

State of Glory  
Market Street Fellowship  
Jason Henderson  
091213

## ***State of Glory***

*(transcription from teaching given Dec 13, 2009)*

The words creation and glory are now bound together in my heart. I want to establish this morning that we were created for glory and a little of what that means. Sooner or later in the heart of a Christian, it is not enough to be motivated by desire or hunger. This may last for a while but ultimately our personal motivations for knowing the Lord have to eventually be replaced by His motivations for relationship with us. Paul was a man who was motivated by only the glory of God. He did not care if his body lived or died, only that God be glorified in it. Maybe these kinds of statements are just a bible verses to you, but I believe that for Paul it was not merely a sentiment or a radical stance but a reality...to be motivated by the glory of God.

Before we can really get into that, I believe the Lord has brought it to my attention over the past several weeks that all things are created for glory. I was preparing for one of the Hebrew classes a few weeks ago and I was thinking about heaven and earth. There is this particular verse in Hebrews 1:12 where Paul quotes from the Old Testament about God folding up like a garment the heavens and earth and putting them away and establishing a new heaven and earth.

I began to look at a number of verses in the bible where I am certain that the term "creation" or "heaven and earth" are not referring to the physical, material creation. I believe in several cases they are referring to Israel, a covenant creation of God. But I want to consider this question - What is a creation?

Nothing is obvious when it comes to spiritual reality or knowing the Lord. The only obvious thing is that you have a wrong understanding. I mean no offense, but that is true. For that reason, spiritual assumptions are always wrong. When we assume what we've always thought, we err every time. Assumption and imagination are deadly when we are talking about spiritual reality.

So what is a creation? We assume it is simply something made; something physical; something that wasn't in existence until God spoke it into being. ***But recently I have begun to see creation as a universe of self-expression for God.*** Or maybe a better phrase is "***a state of glory.***"

In the seven days of creation everything that God made was an expression in some way or another of His view of Christ. We have talked about that...that nothing was made willy-nilly. Nothing was made just because it was pretty or because it was interesting. Like, "I wonder if I could stretch that giraffe's neck even longer! Wow! I did it!" It was not like He was experimenting. That is not what creation is. Nothing was made for itself - everything was made in view of Christ. Creation is a universe of self-expression.

God's creation was an interconnected collection of types and shadows. In it He could see the image of His Son and his purpose in that Son, and it was "very good". It was very good because it was ***a state of glory.*** It was a collection of created realities that all had one function and purpose and that was to express Him. Nothing was made...not even a fly...(even though I do not understand how it functions in that role... but I do know nothing functions outside of this purpose) ... there was nothing created outside of God's universe of self-expression.

That took me into a study in the Word and I found that in the creations of God there is a pattern. I began to see that there are really three distinct creations of God. I am not trying to create a new doctrine. I am simply saying that there are three things that *God calls* His creation.

- 1. The natural material creation;**
- 2. The creation of old covenant Israel**
- 3. The new creation in Christ – new Israel**

When God describes the creation of these there is a pattern that repeats itself. The pattern has to do with God's purpose to bring each of those creations into a state of glory; a universe of self-expression. That is what He is after. It was what He was after in the natural creation; it was what He was after in the creation of Old Covenant Israel—a state of glory—a universe of self-expression — a heavens and earth where God is on display. And that is certainly the case in the new creation. The third creation is the fulfillment of the first and second in all ways.

When I have taught creation from Genesis in the past, I usually start reading from Gen 1:3 where God says, "Let there be light"! But there are two verses before that, and these two verses have become important to me recently.

*Genesis 1:1-2, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth 2) and the earth was formless and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

In verse two he says, "and the earth was," and then he gives these three descriptive words of the earth. He says the earth was...**formless, void** and **darkness** was on the face of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. This jumped out at me as being a *natural state of creation*. God causes something to exist out of nothing, and yet even after it is created, it is still formless, void and dark.

First there is a beginning; a start; a birth... but still after it is created it is still formless, void and dark. Those three words are interesting to me because it does not say wicked, rebellious or contrary. Those words all speak of something being absent; a lack of something. *Formless is lacking form. Form of what? Void is empty; it is lacking substance. Darkness is lacking light.* God made something. It was not gross or evil in its original form, but it lacked something essential. **It was lacking the form, the substance, the light of Christ. It was lacking glory; it was lacking the image of Christ.**

So God acts on his creation by his Word and His hovering Spirit. It is like the Spirit was right there waiting to reveal. I often use this language when I'm speaking about God's desire to reveal Christ – the Spirit is hovering...waiting to reveal. When we are reading the Bible or hearing sermons or teachings and the words are bouncing off our natural minds...we are rejecting them, but the Spirit is waiting for that Word to find room in us and when that word has room in us the Spirit begins to work this process to reveal the word.

