
John 12:27-30

"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.

As we talked about last week, Jesus came to die. At this point He is resolute and determined to carry out the Father's plan for His life but still He is human and the details of that plan must have been so hard to accept. He knew that these very people who were now honoring Him would soon be yelling crucify Him. He knew that the relationship with His Father would be severed as He literally became sin. He knew that they would hate Him, hit Him, hurt Him, nail Him to the tree and I am sure there was a big part of Him that wanted the Father to find another way than Him being nailed to a cross. But still, He wanted His disciples to know that although the unthinkable was going to happen, this was the very purpose He came to this hour, for this will be the climatic event in the annals of all humanity—an event which was carefully and meticulously planned for and prepared from before the world began.

That statement "Father, glorify Your name" was another way of saying: "Father, here I am, do as you will in and through my life; I am ready." Actually, it was even more emphatic than that for the word "glorify" is an imperative: "Father, let's do it, let's get it done; here I am, complete Your work now."

But beyond this being a statement of steadfast resolve to evoke God to act, why would Jesus ensuing death and resurrection bring glory to the Father's name? And why would the Father say I have glorified it (His name) and will glorify it again? I was thinking about this whole name thing and I am sure there are so many possible answers (especially given the numerous names that are given to God), but I would like to consider an answer to this statement that deals with 2 of the most used names in the Old Testament for God: *Elohim* and *Jehovah*.

In the Bible names are a very important thing and we often see that they are associated with a person's base character, nature and even their destiny. We saw that with Abraham, Jacob, Ishmael and so many others. As you might imagine then, the names of God are very important and actually help us comprehend aspects of His nature, His character, and His intentions toward mankind. In fact, most of the names we have in the Bible, through which God has identified Himself, deal with how He functions in relationship to humanity: Jehovah-Rophe—God the healer, Jehovah-Jireh—God the provider, Jehovah-Shalom—God of peace, Jehovah-Tsidkenu—the Lord our Righteousness, Elohim-Mishpat—God of justice, El-Roi, the God who sees, and so on. But the names *Elohim* and *Jehovah* (along with the name *El Shaddai*—God Almighty—) are very unique and personal to God and disclose to us less about what He does but who He is.

Elohim: occurs 2,570x in the Old Testament. Understand that until the time of Moses and the burning bush, where God revealed His proper name, *Elohim* is the name by which mankind referred to the living God. *Elohim* is believed to be derived from two possible root words, both of which help us understand the glory of this name. The first one is the root word *El* which is translated as God over 250x in the Old Testament and means strength, power, and absolute sovereign rule. The second potential root comes from the word *Alah* which means to declare or to

swear. In other words, the true God is the only one who can not only make covenant promises to His people but also the only one who has the power to faithfully fulfill those covenant promises. Thus, the name *Elohim* means that God is preeminent and the only one who *always* fulfills His Word to His people.

It is really interesting that this name is also used in the Bible to refer to men and angels who rule or who have authority over others. Jesus made mention of this when they were going to stone Him for saying that He is the Son of God (*John 10:34-37*). But there is a fundamental difference in the Hebrew when this name is used for God and when it is used for others who are in authority. Every time it is used in regard to man or an angel it is singular in form, but every time it refers to the supreme deity it is plural and thereby references the entirety of the godhead.

So the name Elohim carries with it the idea of greatness, glory, preeminence and absolute sovereignty—the one God who is above all other little “g” gods—and the certainty that as the one true God He is the one who has the power to fulfill each and every promise He has made to His people.

Now the second name I want to consider is *Jehovah*. This is the name we consider to be God’s proper name; and, as such, it is distinctive from all other names ascribed to God. This name is referenced 6,823x in the Old Testament with the first being when God identified Himself to Moses at the burning bush. Moses said:

Exodus 3:13-15

But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to

the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

Just a quick note, the word Yahweh is the English translation of Jehovah. So in contrast to the other names of God which describe some action or dealings with mankind, the name *Jehovah* describes His ever existent and eternal nature. *Jehovah* derives from the Hebrew verb "havah" which means "to be" or "being" and is almost exactly like the Hebrew verb "chavah" which means "to live" or "life." The idea is that He is the one who always exists, always has and always will and the one who is the life and through which all things live. Thus, the name *Jehovah* declares God's absolute being, the source of everything without beginning or end.

So getting back to the question of how Jesus' ensuing death and resurrection would bring glory to the Father's name, I can see that the answer beautifully intersects both of these names in a powerful way. First, the Elohim is fulfilling His covenant promises: to Adam in ***Genesis 3:15*** to crush the head of Satan under the heel of the Messiah; to Abraham in ***Genesis 12:3*** that all the nations of the world would be blessed through the "seed," through the Messiah that comes from Abraham's family line; to David in the covenant he made in ***2 Samuel 7:16*** that his kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom and his throne would be secure forever. So not only is Elohim fulfilling His covenant promise, though Jesus' death and resurrection, Elohim is also exalting Jesus to be the preeminent one over all of creation.

