence, salvation, and judgment are all ultimately "for his glory."
- While various attributes are displayed through these actions, God's glory is broader than a single attribute and corresponds to His very being, sometimes functioning as a summation of His attributes.

1. **Christopher Morgan's Definition of God's Glory:**

- Peterson references his "partner in crime," Christopher Morgan, and his definition: "the triune God who is glorious displays his glory largely through his creation, image bearers, providence, and redemptive acts. God's people respond by glorifying him."
- This definition highlights six aspects:
- **The Triune God who is Glorious:** God's glory is both intrinsic and extrinsic.
- **God Displays His Glory Extrinsically:** Through creation (Psalm 19:1), image-bearers (Psalm 8:4-5), providence (Psalm 104:31), and redemptive acts (Exodus 14:13-18, Acts 3:13-15).
- **God's People Respond by Glorifying Him:** Recognizing and acknowledging His inherent and revealed glory (Psalm 115:1, Revelation 19:1). This doesn't increase God's intrinsic glory.
- **God Receives Glory:** Through the worship of His people (Psalm 29:1-2, 9; Psalm 57:5, 11; Revelation 4:8-11, 5:12-14). God delights in sincere worship.
- **God Shares His Glory with His People:** Through union with Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:14, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:4). Believers will appear with Christ in glory at His return.
- **All of This Redounds to God's Ultimate Glory:** God is the source, sustainer, and goal of all things (Romans 11:36, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 2:10).

1. **Transformation into Glory:**

- Peterson acknowledges the challenging concept in 2 Corinthians 3:18, where believers are being "transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" by the Spirit. This signifies a present, ongoing process of glorification.

1. God's Self-Sufficiency and the Purpose of Creation:

- Drawing on Jonathan Edwards, Peterson concludes that "The whole is of God and in God and to God and he is the beginning, middle, and end." The self-sufficient God creates, sustains, and receives back according to His communicated fullness, all for His glory.

Key Quotes:

- "Our loving, gracious, merciful, generous, and patient God is also glorious. God's glory is notoriously hard to define although it is as grand as any truth in scripture."
- "Sometimes the glory of God designates God himself as when Peter calls God the Father, quote, the majestic glory, 2 Peter 1:17..."
- "At other times, the glory of God refers to a quote, an attribute, or a summary attribute of God, a close quote."
- "Glory often emphasizes God's special presence."
- "Since his glory is the external, the extrinsic, coming forth from his own internal glory, display of so many attributes of his attributes, of his works, and of terms related to his nature, glory is associated with God's qualities, works, and his nature."
- "God's intrinsic glory is his majesty, worth, beauty, and splendor. His extrinsic glory is his intrinsic glory revealed."
- "The triune God who is glorious displays his glory largely through his creation, image bearers, providence, and redemptive acts. God's people respond by glorifying him." (Quoting Christopher Morgan)
- "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)
- "We all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever." (Romans 11:36)
- "The whole is of God and in God and to God and he is the beginning, middle, and end." (Quoting Jonathan Edwards)

Conclusion: Dr. Peterson's lecture provides a comprehensive overview of the glory of God as presented in Scripture. He highlights its central importance, its diverse manifestations, and its ultimate purpose in God's plan. The distinction between intrinsic and extrinsic glory, along with the understanding of how God displays, receives, and shares His glory, offers a foundational understanding of this crucial theological concept. The lecture concludes by emphasizing that God's glory is the ultimate end of all things, reflecting His self-sufficiency and the purpose of His creation.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18, Communicable Attributes, God is Glorious

Study Guide: The Glory of God

Key Concepts:

- **Intrinsic Glory:** God's inherent majesty, worth, beauty, and splendor within Himself.
- **Extrinsic Glory:** God's intrinsic glory revealed or displayed outwardly through His creation, image-bearers, providence, and redemptive acts.
- **Communicable Attributes:** Aspects of God's character that humans can reflect or participate in, though to a limited degree. Glory, in its revealed aspect, is the culmination of these.
- **Triune God:** The Christian doctrine that God is one being in three co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of whom possesses and displays divine glory.
- **Circumlocution:** An indirect way of expressing something, particularly when referring to God without directly stating His name (e.g., "the majestic glory").
- **Eschaton:** The final period of history, often associated with the second coming of Christ and the ultimate fulfillment of God's plans.
- **Union with Christ:** The spiritual reality that believers are joined to Christ in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and therefore share in his blessings, including a future participation in his glory.