It is very much like this in the beginning of natural creation. The Spirit is there and He is hovering over something that is empty, formless, void and dark.. He is there with desire and purpose He is ready to respond to the Word. So God begins to act upon this creation by His hovering Spirit responding to His Word. *He begins to add the glory of Christ to what He created.*

Or perhaps you could say the Spirit is ready to add the elements of Christ that will begin to transform this creation from a formless, dark, void state into a state of glory; into a state of God's

self-expression. God was speaking beyond the natural when He created the physical heaven and earth. He was never primarily talking about a physical, natural creation.

He speaks His Word, "Let there be light" and it is done according to the activity of the Holy Spirit. Maybe you could say that God has created something and now He is working on it, working in it. He intervenes in His creation by His word and Spirit. Without the intervention of His Word and His Spirit the creation would remain formless and void and dark.

Nothing is added to this creation except for the formation of Christ; the formation of those things that bring this creation into a state of glory. That makes my mind jump to the New creation. I can't help but think about how we always want to add things to ourselves to make us better Christians. We always want to add something other than the image of the glory of Christ; something other than what the word and the Spirit are doing to cause us to bear the image of the Lord.

We are always trying to mix the things we appreciate about ourselves, or the things we can add to this creation, but God adds nothing other than Christ. He adds nothing other than that which IS Christ, and which is expressive OF Christ. I noticed this pattern in these three creations - the natural creation; the creation of Israel and the New Creation, which God describes in the New Covenant as both a New Covenant and a new Israel.

But they all begin lacking the image of Christ; they all begin formless and void. They all begin in this state of chaos, emptiness and darkness. It is a matter of lacking the testimony; lacking the image of Christ. That is how we begin. God describes Israel in the same way in **Jeremiah 4**.

**Jeremiah 4:22** *"For my people are foolish, me they have not known, Foolish sons are they, yea, they are not intelligent, they are wise to do evil, and to do good they have no knowledge. 23) I looked to the earth, and indeed it was without form and void, and the heavens; they had no light".*

This chapter is describing Israel and Jerusalem and condemning them for how they had fallen from purpose and testimony and are about to be destroyed. Notice the language! When God sees Old covenant Israel without the elements, the testimony, that testifies to Christ - without being a state of glory - he describes Israel as a creation without form, void and light. The same three things He described in *Genesis 1:2*.

We see the same concept in Deuteronomy 32 using slightly different language. But it is the same concept. Moses is talking to Israel about their history and reminding them of their beginnings.

**Deuteronomy 32:9-10**, *"For Jehovah's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. 10) He found him in a desert land, And in the waste howling wilderness; He compassed him about, he cared for him, He kept him as the apple of his eye.*

Starting off as a wasteland; as a wilderness, but God grabs hold of it and does something with it; He turns it into a world of self-expression. Israel became a world of the expression of God. Everything God did in Israel was to establish his own testimony; establish in them a living testimony. God found Israel formless and void and began to form/establish in them things that were an expression of His Self.

**Psalms 78: 5** He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,

It is the same thing with you and I in the new covenant in Christ. There are a number of verses that come to mind. Paul prays in Galatians for those who had been created anew by God, *Galatians*

4:19, "My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you". He is praying that Christ would be formed in them. Why? Yes they are newly born and yes they are created of God and yes as it states in *II Corinthians 5:17*, "All things have passed away and behold if a new man is in Christ he is a new creation."

That is a fact! It is established the moment you are born again. You are created anew in Christ. Yet we lack the image; we lack the testimony; we lack the substance—we are not a state of glory. We are created of God and are born again. This is not a matter of condemnation or wickedness. The words are not rebellious, wicked and corrupt. The words are empty, formless and dark. We are born again lacking the substance and testimony. That is you and I at the beginning of the new creation in Christ Jesus.

In Ephesians Paul prays that we be filled up with the knowledge of God, put on the new- be conformed to the image of God. We need to have Christ Himself formed in us and put on the new. The language of the New Testament is the language of something that God has created being conformed to the image of His Son.

***Ephesians 3:17*** "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18) may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19) and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that ye may be filled unto all the fullness of God".

