Glory and Kingship

Glory and crown: Tim Mackey just said something very interesting for the word glory. He said that there is different portions, like in the Old Testament, Kavod, Kavod was the king who got stabbed in the belly, and he was really overweight, and that's what Kavod is, heavy. And then on the other application, on another of many applications, there is the glory of the believer, which alludes to a substitutionary term like a crown. It's the crown of the believer. And I thought that was interesting, because in Revelation, it talks about how in 21 and 22, there will be a crown, and then we see for the high priest that there's a crown in the Old Testament, which is unto Yahweh or something like that, engraved in the crown, and then it's going to say that we're going to cast our crowns before the feet of God, but he's going to place them back on our head. He's going to put that glory back on our head. So I'm, I've never thought about it this way, and I've been thinking, what is a substitutory word other than heavy for the word glory? And this seems to be a good fit as, not all the time, but in a metaphorical case, and maybe when Paul is talking about glory, he's talking about enthroned, where Jesus' glory is enthroned, and God's glory is enthroned. It's not just this idea of heaviness, it's this idea of exaltation. And when we live rightly, we are giving glory to God. We are demonstrating his enthronement in our lives, and that is, in essence, part of our crown.

You're touching something **very real in the biblical word-network**, and what Mackey hinted at is actually a doorway into how *glory → kingship → priesthood → restored humanity* all interlock.

Let's slow this down carefully and keep the Hebrew/Greek logic intact.

---

1. Kavod (כָּבוֹד) — Glory as "Weight"

The Hebrew root:

כבד (K-B-D)
= heavy, weighty, substantial, significant

Yes — the same root describes physical heaviness.

Example:

- **Eglon king of Moab** — *"a very fat man"*
  (Judges 3:17)

The word family overlaps with **kavod**.

So originally:

Glory = weight that cannot be ignored

Not brightness first.
Not halo imagery.
But **importance that presses reality downward**.

A person with *kavod*:

- carries authority
- alters the room
- must be reckoned with

This is why dishonor is literally:

to make light (qalal)

Glory ↔ Lightness
Weight ↔ Worthlessness

---

2. The Shift: From Weight → Status

In ancient Near Eastern thinking:

If someone had **weight**, they had:

- honor
- authority
- rank
- throne legitimacy

So *kavod* naturally becomes:

☑ honor
☑ reputation
☑ royal dignity
☑ exalted status

This is where your instinct about **enthronement** becomes correct.

Glory is not merely brilliance.

It is:

recognized, installed significance

---

3. Glory and the Crown (This Connection Is Real)

Now watch Scripture tighten the link.

Humanity's Original State

Psalm 8:5:

"Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour."

Hebrew structure:

- **Crowned**
- with **kavod**
- and **hadar** (splendor/majesty)

Meaning:

👉 Glory itself functions like a **royal installation**.

Man was not merely alive.

Man was **enthroned creation-vice-regent**.

Genesis 1 language:

- rule
- dominion
- image

All royal terms.

So:

Glory = the crown-status of bearing God's rule.

---

4. The High Priest's Crown

Exodus 28:36–38:

The high priest wears a gold plate:

"HOLINESS TO YHWH"

Placed on the **forehead**.

Important:

- Priest represents humanity to God
- Crown represents authorized access
- Glory rests on the head

This anticipates restored humanity.

---

5. Paul’s Explosion of the Idea

Paul inherits both Hebrew and Greek ideas.

Greek word:

δόξα (doxa)

Originally meant:

- opinion
- reputation
- recognized honor

But when translating *kavod*, it absorbs **weight + royal honor**.

So for Paul:

Glory = Participation in Divine Rule

Romans 8:17:

heirs of God… **glorified together**

2 Corinthians 4:17:

“an eternal weight of glory”

Notice Paul deliberately restores **weight language**.

Not accidental.

---

6. Revelation — Crowns and Glory Unified

Now your observation lands perfectly.

Crowns Given

Revelation 2–3:

- crown of life
- crown of victory

Crowns Cast

Revelation 4:10:

elders cast their crowns before the throne

Why?

Because:

All authority derives from God.

But notice — they **still possess crowns** afterward.

This is not loss.

It is acknowledgment of source.

---

7. The Restoration Pattern

Here's the full biblical movement:

Stage	Humanity
Creation	Crowned with glory
Fall	Glory lost / dishonored
Christ	Crowned with glory (Heb 2:9)
Believers	Share His glory
New Creation	Re-enthroned humanity

Hebrews 2 is explicit:

We do not yet see all things subjected to man…
but we see Jesus **crowned with glory**.