Quiz:

1. According to Peterson, why is God's glory notoriously hard to define despite its significance in Scripture?
2. Explain the difference between how the "majestic glory" is used in 2 Peter 1:17 and how terms like "king of glory" or "God of glory" are used in the Psalms and Acts.
3. Provide two examples from the Old Testament where God's glory emphasizes His special presence.

4. How does Romans 6:4 offer a "fascinating reference" regarding the power and glory of the Father in Christ's resurrection? What does Peterson suggest as a possible reason for this?
5. Differentiate between God's intrinsic and extrinsic glory, providing a brief explanation of each.
6. List the four primary ways through which the triune God displays His glory extrinsically, according to Christopher Morgan's definition.
7. In the context of Psalm 8, what is the ultimate focus or "summum bonum" of the psalm, even though it speaks of human honor and dominion?
8. Explain how God's people give glory to Him, emphasizing whether this increases His intrinsic glory.
9. Describe how God shares His glory with His people, referencing at least one New Testament passage mentioned in the lecture.
10. According to Romans 11:36, what is God's ultimate role in all things, and how does this relate to His glory?

Answer Key:

1. While God's glory is a central truth throughout Scripture, it is difficult to define because it is so grand and encompasses various aspects of God's being, attributes, and works. It's a multifaceted concept rather than a simple characteristic.
2. "The majestic glory" in 2 Peter 1:17 is a rare Hebrew circumlocution, a way of referring to God Himself without directly using His name. In contrast, "king of glory" and "God of glory" refer to God through the lens of one of His attributes or as a summary of His attributes.
3. Two examples are the glory cloud during the Exodus (Exodus 13, 14, 16, 20, 24) and the manifestations of God's glory to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 3, 4, 32-34). These events highlighted God's powerful and covenantal presence with His people.
4. Romans 6:4 states that Christ was raised by the "glory of the Father," not just the power. Peterson suggests this might be because glory is a summary attribute of God and can therefore stand in for other individual attributes like power.

5. Intrinsic glory is God's inherent, internal majesty, beauty, worth, and splendor. Extrinsic glory is the outward manifestation or revelation of this intrinsic glory through His actions and creation.
6. According to Christopher Morgan, the triune God displays His glory largely through His creation, His image-bearers (human beings), His providence, and His redemptive acts.
7. Even though Psalm 8 discusses human honor and dominion, the ultimate focus, or "summum bonum," is the majesty of God's name in all the earth, as highlighted in the opening and closing verses.
8. God's people give glory to Him not by increasing His already infinite intrinsic glory, but by recognizing, acknowledging, and praising His inherent and revealed glory through worship and obedience.
9. God shares His glory with His people through their union with Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:14 states that God called believers through the gospel so that they might obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, indicating a future sharing in His glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18 also speaks of believers being transformed into Christ's image from one degree of glory to another by the Spirit.
10. According to Romans 11:36, God is the source ("from Him"), the sustainer ("through Him"), and the goal ("to Him") of all things. Therefore, everything ultimately exists for His glory, as Paul concludes, "To him be glory forever."

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of understanding the distinction between God's intrinsic and extrinsic glory. How does this distinction inform our understanding of God's relationship with creation and humanity?
2. Analyze the connection between God's glory and His other communicable attributes (e.g., love, justice, holiness). How does the concept of glory function as a unifying theme for these attributes, as suggested by the text?
3. Explore the various ways in which Scripture reveals God's glory in both the Old and New Testaments, providing specific examples from creation, redemptive acts, and the person of Christ.
4. Examine the multifaceted nature of humanity's relationship with God's glory. How do humans both witness and participate in God's glory, and what implications does this have for Christian living?