He creates with incredible potential, but sadly is often not realized. It is like a newborn baby. It is loud and demanding and needy...but we love babies because they are little balls of potential, and who knows what it will become. Babies are a joy to people, not just because they have big heads and look cute, but because we know they will become something. Putting that baby in a dark room for 50 years would be a tragedy beyond words because of all the lost potential. You could put a computer in a dark room for 50 years and it is not great loss. The awesomeness of a baby is that it is going to become something.

That is even more true in the spiritual realm. This is what we are when we are born again. Here it is...something wonderfully made; fearfully and wonderfully made by Spirit. It is made by God and yet it is void, formless and darkness remains. We are new and full of potential but light must shine in our hearts for the knowledge of the glory of God.

God creates something and yet it is void, empty until God acts on that creation and the very first thing he does is say, "**let there be light.**" In all three creations, light starts everything. God starts forming glory with the coming of light. Without this light we remain formless, void and dark. *Without this light we cannot see or experience any of the other things that God is planning on doing with this creation. Nothing else happens.*

How sad it is that we as the church try to walk as the new creation without ever coming to see in the new light. We try to be a world of glory to God but we fall so short of the light. Before I had light I was living my life; I was definitely born again and created of God anew in Christ growing up in a dark room, thinking I was reaching my spiritual potential and giving myself to what I thought was good for God or good for the church, but I had not even allowed God to deal with me with the very first step. The very first step of transforming creation into a state of glory, a universe of His self-expression, is "let there be light!".

I am talking about the manifestation of the life of God in an earthen vessel. It all starts with light. Light changes everything. "Let there be light!" We try to be a glorious church before we see glory. We read about light and try to walk in a light without having seen that light. I did many things as a

Christian before the light went on and I am ashamed of *them because they were all done in darkness. It was all something I imagined.*

The darkness, the vacancy, formlessness of my own mind and imagination; there was no light to see; there was nothing but the light that was in me naturally that Jesus calls darkness. Jesus said,

**Matthew 6:22-23**, *"The lamp of the body is the eye: if therefore your eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23) But if your eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is the darkness!"*

There was something in me that I thought was light. It was the light that I knew until I allowed him to say, "Let there be light". So there was a creation...do hear what I am not saying? Before the light went on there was a creation; there was a new creation in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *"Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new."*

There was a new creation in Christ and yet that creation did not bear the image of Christ; did not bear the image of glory. That creation could not even start the process of transformation until I allowed the Lord to shine the light of the knowledge of the glory of God seen in the face of Jesus Christ. The light that Paul says "shines in our heart". So often we are content to be conformed to the image of our own imagination of Christ. We are always going to do that without light.

Israel had the same problem. They would not walk in the light so they could not learn the heavens and the earth and the increase and the kingdom and the rest. Do you understand those were the other days of creation? Israel that came out of Egypt could not continue their journey because they would not walk in the light.

When did God create Israel? God created them when they went into the bloody door and came out in the light of morning. Before that they were slaves in bondage to death. But then they went through a door and one man came out in the morning. God said to them, "Do not come out. Go in your door, go through that blood and participate in the lambs death and do not come out until the light of morning. They all come out in the morning and there is this picture of this light. Then in **Exodus 14** you see more creation language. God divides the light and the darkness so that the one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses goes on to talk about separating of the waters and the dry land. It is all creation language.

**Exodus 14:19)** *And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud removed from before them, and stood behind them:20) and it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud and the darkness, yet gave it light by night: and the one came not near the other all the night. 21) And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and Jehovah caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.22) And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.*

There are so many things we could point out in this chapter about the division He is establishing here. Let's go back to 13 just because I love it. It is a little off the topic but I really like it.

**Exodus 14:13)** *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will work for you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14) Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace".*

Unfortunately what God put out of His sight Israel did not put out of their sight and heart. God gave them light; brought them out into a new day. He separated them right at the sea; He made Egypt dark and made Israel stand in the light. He opened up the waters and gave them a place to stand on dry land and walk out but they would not walk in that light.

You could say it this way, a *state of glory* begins with the state of illumination. A state of glory begins with a state of seeing in God's light. How many ideas have we had about purpose and glory and life before that light began to shine in our hearts? *The problem is that you cannot be conformed to a glory that you cannot see.* You cannot be conformed to a glory that you cannot see so God always seeks to reveal in you the glory and change you into that image.

That is what **II Corinthians 3:18** is talking about.

*"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit".*

We are beholding; we are seeing with an unveiled face the glory of the Lord and we are being transformed into the same image. How are we conformed to glory? We are conformed to glory by first of all seeing that glory; that glory has to be seen and known or what? Or you are going to imagine! You are going to be conformed to the image of your own imagination; your own imaginary Christian hero.