Jesus restores Adam's crown.

---

8. Your Insight: Glory as Enthronement

You said:

living rightly demonstrates His enthronement in our lives

That is extremely close to Paul's logic.

Biblically:

Giving glory to God does **not** add glory to Him.

Instead:

We acknowledge rightful kingship.

To glorify God =
to live as though He truly reigns.

Which means:

- obedience becomes political loyalty
- worship becomes allegiance
- holiness becomes royal representation

---

9. A Helpful Substitution Set for “Glory”

Depending on context, *kavod/doxa* may function as:

- Weight
- Worth
- Honor
- Authority
- Reputation
- Majesty
- Royal Status
- Installed Authority
- Enthroned Presence
- Crowned Identity

So yes — **“crown”** can legitimately act as a metaphorical expression of glory in many passages.

Not identical words.

But overlapping realities.

---

10. The Deepest Layer (Genesis → Revelation)

The Bible ends where it began:

Revelation 22:5:

they shall reign forever and ever

And immediately before:

His name shall be on their foreheads.

That is High-Priest crown language.

Humanity restored as:

- [x] image
- [x] priest
- [x] king
- [x] glory-bearer

The Aha Thread

Glory is not mainly shining.

Glory is:

God sharing His ruling life with humans who reflect Him rightly.

The crown is simply **visible glory**.

And casting crowns says:

“This reign was always Yours.”

If you want, next we can trace something fascinating that sits right under this:

Why Paul calls Jesus “the image of the invisible God” and links it directly to glory — and why resurrection itself is described as re-crowning humanity.

So, can Glory also be linked as in the beginning on verse Genesis 1:3 he made light separate. The darkness and the darkness was already present. There’s a lot of light and John in chapter 1 that Jesus is light and so when you do things according to obedience, is that being a light and this brings light and glory in the darkness in the dark world the deciever(s) is trying to get us to be in rebellion, light is opposing rebellion and glory to God through the light activity of acting out just like Jesus is light.

Yes — and you are now moving into one of the **central unifying threads of Scripture**:

Light → Glory → Obedience → Presence → Rule

But we need to connect them carefully so we don't collapse meanings that Scripture keeps distinct yet intertwined.

---

1. Genesis 1:3 — Light Appears *Into* Darkness

"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."
(Genesis 1:3)

Notice something crucial:

- Darkness already exists.
- God does **not** create light by removing darkness.
- He **introduces** light *into* it.

Darkness is not described as a rival power — it is **unordered, unruled space**.

So light in Genesis is first:

ordering presence

Light makes reality livable, visible, governable.

Without light:

- no direction
- no distinction
- no life-function

So already in Genesis:

Light = God bringing His rule into chaos.

---

2. Light Before the Sun (Very Important)

The sun isn't created until Day 4.

So Genesis 1:3 light cannot merely be physical sunlight.

It functions as:

- divine presence
- revelation
- order
- life-enabling reality

This becomes the foundation for John.

---

3. John 1 — Direct Genesis Re-Reading

John intentionally echoes Genesis:

"In the beginning was the Word…"
(John 1:1)

Then:

"In him was life; and the life was the **light of men**."
(John 1:4)

John is saying:

👉 The light of Genesis 1 was always connected to the Word.

Then:

“The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”
(John 1:5)

Same pattern:

Genesis	John
Darkness present	Fallen world
Light enters	Christ enters
Order begins	New creation begins

Jesus is **creation light entering moral darkness**.

---

4. Now Connect Light and Glory

Here’s where your insight lands.

In Scripture:

God’s Glory Often Appears As Light

Examples:

- Sinai — blazing fire (Exodus 24)
- Tabernacle — radiant cloud (Exodus 40)
- Ezekiel’s vision — shining brilliance
- Transfiguration — face shines like the sun
- Revelation — God Himself illuminates the city

Revelation 21:23:

“The glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

Notice:

Glory produces light.

So:

Glory = divine weight/presence
Light = visible expression of that presence

Glory is the reality.
Light is the manifestation.

---

5. Obedience as Walking in Light

Now your question:

Is obedience being light?

Jesus answers directly.

John 8:12:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.”

Following = walking in light.

Then believers:

Matthew 5:14–16:

“Ye are the light of the world… let your light shine before men…”

How?

“that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father.”

This is the exact chain you described:

Obedient action → Light visible → God glorified

Not metaphorically only.

Structurally.

---

6. Why Obedience Produces Glory

Because rebellion is darkness.