5. Based on the provided text, synthesize a theological understanding of God's glory. What are its key components, and why is it a foundational concept for understanding the character and purposes of God?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Communicable Attributes:** Characteristics of God that humans can reflect or share in to a limited extent, such as love, mercy, and (in its external display) glory.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final state of things.
- **Extrinsic:** External; coming or operating from outside. In theology, referring to the outward display or manifestation of God's intrinsic attributes.
- **Holistic:** Relating to or concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of, treatment of, or dissection into parts.
- **Intrinsic:** Belonging naturally; essential. In theology, referring to the inherent nature and being of God.
- **Majesty:** Impressive stateliness, dignity, or beauty. Often used to describe an aspect of God's glory.
- **Providence:** God's foreknowledge, active involvement, and governance of the universe and all that is in it.
- **Redemptive Acts:** God's actions to save humanity from sin and its consequences, most notably through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Splendor:** Magnificent and beautiful appearance; grandeur. Often associated with the visible manifestation of God's glory.
- **Theology Proper:** The branch of systematic theology that specifically studies the doctrine of God.
- **Triune:** Being three in one. Refers to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: God as one being existing in three co-equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Theology Proper: God, Session 18, Communicable Attributes, God is Glorious, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: The Glory of God

1. What is the glory of God, and why is it considered a difficult concept to define? The glory of God is a grand and pervasive truth in Scripture, yet notoriously hard to define. It sometimes refers to God himself, as in "the majestic glory" (2 Peter 1:17), a circumlocution for God's name. At other times, it denotes an attribute or a summary attribute of God, encompassing his majesty, worth, beauty, and splendor. The difficulty in defining it stems from its multifaceted nature, acting both as a designation for God and as a descriptor of his attributes and their manifestations.

2. In what ways does Scripture demonstrate that the glory of God is central to God's being and actions? Every major section of Scripture addresses God's glory, impacting every major doctrine. It is associated with God's special presence, as seen in the Exodus events (glory cloud, manifestations to Moses, presence in the tabernacle) and the Ark of the Covenant and the temple. The glory of God is brightly evident in the person of Christ, linked to the Holy Spirit, and even associated with heaven itself. Furthermore, Scripture intertwines God's glory with his attributes like holiness, uniqueness, and power, and with his works of creation, salvation, providence, judgment, and victory.

3. What is the distinction between God's intrinsic and extrinsic glory? God's intrinsic glory refers to his inherent majesty, worth, beauty, and splendor that exists within himself. His extrinsic glory is the revelation or external display of this intrinsic glory. While Scripture often focuses on God's extrinsic glory through his actions and attributes, the underlying intrinsic glory is the foundation from which the external manifestations proceed.

4. How does God display his extrinsic glory, according to the source? God displays his glory in various ways. Firstly, through creation, as seen in Psalm 19:1 where the heavens declare God's glory. Secondly, in human beings as his image-bearers, crowned with glory and honor (Psalm 8:4-5). Thirdly, through his providence, his care and sustenance of the world (Psalm 104:31). Lastly, and significantly, through his redemptive acts, such as the Exodus (Exodus 14:13-18) and the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:13-15).

5. How do human beings respond to God's glory, and what is the significance of this response? God's people respond to his glory by glorifying him, as Scripture often commands (Psalm 115:1, Revelation 19:1). While human praise does not increase God's intrinsic glory, it is an act of recognizing and acknowledging his inherent and revealed glory. God receives this glory and delights in the sincere worship of his people, even though he does not need it.

6. In what remarkable way does God share his glory with his people? Through their union with Christ, God astonishingly shares his glory with his people. This is a future reality promised in 2 Thessalonians 2:14, where believers are called to obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even now, believers are being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). This sharing of glory is also seen in the promise that when Christ appears, believers will also appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:4), signifying a full manifestation of their union with him.

7. How does the concept of God's glory relate to the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)? Scripture ascribes glory to the triune God. The Father is called "the majestic glory" and "the glorious Father." Jesus Christ is referred to as "the Lord of glory" and "our glorious Lord Jesus Christ." While the Holy Spirit is less frequently associated with glory in terms of names, he is called "the Spirit of glory and of God" and is the agent through whom believers are transformed into glory. Ultimately, all manifestations and responses of glory are to the glory of the triune God.

8. What is the ultimate purpose of God's glory in relation to his creation and all things? All things originate from God, are sustained by him, and exist for him, to his ultimate glory (Romans 11:36, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 2:10). God's intrinsic glory is the communication of his intrinsic fullness and sufficiency. His activities in creation, providence, salvation, and judgment are all ultimately for his glory. He is the beginning, middle, and end, and the ultimate goal of everything is the praise and exaltation of his glorious being.