It starts with light. And the next step in creation is he opens the heavens. Remember after He says, "Let there be light," He begins to open the heavens and divides the firmament and deals with the heavens before the earth. That is the order here. We have seen that order before. Even though the natural mind says the order is earth, death, heaven; the real order is death, heaven, earth. *First you die with Christ and are seated with Him in the heavens and then the heavenly realities begin to have increase and manifestation in the earth.* We have the order messed up from the beginning.

God deals with the natural creation and the creation of Israel as He does in your soul. First of all He opened the heavens in the natural creation; he divides the heavens and creates a space or place for heaven. He did same thing with Israel. As soon as they came out He dealt with them not about the manifestation of the kingdom and the land but first He dealt with them about the priesthood; first the priesthood and then the manifestation of the kingdom. First they died with the lamb and then they were taken with the high priest in his breastplate into heaven.

T Austin-Sparks says,

*"They came out of stone houses, directly related to the earth, they came out into a wilderness where everything was not earthly, everything was heavenly. Heavenly symbols – the blue robe of the High Priest and the bit of the same blue on the border of the garment of every man, woman, and child throughout all their generations. So heavenliness was the character of this people, they were not of this earth, but out for God unto the heavenlies." (The Church Which Is His Body, pg. 18)*

First they were a people reconciled to God in a heavenly relationship. God showed them the heavens and then they started to become the increase of the heavens in the earth. It is the same way with us. First we die with Christ and then we are seated in heavenly places, so we are foremost a heavenly creature, created of God in Christ, citizens of heaven. We are foremost heavenly beings. We are not first earthlings trying to get to heaven. Who made that up? Why is it so popular?

You are a heavenly creature; created of God in Christ. Paul, John and Peter all tell us a number of times that we are citizens of heaven; raised up in heaven. Heaven is where your soul lives now in Christ. I know your body is on earth; you still brush your teeth and tie your shoes but your soul is in heaven with Christ. Your body could be anywhere, that does not effect the eternal location of the soul.

That's where you are and that is first; that is immediate.

**Ephesians 2:4-6**, *"You who were dead in sin and transgression He made alive with Christ 4) but God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, :5) even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved), 6) and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus".*

**Colossians 3:3**, *"For ye died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4) When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory"*.

We are raised with Him, our life is hidden with Him in glory. These are spiritual facts that have to become inward realities. But my point is that God opens the heavens first for you or there will never be an increase of His Seed according to its kind in the earth; there never is going to be the government of the Lord operating in the earth if you are not first a heavenly being. First God deals with the heavens and that is the order.

That is why Jesus said to Nathaniel, *"Nathaniel you are an Israelite in whom there is no guile. I saw you when you were still under the fig tree."* Nathaniel is really impressed and tells Jesus He is the Son of God the King of Israel. But Jesus says that's not a big deal to see you under a fig tree, Nathaniel. What is the first thing you will see? You will see the heavens open; the heavens are going to be open to you Nathaniel. That is the first thing you will see. Don't rejoice over a word of knowledge – you will see the heavenly reality and *then* the earthly expression will grow. That is the order. The heavenly reality is opened first and then the earthly expression begins to grow. Again we are talking about a state of glory. We are talking about God bringing creation into a state of glory in us.

This is how He works in you...light shines; God shows you where you are; shows you what He has done and that begins to affect...you become the fragrance of the heavens in every place. The earth; the creation begins to increase according to its kind...this is going back to Genesis 1. The earth begins to fill up with its own seed...there is an increase. It fills up with light; there is an increase of the Lord's government in the earth, which is the sun, moon and stars of the natural creation.

**Genesis 1:14-18**, *"And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God's provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years, 15) And let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light upon the earth. And it was so.16) And God made the two great lights--the greater light (the sun) to rule the day and the lesser light (the moon) to rule the night. He also made the stars. 17) And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth, 18) to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good (fitting, pleasant) and He approved it"*.

God says the sun, moon and the stars are to rule or govern over the day and the night; the seasons and tides. And in Israel, they begin to take the land, and establish the government of Israel in the land. In other words, there is the Lord's government; the Lord's increase according to His kind.

Just as a side note: after the natural creation, whenever sun, moon and stars is mentioned in the Old Testament in any of the prophetic books it is always with symbolic reference to government or leadership. There are like eleven times in the prophets when the prophets are saying the sun, moon or stars fall, and it is always talking about the destruction of Israel or a nation. It is always a fall of government.