Darkness in Scripture often means:

- hiddenness
- disorder
- deception
- autonomy from God

John 3:19:

men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

So obedience does something cosmic:

It restores alignment with God’s rule.

When a human lives rightly:

- chaos loses ground
- truth becomes visible
- God’s character is displayed

That manifestation is called **glory**.

---

7. Jesus as the Perfect Pattern

Jesus says:

John 17:4:

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work…”

How did He glorify God?

Not by shining light beams.

But by **obedient action**.

Philippians 2:

- obedience unto death
- therefore God highly exalted Him

Obedience → Glory → Enthronement.

Exactly your observation.

---

8. The Deceiver vs Light

You also noted rebellion correctly.

Biblical pattern:

Kingdom of Darkness	Kingdom of Light
deception	truth
autonomy	obedience
hidden works	revealed works
disorder	order
death	life

Colossians 1:13:

delivered us from the power of darkness… translated into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Light language = kingdom transfer.

---

9. The Stunning Conclusion

When believers live in obedience:

They are not merely behaving morally.

They are:

- ☑ reflecting divine light
- ☑ manifesting God's glory
- ☑ participating in new creation
- ☑ demonstrating rightful kingship under God

So yes —

Acting in faithful obedience is humanity functioning again as light-bearers of God's glory in darkness.

Genesis 1 begins with light entering darkness.

Revelation ends with:

"night shall be no more."

The whole Bible is the story of **light spreading until glory fills creation**.

One Sentence Summary

Glory is God's reigning presence;
Light is that presence made visible;
Obedience is how humans become carriers of that light in a dark world.

If you want, the next step that ties this even tighter is seeing why Paul calls believers **"children of light"** and connects that directly to **image restoration and resurrection bodies** — which brings glory, light, and crown into one final unified idea.

Psalm 8 is the reference for Kavod being like a crown. Reputation is also Kavod, David says his enemies have put his Kavod in the dirt, and don't liken myjavod to be likely sons. Going back to light you know I've often thought it's too bad. I'm not in full-time ministry or if I could've been a full-time missionary or if I had a home fellowship or Bible study or if I can write a book or if I can write something like a prayer journal or Christian poetry , then I'd be making an impact on the world because I'm thinking in the terms of humans and my influence on humans, but I just kind of became real to me not that I didn't know, but I think it became more clear and transparent is popped in that if I am at a job and I'm praying for my coworker whether they know it or not or if I'm on the freeway and I'm singing praises instead of listening to secular music or if I'm a boss and I'm treating my people with respect and honor in love or a father or a parent all of these things have for the most part of an impact on humans but in a greater part potentially it has an impact on the invisible realm and Ephesians 3 is kind of where I'm getting this from it talks about principalities and powers in heavenly places might know and see the manifold wisdom of God and I think there's other passages inside of Ephesians 3 and elsewhere in the New Testament that promote the idea that we as image bearers who are predisposed to send who become children of light when we areusing light in obedience in any capacity we may or may not be making an impact on individual humans or image bearers, and we may very likely more likely or always making an impact on the spiritual kingdom when Jesus says the kingdom is here and when we're encouraged to walk with him as kingdom occupants here on earth, establishing the kingdom when we pray your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, ultimately our daily actions are first of all spiritual, and secondly, human impact hopefully but not always.

What you just described is actually a **major New Testament correction of how humans measure significance**.

You are seeing the difference between:

visible influence
vs
kingdom participation

And Scripture very intentionally moves believers away from *human-measured impact* toward *cosmic faithfulness*.

Let's walk this carefully through the texts you're connecting.

---

1. Psalm 8 — Glory as Crowned Status

You're right to anchor this here.

Psalm 8:5:

"Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast **crowned him with glory (kavod) and honour**."

Here **kavod is explicitly royal**.

Humanity's glory is not fame.

It is:

- entrusted authority
- representative rule
- image-bearing responsibility

Man is crowned **before accomplishing anything**.

So glory is **assigned identity**, not earned visibility.

---

2. Kavod as Reputation — “My Glory in the Dust”

David repeatedly uses *kavod* this way.

Example:

Psalm 7:5:

“…lay mine honour (kavod) in the dust.”

Also Psalm 16:9:

“Therefore my heart is glad, and **my glory rejoiceth**.”

Here *kavod* overlaps with:

- dignity
- life-purpose
- soul-worth
- rightful standing

When enemies attack David’s *kavod*, they are trying to:

strip his God-given identity and status.

So already:

Glory = lived alignment with God’s calling.

---

3. The Hidden Shift You Just Described

You said something extremely important:

“I thought impact meant ministry, writing, influence…”

That assumption is almost universal.

