

God's Sovereign Glory

Ephesians 1:3-6

*“Blessed **eu-logetos** (praise) be to God”*

- I. **The Glory** of God – who gets the praise, credit, attention
- II. **The Mystery** of God – paradox, oxymoron
- III. **The Sovereignty** of God's Choices – who ultimately in control of all

I. The Glory of God – who gets the praise, credit, attention

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Paul begins this great treatise to the Ephesian church with a doxology.

Paul love doxologies. Do you know what a doxology is?

Doxologies - Hebrew is kabod, Greek doxa.

I Chronicles 16:24-29 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 27 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling place. 28 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength, 29 ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name.

I Chronicles 29:10-13 David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. 13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and **the glory, for ever. Amen.**

(ie) Sing the Doxology (ie) Doxologies of Paul (Romans 16:27, Eph. 3:21, and Jude 25)

"The Doxology", is:

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

A doxology is a short prayer or hymn of praise that extols the glory and majesty of God. Glory to God (Gloria Patri), *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the...*

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the Highest by Angels

(ie) Handel's Messiah – Glory to God, and the glory of glory of the Lord...

HALLELUJAH! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ: and He shall reign for ever and ever. KING OF KINGS, and LORD OF LORDS, HALLELUJAH!

It is an anthem of praise to God that usually ended in an exclamation of AMEN! Often Paul begins his letters with a song of thanksgiving. In this letter he varies from that form for a purpose. It is not his purpose in this letter to begin with man, but with God. He wants the Ephesians to realize, comprehend, understand that God, and God alone, deserves all the praise, honor, and glory for our salvation. God alone is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Paul is jealous and zealous that God gets all the glory for what He has done. Paul wants them to know, as with the Corinthians that “No flesh should [glory in his presence.](#)” (1 Corinthians 1:29) Three times in this first chapter he repeats “the glory of God.” Verse 6, 12, and 14. And eight (8) times it is repeated in this letter. **(See List)**

You see this is not by accident. It is intentional. Paul was concerned that no believer would ever start to think that he has some glory, some worthiness that brought him to Christ. It is Christ alone who saves us, not we ourselves. No man can come to the Father except he draws him. In chapter two he goes to extreme lengths to show us that we are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of ourselves. It is a gift of God, not of works lest, any man should boast (or glory). **(Ephesians 2:8-10)**

Paul’s passion is the supremacy of Christ in all things. For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. In **Romans** he concludes in chapter 3:27 [Where is boasting](#) then? It is excluded. By what ... by the law of faith.

23 For all have sinned, and [come short of the glory of God](#); 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should [glory in his presence.](#) 31 That, according as it is written, He that glories, let him [glory in the Lord.](#)

Paul’s Doxologies

Romans 16:27 To the only wise God **be glory forever** through Jesus Christ! **Amen.**

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. [Amen.](#)

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honor and power everlasting. [Amen.](#)

Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. [Amen.](#)

Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Savior, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. [Amen.](#)

Ephesian Doxologies

Ephesians 1

He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 3

20. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21. **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, **for ever and ever! Amen.**

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the **glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the **praise of his glory**, who first trusted in Christ.

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the **praise of his glory**.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of glory**, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the **riches of the glory** of his inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is **your glory**.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the **riches of his glory**, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 3:21 **Unto him be glory** in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Apostle John

It would seem that the **Apostle John**, who lived in Ephesus, shared the zeal, even a jealousy for the glory of the Lord. If you will look with me at the book of Revelation, that glorious revelation of the mystery of God, John often repeats not just the word “glory” but giant doxologies for God, the Author of salvation.

The Revelation repeats such God and Christ exalting anthems so often it is hard to miss such superlatives. “He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending.” (Revelation 1:8, 11) The four living creatures that are around the throne say, without stopping, day and night, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is, and is to come.” And when the creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, the 24 elders **FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM AND WORSHIP HIM.** (Rev. 4:8-11)

Doxologies of Revelation

—	Loud Anthem
—	Worthy!
—	Glory
—	Forever
—	Amen!
—	Fell down

Revelation 1:4. John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5. and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. 6. and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6. and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--**to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.** 7. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! **Amen.** 8. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." 11 Saying, I am **Alpha** and Omega, the first and the last:

Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." 9. **Whenever** the living creatures **give glory, honor and thanks to him** who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10. the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives **for ever and ever**. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11. "**You are worthy**, our Lord and God, **to receive glory** and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders **fell down before the Lamb**. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9. And they **sang a new song**: "**You are worthy** to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." 11. Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, **numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand**. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Revelation 5:12 In a **loud voice** they sang: "**Worthy is the Lamb**, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and **glory and praise!**" 13. Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and **glory and power, for ever and ever!**" 14. The four living creatures said, "**Amen**," and the elders **fell down and worshiped**.

Revelation 7: 9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10. And they **cried out in a loud voice**: "**Salvation belongs to our God**, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11. All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They **fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God**, 12. saying: "**Amen! Praise and glory** and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God **for ever and ever. Amen!**"

Revelation 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his **trumpet**, and there were **loud voices in heaven**, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign **for ever and ever**." 16. And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, **fell on their faces and worshiped God**, 17. saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Revelation 19:1-7 After this I heard what **sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting**: "**Hallelujah!** Salvation and **glory and power** belong to our God, 2. for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." 3. And again they shouted: "**Hallelujah!** The smoke from her goes up **for ever and ever**." 4. The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures **fell down and worshiped God**, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "**Amen, Hallelujah!**" 5. Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" 6. Then I heard what sounded like a **great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting**: "**Hallelujah!** For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7. Let us rejoice and be glad **and give him glory!**"

Philippians 2:6-11

6. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7. but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

9. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10. that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth**, 11. and every **tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

The Glory of God

**Amen!
Hallelujah!
Glory to God!**

**Who gets the glory in
your life and testimony?**

Whose Praises are you singing?

My Tribute

(Words and Music By Andrae Crouch)

How can I say thanks for
the things You have done for me,
Things so undeserved,
Yet You give to prove Your love for me,
The voices of a million angels,
Could not express my gratitude,
All that I am, and ever hope to be,
I owe it all to Thee.

**To God be the glory,
To God be the glory,
To God be the glory,
For the things He has done,
With His blood He has saved me,
With His power He has raised me,
To God be the glory,
For the things he has done.**