When God is describing the destruction of Babylon, the sun turns to darkness, the moon turns to blood and the stars fall to the ground. It is the same thing with Edom and with Israel. Jesus says the same thing in Matthew 24. He was not talking about the first creation but the second. He was talking about the creation that was giving testimony to God *in Israel*. The sun, moon, and stars of the covenant creation.

The point is that now we are talking about increase in the earth. The earth starts to become the fruitfulness of God; the government of God. And God begins to bring that into us, into our souls... the new creation. We begin to see and experience the heavens as the reality of where we are and what we are. *God then begins to have increase according to His kind in our soul...an increase according to His harvest; an increase according to His government.*

He begins to reign in us with his sun, moon and stars. He begins to bring forth in us His harvest. In other words you could say that the heavens are open and the earth takes shape and bear its increase. What does it culminate in? It culminates in a Man who reigns and has dominion; a man who governs this life and fills the earth. It was Adam in the first picture. It's a king; the King of Israel in the second. In the natural creation there is one man who has lordship and dominion. The increase in the earth is His to reap; His to rule; His to protect; His to enjoy...it is all His. Adam messed up that type and shadow massively but the picture was there.

In Israel it all culminated in a king after God's own heart; a king that reigned over that whole land. David was a king that both ruled and also partook of the increase. He was a king that protected but also enjoyed. It was a time when the land became the expression or manifest kingdom of that one man through David and Solomon in type and shadow.

Here is the king of Israel reigning with the mind of the Lord; protecting and partaking of Israel. Ruling and enjoying the land. And then in you and I it is obvious...that man is Christ who rules in our land; who both governs and has dominion but also then reaps the harvest and enjoys the bounty of the glory that is being established in our souls. Again, its the same picture repeating itself.

Adam, the lord of the natural creation. Solomon, the lord of the covenant creation. And Christ, the "second man", the "greater than Solomon" is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings in the kingdom of our soul

And what is after the man? The REST is after the man. Once again it is the same in all three creations.

After the man is created in the natural creation, God rests. Where do you see that picture in your bible? If you remember you see that picture in the natural creation on the *seventh day*. You see that picture of rest in Israel. And what is rest other than the perfect **state of glory**? What does God say? He enters into His rest saying, "It is very good-I have done it! Here it is...a universe of self-expression; a universe of glory; a state of glory! A state where there is no more work; there is no more to be made or applied or changed or protected or sown. Here it is! It is a state where everything is an expression of God and He enters into His rest on the seventh day.



In Israel we have several pictures of the seventh day of rest. There is more than one types and shadows that point to the rest. There is the Sabbath day; there is the land that Joshua brought them into; that land of rest. There is also the reign of Solomon where they had rest from their enemies on all sides. Where they also had a temple fixed in Jerusalem rather than a tent they had to move around.

In Solomon's day Israel was just that...a state of glory. That is the whole point of what Solomon represents. Read the first eleven chapters of I Kings. It is all about glory. What did the people come to see? The glory of Solomon; the glory of Israel! From all over the world they heard about the glory of God in Israel. God had established in Israel a universe of self expression. He had created a heaven and earth that were no longer formless, void, empty and dark. He filled up that land just like He promised !

***Numbers 14:20-21***, "And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to your word. 21) But truly as I live and as all the land shall be filled with the glory of the Lord,"

He did it in the natural creation; He filled the earth with the glory of God and He rested. He did it in Israel...He filled that land with the glory of God and He rested. Now in you, that man; that king dominates that land and destroys the uncircumcision of your heart and takes all thoughts captive in obedience to Christ; punishes all disobedience in our soul where we are contrary to Him and He reigns in rest.

It is a creation...you are a new creation in Christ- a universe of the expression of Christ. What does that mean? Are you just going to get a new body with bigger muscles? What does that mean? It is a state of glory; a universe of self-expression. You are a new creation and that is not a better version of you. That is the glorious expression of Him.

This is something that God creates for His glory. Something that was first of all in chaos, formless, empty, and dark. He began to do something with it and it all started with light, then heavens, then earth, then increase, government, then a king, a man reigning over all....unto a rest. It is a creation where every corner speaks of Christ; a position of rest God has created for glory.

Have you ever felt like you were not really motivated know the Lord today? Or, I am not motivated to turn my heart to the Lord today. What if your motivation was not the gas in the car? What if you could trade in your motivation? What if the motivation that got you started is not the motivation that we finish with? What if there is a new motivation...the one I believe caused Paul to die with a smile on his face. Paul was a man that grew in the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. And because of that, he was a man who, in all things, was motivated by the glory of God.