Glorification

(1) Glorification is the end goal of salvation

Romans 8:30

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Glory means honor, acclaim, splendor

• in ancient world, when king returns city after battle, triumphal entry

In some profound way, we will enter and participate in God's glory

1 Peter 5: 1, 4

¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as <u>a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed</u>... ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, <u>you will receive the unfading crown of glory</u>.

2 Corinthians 4:17

¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is <u>preparing for us an eternal weight</u> of glory beyond all comparison.

(2) This glory will be revealed at the final Resurrection

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

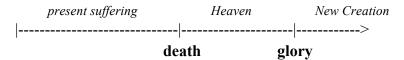
Therefore, we do not enter into glory at our death

- glory is not an individualized thing, but final triumph of our king
- greatest enemy of humanity is death; glory triumphs over death!

1 Corinthians 15:26-27

²⁶ The <u>last enemy</u> to be destroyed is <u>death</u>. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

Timeline:



(3) Q: When will we enter into glory? A: When King Jesus returns

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ who is your life <u>appears</u>, then you also will appear with him <u>in glory</u>.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 John 2:28 - 3:3

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. ^{3:1} See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Notes:

(1) Glorification is the end goal of salvation

- we are not just saved from our sins, but saved unto glory in Christ
- if sanctification is journey, glory is destination

Glory is hard to define - honor, splendor, acclaim

- contemporary example: when sports team wins game
- in ancient world, when king returns from battle, he enters city (triumphal entry) with vanquished enemy paraded

Our salvation is God's triumph over sin and Satan

• this is God's everlasting glory

We, in some profound way, will enter into and participate in this

- 1 Peter 5 passage says it so clearly, without giving away answer
- we will "partake in the glory" | "receive crown of glory"
- you might think, this glory is only for elders, b/c lofty position
- this glory awaits us all 2 Corinthians 4:17

(2) This glory will be revealed at our resurrection

• so the critical question, spend rest lesson – when?

Romans 8 | critically important passage

- our future is connected to our sonship | aren't we already sons?
- already but not yet
- "futility," "momentary affliction" | this present life
- Christian hope we will be freed from the bondage of decay

"decay" - not just sin, but terrible effects of sin

- Genesis 2 "you may eat of every tree, but TKGE not eat, for in the day you eat of it, you shall surely <u>die</u>."
- what is this death? Spiritual and physical
- so what does glory of freedom from decay look like?

"Pains of childbirth"

- new metaphor to describe agony/pain of this life
- but leading up to a "birth" | connected to our sonship

Glory defined

- freedom from decay
- birth after labor pains

Finally, answer in v. 23 – "redemption of our bodies"

- not just redemption of our souls, but of our bodies
- the Resurrection | resurrected life is full meaning of sonship!
- this resurrection going to be <u>cosmic renewal</u> (all creation involved)

Illustration: The Lord of the Rings

- Gandalf "dies" in Moria in Fellowship of Ring
- Sam wakes up at end of Return of King, sees Gandalf alive
- "is everything sad going to come untrue? what's happened to world?"
- curse and sadness of Fall is going to be undone
- not just consolation prize at end, but somehow, will work backwards
- all life will be restored and renewed | get back this life, but richer

Therefore, we do not enter into glory at our death

- otherwise, glory would be a personalized, individual thing
- this is where the Ordo intersects with Redemptive History
- the final step of the Ordo is going to be a corporate experience

Because the glory to be revealed is the final triumph of our king

- remember imagery of retuning king, parading vanquished enemy
- who is that enemy?—death | 1 Cor. 15:26, "last enemy is death"
- so, when we die, and until our Resurrection, not yet entered glory

Timeline

- heaven is "intermediate state" | with Christ in paradise
- but we are waiting for final redemption
- therefore, heaven is not the final goal, not final glory!
- this is depicted in Simpsons floating around in heaven
- the final goal is New Creation (Revelation 21)

(3) Q: When will we enter into glory? A: When King Jesus returns

"Those who have fallen asleep"

- those who have died
- to convey that death is not end, but one day, we will "wake up"

"Jesus will bring with him those fallen asleep"

• saints in heaven

"We who are alive, who are left until coming of the Lord"

• Christians still alive at time of Jesus' return to earth

"Coming of the Lord"

- Greek: parousia | technical word, "appearance of king"
- goes back image of conquering king returns to city

"Dead in Christ will rise first"

• this is the final Resurrection | saints in heaven gain back bodies

"Then we who are alive will be caught up together in clouds"

• the Christians on earth will join up with Christ as he returns

This is understood by many to be the Rapture

- what happens next? | go back to heaven
- life on earth continues, with death and decay and sin

Two major problems with this interpretation

- (1) after Resurrection, death/decay continue | no renewed cosmos
- (2) in the return of king (parousia), the king dwells among people

Colossians 3 – we see same principle

- when we see Jesus (2nd Coming), we will enter glory
- and the curse will be undone, death defeated, creation renewed

1 Corinthians 15

- v. 50 "flesh and blood cannot inherit kingdom of God"
- we in this present corrupt life cannot enter New Creation
- "we shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed"
- "trumpet will sound" trumpet announces return of king
- when king returns, "the dead will be raised imperishable"
- "death is swallowed up in victory" | death is defeated
- all these things go together at the Resurrection

1 John 2-3

- "when he appears," "at his coming" (parousia) 2nd Coming
- our status as children of God is connected to Jesus' return
- because when he returns, we will "be like him"
- we will gain resurrected, glorified bodies