But the New Testament quietly dismantles it.

Jesus spends **30 hidden years**.

No sermons recorded.
No crowds.
No visible ministry legacy.

Yet Luke says:

He grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.
(Luke 2:52)

Favor = honor/glory language.

He was glorifying the Father long before public ministry.

---

4. Ephesians 3 — The Invisible Audience

This is the passage you're sensing correctly.

Ephesians 3:10:

"To the intent that now unto the **principalities and powers in heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."

Notice carefully:

Paul does **not** say:

- through sermons
- through missionaries
- through famous leaders

He says:

through the church existing and living in Christ.

The Greek implication is astonishing:

The Church becomes a **demonstration display** to spiritual beings.

Your daily obedience is instructional evidence in the unseen realm.

---

5. Everyday Faithfulness as Cosmic Testimony

This reframes ordinary life.

When you:

- pray privately
- show mercy as a boss
- forgive unfair treatment
- worship while driving
- love your family patiently

You are not merely affecting psychology or relationships.

You are declaring:

God’s rule is real inside fallen humanity.

That declaration answers an ancient accusation.

---

6. The Cosmic Courtroom Background

Think Job 1.

Heavenly beings observe human faithfulness.

The accusation:

Humans only obey God when rewarded.

Every act of faithful obedience contradicts that lie.

So your life becomes evidence that:

- redemption works
- grace transforms
- God's wisdom is justified

This is why Paul says in Ephesians:

The church reveals God's wisdom **to heavenly rulers**.

---

7. Kingdom Presence Is Not Platform Size

Jesus redefines greatness:

Luke 17:20–21:

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation…
the kingdom of God is within/among you."

Meaning:

Kingdom advance is usually **undetectable by worldly metrics**.

Seeds.
Leaven.
Salt.
Light.

All quiet forces.

---

8. Light Activity Happens First in the Spiritual Realm

You articulated this beautifully:

actions are first spiritual, second human

Paul agrees.

2 Corinthians 10:3–4:

though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.

Faithfulness operates primarily in unseen reality.

Human outcomes are secondary effects.

---

9. Why This Matters Personally

Here's the liberating correction:

You do **not** need vocational ministry to glorify God.

Because glory is not audience size.

Glory is:

God's character expressed through embodied obedience.

A mechanic, engineer, parent, employer, traveler praying quietly —

can participate in kingdom rule as fully as a missionary.

Sometimes more consistently.

---

10. Returning to Psalm 8

Psalm 8 never mentions preaching.

It speaks of:

- ruling creation
- bearing God's image
- existing under His name

The crowned human glorifies God simply by functioning rightly.

---

11. The Hidden Reality

Paul hints at something staggering:

1 Corinthians 4:9:

we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Your life has **multiple audiences**.

Humans are only one.

The Quiet Conclusion

When you choose light over rebellion:

- heaven notices
- darkness loses ground
- God's wisdom is displayed
- creation moves one step toward restoration

Even if no human ever knows.

So the realization you described is actually maturity in biblical thinking:

Kingdom impact is measured first in faithfulness, not visibility.

One sentence anchor

You are not mainly influencing people for God;
you are participating with God in demonstrating His reign before both seen and unseen creation.

If you want, the next layer connects this directly to why Paul says believers will one day **judge angels** — which completes the Psalm 8 "crowned with glory" trajectory.

Your section 2 here, kavod as reputation, my glory in the dust, alludes to glory being image-bearing when God in Genesis says, let us make man in our image, as a phase A. And then when Jesus dies and is resurrected and makes access to the Holy Spirit indwelling people, making us in the image of Jesus, hybrid spirit men, then we're on phase B or phase 2. And then in Revelation 21 and 22, the image-bearing becomes complete, phase 3 or phase C. And so along the way, we are given a measure of glory, it looks like, in your point 2, and then we have full revelation of glory in phase 3.

Yes — what you are describing is actually a **very coherent biblical trajectory**, and it aligns closely with how Scripture itself moves from **creation → restoration → completion**.

Let’s tighten it carefully so the phases remain faithful to the text while preserving the insight you’re seeing.

The Bible’s Glory Movement Is Progressive Image Restoration

You’re essentially identifying:

Glory = functioning as God’s image-bearer

And Scripture presents that reality in **stages**, not all at once.

We can describe them exactly as you framed them:

Phase A — Created Glory (Genesis 1–2)

Image Given

Genesis 1:26–27:

“Let us make man in our image… and let them have dominion.”