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This reference in Philippians comes from a covenant promise that God made back in Isaiah and which we know is fulfilled in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 45:21-25

And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. "They will say of Me, 'Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. "In the Lord all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory."

The Godhead is seen all over these verses. He is a righteous God, a Savior, and there is no one else—there is only one God. Yet, He tells us to turn to Him and be saved. *Acts 4:12* tell us that there is no other name under heaven, except the name of Jesus, by which men and women can be saved—for there is salvation in no one else. And by His own name He has sworn that every knee will bow and every tongue will swear allegiance. This is all fulfilled in the Son: every promise, every covenant is brought to fruition in Jesus. And we see the final completion of this at the end of the ages as the Father, through the Apostle John, has given us a glimpse outside of time into eternity of Jesus' future glory.

Revelation 5:13-14

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

So God glorifies His name by fulfilling every promise through Jesus and exalting Jesus to His rightful position of Lord and King over all of creation. In addition, through Jesus' death and resurrection, the Father has established Jesus as both the only way through which a person can experience eternal life and the only provision for our life. He is our "I AM" the one who gives us life, sustains our life, fulfills our life, and satisfies not only in our "now" but for all eternity!

One final little twist on how God has glorified His name and will glorify His name guess what, it has to do with you. Let's look at one of the most powerful passages in the New Testament which is found in the book of Colossians.

Colossians 1:15-22

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

To summarize, Jesus is it! No one compares! And if you are a believer you have now become a living demonstration of His glory. We see this clearly in John 17.

John 17:22-24

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The glory of Elohim, Jehovah, is our glory. We are the reward that the Father has given to the Son and His character and nature is now ours for we are holy and blameless as we stand before Him, in unity with the entirety of the godhead, without fault. What an amazing thought; through what Jesus has done in our lives, you and I give glory to the name of the Lord.

John 12:31

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

This is a very interesting statement and one which I do not believe translates well from Greek to English because the timing of these events can be confusing. But let's focus on its pieces to get a clear understanding. The first part: "now judgment is upon this world," the verb we have translated as "is," is in the present active indicative. Jesus is saying that now judgment is happening and it is not pending and is not something that will occur at a later time. I know this can be

confusing because the Bible talks of a Great White Throne judgment at the end of the age where everyone who is not a believer will be judged for their deeds. And according to *Revelation 20:15*, anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire. This is not the judgment Jesus references in *John 12:31*—this judgment comes at the end of the age. Besides, the scene we see in Revelation is more of a sentencing. The judgment has been made because either the person's name is in the book of life or it is not. The judgment of the deeds referred to in this passage in *Revelation* seems to decide the fate of a person in their eternity—the level of goodness or badness that they will experience.

If I can make a totally inadequate comparison to help us understand this concept, a person's deeds will be reviewed to determine if they get assigned to city jail, county jail, the federal penitentiary and whether they will have any privileges or assigned to solitary confinement. I know there is no comparison as we are dealing with eternity, but it at least helps frame the concept.

So what is Jesus talking about when He says that now is the judgment of the world? I believe He is saying that the entire wrath of God—the fullness of His justice, the depth of His anger which has been built up for the sins of every man, woman and child who has ever lived or who will ever live—will be poured out on Jesus. Yes, the world will be judged for every word and deed, but in a few days Jesus will be lifted up on the cross and intercept God's wrath. The Father's judgment will be directed solely to Him. Let's look at this amazing set of verses in Romans 3.

Romans 3:21-26

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Sin was definitively judged on the cross. The result is that we—all of humanity—now have peace with God. We already in *Colossians 1:20-21* that Jesus made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. It is done. Sin is no longer an issue between God and man. The penalty has been paid: God is at peace even with His enemies. In fact we are told in *Colossians 2:13-15* that every accusation that could ever be made against you has been nailed to the cross. No allegation can stick; it has all been redirected to Jesus.

What an amazing truth! Talk about bringing glory to the name of *Jehovah*—our I Am is the entire provision for our sin; He is our everything. So this should be stirring up in your mind a question about eternity. If sin has been dealt with on the cross and all of humanity is at peace with God, then how is it possible for there to even be a Great White Throne Judgment? Well, that's a very good question?

Even though God has dealt with sin and the judgment has been paid, everyone still has to deal with the issue of their eternity and guess what, because of the cross they now have a choice. Sin will not be the reason anyone gets thrown into the lake of fire for eternal damnation; rather, the only issue will be whether or not their name is written in the book of life. If it is, they will spend eternity in the presence of God and if it is not, then it will not be pretty. So how does one end up getting their name written in the book of life? It's actually very easy, for there is only one way. Jesus alludes to it in the very next verse in John 12.

