

# Glimpsing the Glory of God: a study series for fellowship groups

Further copies from: Adrian H Reed - Email: [ahr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ahr@blueyonder.co.uk)

These studies are also available online at [www.ebe.org.uk](http://www.ebe.org.uk)



The Christian life is about building relationships, rather than about adopting roles, and this series of studies is about coming to know God better and having a deeper relationship with him.

## (2) Glimpsing God's Glory in his Word

**Q** 1 How do members of the group approach the reading of a novel or a non-fiction book? In comparison, how do members approach their study of the Bible

Read Psalm 19:7-14 The previous study challenged us to see the Glory of God in creation, where, says Eugene Peterson in "*The Message*" translation of the Bible: "*God's glory is on tour in the skies*"

He goes on to tell us: *The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together*  
(Psalm 19:7-8) *The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road*  
*The life-maps of God are right showing the way to joy*  
*The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes*



The Bible gives us an authentic account of God's nature and of his dealings with mankind. The preservation of the writings of this book through thousands of years compel us to take its contents seriously. It is often taught at Alpha that we take Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain in the first century as fact, and of his comment as he stood on England's coastline '*veni, vidi, vici*' (pronounced wany, weedy, weaky, but actually meaning I came, I saw, I conquered). In fact however the whole event is based on only a handful of copies of his writing, none of them written before 1000 AD. By contrast thousands of copies of New Testament scriptures exist which were made in the first 300 years after the crucifixion. In addition Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus (eg Isaiah 53) have come to light through archaeology after lying buried in the region of the Dead Sea since before he was born. We need to take its contents seriously.

The Bible paints a portrait of the character and glory of God. At the heart of the Bible is a revelation about Jesus, which Jesus himself told us was a picture in turn of what God is like (John 14:9-10; Heb 1:1-3). In Jesus there was no sin (Heb 4:15) and his mission was as a servant King (Lk 22:27) There were occasions when the power and glory of Jesus could not be concealed as when he spoke, in Aramaic, the name of God (Jn 18:3-6 "I AM"), the name revealed to Moses in the Old Testament (Ex 3:13-14).

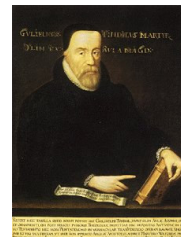
**Q** 3 Possibly dividing into small-but-balanced groups, what instances can members find in the Bible which show something of the majesty and glory of God. If finding these in small groups, share them with the whole group when coming back together. These will be things which you have found for yourself.

Today there are 40 or so English translations of the Bible (<http://faith.propadeutic.com/practice.html>), mostly in contemporary language. Some are strict word-for-word translations while others are paraphrases that have the intention of getting the main points across in accessible ways. We are spoilt for choice and do well to remember that the struggle of previous generations to make the scriptures available to us

in language that we can understand at great personal cost and sacrifice, death sometimes, is mirrored in the struggle of missionaries to do the same today in countries with a history of persecution.

**William Tyndale** William Tyndale gave us our English Bible.

Forbidden to work in England, Tyndale translated and printed in English the New Testament and half the Old Testament between 1525 and 1535 in Germany and the Low Countries. He worked from the Greek and Hebrew original texts when knowledge of those languages in England was rare. His pocket-sized Bible translations were smuggled into England, and then ruthlessly sought out by the Church, confiscated and destroyed. Condemned as a heretic, Tyndale was strangled and burned outside Brussels in 1536. In fact the Authorised Version of 1611 is almost word-for-word as Tyndale translated it, as is also much of the Old Testament. His work survives.



**Q** 4 What translations do members use and what has been their experience of understanding, memorizing and learning, using various of these?

Returning to our Psalm, we find that God's word is not something, as cynics might claim, which generates more heat than light, but on the contrary brings not just light (Ps 19:8) to our eyes, but joy to our hearts, and counsel to our minds (Ps 19:11) In the word of God we must expect to find a gulf between the picture which we find there of the glory of God, and the reflection which we see of our own lives by way of contrast.

**Q** 5 Do we find the Bible, through the work of the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26), to be a place where even our failings come to mind and need to be dealt with – even secret failings which perhaps no-one else knows about?

**Q** 6 There is also a problem, even for the Christian, of deliberate sin, habits for example which exercise control over us. Can we find solutions to these through reading our Bibles? How is this done?

May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, Lord !

**Next study: (3) Glimpsing God's Glory in Personal Experience (Isaiah 6:1-8)**