

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

The Glory of God  
2 Chronicles 26; Isaiah 42:5–8



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

If the human race were suddenly struck blind, the sun would continue to shine by day and the moon by night. If we were suddenly struck deaf, birds would continue to sing and brooks to babble. And if we were suddenly struck with the “disease” of atheism, God would continue to exist in His resplendent glory. Our belief or disbelief in God adds nothing to nor takes anything away from His glory, any more than our sight or hearing commands the sun and the birds. But if we were suddenly struck by disobedience and self-conceit to steal God’s glory, even then He would remain undiminished. God’s glory is His and His alone, and with no other does He share it.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. A Declaration Most Have Forgotten (Isaiah 42:5–8)

As Christians, we need:

- A clear reminder of our calling
- A strong statement about God’s glory



## GETTING TO THE ROOT

### *Too Heavy a Word to Toss Around Lightly*

Before the temple was built in Jerusalem, Israelites worshiped God in a “tabernacle.” A portable tent, constructed in the desert while the people wandered their way to the Promised Land, the tabernacle became a “house” for God whenever they stopped. Exodus 40 describes the first

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## Quotable

*To God alone  
belongs the glory—  
all of the credit,  
all of the attention,  
all of the applause.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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time the tabernacle was erected and God took up “residence” in it. As Moses recorded: “The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:34).

But what does it mean that God’s “glory” filled the tabernacle? The Hebrew word for glory is *kabod* and basically means “heavy.”<sup>1</sup> When *kabod* is associated with God’s visible presence, as in Exodus 40:34–35, it takes on a special meaning—the heaviness of God’s holiness. In the words of one Hebrew scholar, “God wishes to dwell with men, to have his reality and his splendor [glory] known to them. But this is only possible when they take account of the stunning quality of his holiness.”<sup>2</sup>

Like dew weighing heavy in the air, so God’s holy presence, His glory, was heavy in the tabernacle—it permeated everything around it. Christians who carry the presence of God within them, in the person of the indwelling Holy Spirit, do well in not taking lightly God’s glory, just as Moses didn’t when he couldn’t enter the tabernacle because of the heaviness of God (40:35).

## 2. An Example We Should Always Remember (2 Chronicles 26)

King Uzziah was a man everyone could admire—until everything changed—and then he became the man nobody could respect.

- The King Everyone Admired (2 Chronicles 26:3–15)
- The Moment Everything Changed (26:16)
- The Man Nobody Respected (26:16–23)



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## LET'S LIVE IT

### Five Lingering Warnings to All in Leadership

- Beware when greater battles are fought within than without an organization.
- Beware when more attention falls on someone interested in building his or her own kingdom.
- Beware when the Lord's help is no longer considered essential.
- Beware when reproofs and warnings are resisted instead of respected.
- Beware when the consequences of sin no longer bring fear.

What should we do about our pride? What will God do if we take action to thwart our own pride? Read 1 Peter 5:6 to find out.

### ENDNOTES

1. Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2006), 457.
2. John N. Oswalt, "kabad," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 1, ed. R. Laird Harris (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 427.



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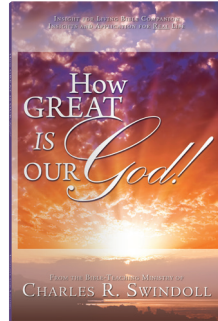
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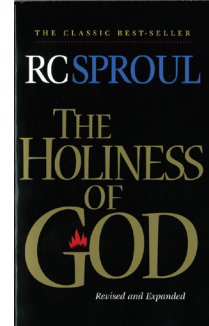
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