John 12:32

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

Once Jesus is crucified on the cross, literally lifted up, He will draw all men to Him. In other words, by this one act of great sacrifice, He has now become the sole provision for our salvation. Thus, all of humanity now has to deal with the Son—no if's, and's, or but's, and there are simply no exceptions. Jesus has become the unavoidable issue. Remember, as we read in *Acts 4:2*, there is only one ***name*** under heaven by which we can be saved and that is the name of Jesus. So contrary to what you have heard, all roads don't lead to "God," but to Jesus and He is the only way to the Father.

Also, the passage in Romans made it very clear that God sent His son to take the punishment for our sins; however, He will only declare sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus (*Romans 3:26*). So “belief” in Jesus has now become the sole criteria for being right in the Father’s sight. This actually brings us all the way back to that pivotal verse in *John 6:29* when a group of Jews asked Jesus what they must do to do the works of the Father and Jesus told them: “believe in the one he has sent.”

Belief in Jesus—that He is Jehovah—is the ticket to having your name written in the book of life. But this is not talking about an intellectual ascension to the truth, but the willingness to accept Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior—your Jehovah who is your Elohim-Selichot—your God of forgiveness, and your Elohim-Yishi—your God of salvation.

Remember the passage in Philippians and Isaiah which we read. Without exception, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Jehovah. Some will have already made that declaration here on earth and will experience eternal life in the presence of the Father and others will make this confession right before they enter their sentence separated from God for all time. I encourage you to get your name in the book of life now. Don’t wait any longer; the risk is too high.

Let’s get back to the second part of *verse 31*: “the prince of this world will be cast out.” The prince of this world is a reference to Satan himself. Right now Satan’s domain of operation is this world and he and his minions seem to be an ever present evil in our lives. But there will be a time when he is literally cast out and will have no more domain or authority here on earth and we will be free from his hate. In the book of Revelation, immediately before the Great White Throne judgment, we see this prophecy come to fruition.

Revelation 20:10

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

So don't fret, there will be a day of judgment for Satan; he will surely get his comeuppance. This is such great news. Our eternity will not be corrupted by sin (since Jesus dealt with sin) or by the enemy (since Jesus will sentence him to an eternity of pain and suffering).

John 12:33-36

But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

As we talked about last week, it is clear that the crowd was hailing Jesus as the Christ, the messiah. It is also clear that they knew what He was talking about when He said that He would be lifted up—they knew that meant death on the cross. But

these two things did not fit in their religious paradigm. The Christ dying; no he is going to live forever. This just might be the place where Jesus starts to lose the crowd and they start to second guess their convictions. This might be the place where they some start to turn on Him. If you die, then how can you save us from the Romans? If you are not going to set us free, then how can you be the Christ? And, if you're not the Christ, then it's no surprise the religious leaders want you dead.

As I have said before, wrong belief will always lead to unbelief as the “jesus” or the “god” that you want to serve does not match up with the truth about Jesus or God. The sad thing is that few people are willing to lay aside their demands and expectations and yield to the truth; instead, they just get upset, disillusioned, and walk down the path of unbelief. We will see this so clearly when in just a few days these people who are shouting Jesus' praise want Him dead.

Notice that Jesus did not try and correct their misconceptions; He just once again pointed them to their need to believe in Him. He is the light—the very light of Genesis 1 that pierced the darkness and provided life to all of creation—and if they would just believe in Him then that same light will light their path and they will not have to grope and wander in the darkness. Rather, they will be children of the light.

The imagery here is powerful. Without Jesus in your life, you live in darkness and thus you stumble about. You don't really know what to choose for your life and you really don't know where to walk. You make decisions and hope that they are right and just hope that things are going to be ok; but all the while you do not know that the darkness is overtaking your life completely.

However, that does not have to be your life. If you have His light within you, you will see where to walk. You will be able to know the path that He has chosen for you to walk. You will have the confidence of His love to guide you and direct you. And unlike those who are overtaken by the darkness, you will be safe.

This is such a wonderful promise and all He is asking is for you to believe that Jesus is Jehovah and to let His light into your being by choosing to let Him be your Lord. This is a decision you have to make only *once* in terms of receiving the light and having your name written in the book of life; yet, it will be a decision you must make on a moment by moment basis in order to continue to walk in the light.

If you are not a believer, I encourage you tonight to believe in His love for you and let His light penetrate your heart, expel the darkness, and whatever you do, get your name in that book. If you would like to receive Jesus please talk to me after the service. If you are a believer but have been choosing to walk in the darkness, I encourage you to just stop. You have the light; you are one of the few chosen ones. Learn to love the light, always live in the light, and let its glory shine so brightly from your life so that the name of God is and will be glorified through you.

Let's Pray