

GLORY: PURPOSE, VINDICATION, AND HOPE

A Biblical Word Study for Patriarch Discipleship

(Isaiah → Jesus → Paul)

I. “Glory” in Isaiah: Kabod as Weight, Honor, and Vindication

Key Hebrew Term

כְּבוֹד (kabod)

Root meaning: *weight, substance, honor, significance*

In Isaiah, **glory is not primarily escape to heaven**. It is:

- The **visible weight of God’s presence**
 - The **public honoring of God’s Servant**
 - The **vindication of faithful obedience**
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A. God’s Glory Made Visible in the World

- **Isaiah 40:5**

“The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.”

Glory is **revealed**, not relocated.

It appears *within history*.

B. The Servant’s Path: Suffering → Glory

- **Isaiah 52:13**

“Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be **high and lifted up**, and shall be **exalted**.”

This verse *introduces* Isaiah 53.

Crucial pattern:

Faithful obedience → suffering → vindication/glory

The Servant’s “glory” is:

- God’s **public approval**

- God's **vindication of obedience**
 - God's declaration: "*This is my servant.*"
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C. Isaiah's Theological Contribution

In Isaiah:

- Glory is **relational** (God honoring faithfulness)
- Glory is **missional** (seen by others)
- Glory is **often costly**

Isaiah does not oppose glory and suffering — he binds them together.

II. "Glorify" (δοξάζω) in the New Testament: Present, Active, Obedient

Greek Term

δοξάζω (doxazō)

Meaning: *to honor, credit, make known, display worth*

This verb frequently describes **what happens now**, not only later.

A. Jesus' Own Definition of Glory

- **John 17:4**
"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work you gave me to do."

Key insight:

Jesus speaks of *completed obedience* as **glory**
— *before* resurrection.

Glory here =

- ✓ Faithful obedience
 - ✓ Mission fulfilled
 - ✓ God honored on earth
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B. Glory in Suffering Faithfulness

- **1 Peter 4:14**

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ... the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

This is **present tense**:

- Glory **rests** on believers *now*
- Even while suffering continues

Glory does not wait for ease; it often appears in endurance.

C. Glory as Ongoing Transformation

- **2 Corinthians 3:18**

“We are being transformed... from glory to glory.”

This is:

- Continuous
- Spirit-driven
- Happening in discipleship

Glory is not only a destination — it is a **formation process**.

Summary of NT “Now” Usage

Glory can mean:

- God being honored through obedience
 - The Spirit’s active presence
 - Visible Christlikeness under pressure
 - Vindication that may coexist with suffering
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III. Romans 8: Future Glory and the Redemption of the Body

Romans 8 **does not contradict** present glory — it **completes it**.

A. Paul's Future Emphasis

- **Romans 8:18**

"The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed."

- **Romans 8:23**

"We wait eagerly for... the redemption of our bodies."

Paul's future glory is:

- Bodily
 - Cosmic
 - Resurrection-centered
 - New-creation focused
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B. Romans 8:30 in Context

"Those whom he justified he also glorified."

This is:

- **Purpose language**, not a travel statement
- God's **guarantee** that the Servant-pattern will reach completion

The aorist tense signals:

God's intention is so certain it can be spoken of as accomplished.

IV. Holding It Together: Already and Not Yet

Biblically faithful synthesis:

Already (Now)

Not Yet (Future)

Obedience glorifies God Resurrection glory

Spirit rests on believers Redeemed bodies

Christlike formation New creation

Already (Now)

Not Yet (Future)

Vindication may begin

Vindication completed

V. Pastoral Framing for Patriarch Discipleship

Teaching Line (repeatable)

Romans 8:30 is not primarily about “making it to heaven,” but about God faithfully completing the Servant-shaped purpose for which he called his people — honoring obedience now and perfecting it in resurrection glory.

Discipleship Implications

1. **Your obedience matters now**
God is glorified through faithful living today.
 2. **Suffering does not negate glory**
It may be the very place glory rests.
 3. **Perseverance is participation**
Endurance is not waiting for glory — it is walking in it.
 4. **Hope remains bodily and future**
Christianity does not abandon the future; it secures it.
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One-Sentence Summary

In Scripture, glory is the public honoring of faithful obedience — revealed now through Spirit-formed Christlikeness and fully manifested in the resurrection life to come.