Immediately afterward:

Psalm 8 interprets Genesis:

“You crowned him with glory (kavod) and honor.”

So at creation:

- Humanity already possesses glory.
- Humanity already bears God’s image.
- Humanity already shares delegated rule.

Important observation:

Adam is crowned **before achievement**.

Glory here means:

- ☑ representative authority
- ☑ relational likeness
- ☑ entrusted dominion
- ☑ visible reflection of invisible God

Humanity is God's earthly representative.

The Fall — Glory Diminished, Not Erased

Romans 3:23:

"All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."

Paul does **not** say glory ceased to exist.

He says humanity now **falls short** of it.

Image remains.
Function collapses.

This explains David's language:

"My glory in the dust."

The image-bearer still exists —
but the crown lies in the dirt.

Phase A becomes fractured.

Phase B — Restored Glory in Christ (New Creation Begins)

Image Renewed

Now your insight becomes very strong.

Jesus is introduced as:

Colossians 1:15:

“the image of the invisible God.”

Hebrews 1:3:

“the express image of His person.”

Jesus is **true humanity functioning correctly**.

Then comes resurrection.

The Spirit Changes the Location of Glory

2 Corinthians 3:18:

“We… are changed into the same image from glory to glory.”

Notice:

- image language
- progressive glory
- transformation underway

Believers now become what you called:

Spirit-indwelt humans

Paul's language:

- new creation
- inner man renewed
- Christ in you
- temple of the Spirit

So Phase B is:

☑ glory restored internally
☑ kingdom present but hidden
☑ image under reconstruction

You might say:

Crown returned — but not yet fully visible.

Phase C — Completed Glory (Revelation 21–22)

Image Perfected

Now Scripture reaches completion.

Revelation 22:4–5:

"They shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads… and they shall reign forever."

Three Genesis reversals occur:

Genesis Loss	Revelation Restoration
expelled from presence	see His face
cursed ground	renewed creation

Genesis Loss	Revelation Restoration
lost rule	reign forever
fractured image	perfected likeness

Paul foresaw this:

Romans 8:30:

whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Future glory is certain enough to speak of as completed.

The Key Passage That Confirms Your Framework

1 John 3:2:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but… we shall be like him.”

Perfect three-phase statement:

- **Now** — identity begun (Phase B)
- **Not yet visible** — incomplete
- **Shall be like Him** — Phase C

The Measure of Glory Along the Way

Yes — Scripture repeatedly speaks of **degrees or participation**.

Examples:

John 17:22:

“The glory which thou gavest me I have given them.”

Romans 8:18:

present sufferings vs future glory revealed *in us*

2 Corinthians 4:7:

treasure in earthen vessels

So believers presently carry:

real but partial glory

Like dawn before full daylight.

A Helpful Picture

You could summarize your phases this way:

Phase	Humanity	Glory Condition
A — Creation	Image Given	Crowned
Fall	Image Damaged	Crown in dust
B — Church Age	Image Renewing	Crown restored inwardly
C — New Creation	Image Completed	Crown revealed

Why This Matters Theologically

This explains something many miss:

Salvation is not merely forgiveness.

It is:

the re-glorification of humanity.

Hebrews 2:10:

bringing many sons unto glory.

God's project from Genesis onward is moving humans back into Psalm 8 status — through Christ.

The Deep Unity

So your intuition is right:

- Genesis = glory granted
- Christ = glory restored
- Revelation = glory unveiled

And along the way:

Every act of obedience participates in the **ongoing recovery of the image**.

One Sentence Anchor

Glory is the progressive restoration of humanity into fully functioning image-bearers who share in God's life and rule — begun in creation, renewed in Christ, completed in new creation.

If you want, the next layer connects this directly to something remarkable Paul says:

why resurrection bodies are described as being **"raised in glory"** — meaning glory is not only moral or spiritual, but eventually *physical and cosmic*.

I really like 2 Corinthians 3.18, we are changed into the same image from glory to glory. I think that pairs really well with other descriptors, like in John 1, that talks about grace to grace and faith to faith. The grace to grace is the graciousness that goes backward and the graciousness that goes forward, the fulfillment through Jesus of Numbers chapter 6, 25 and 26, where God's favor and face shines upon the image bearers who live in obedience and identify and walk with Christ and in Christ. The faith to faith is the faith of the Old Testament and our faith in the New Testament, both looking forward to the promise of a land that is what we find in Revelation 21 and 22, but can also be referenced to the faithfulness of Jesus. It's our faith in his faith and it's his faith that makes us acceptable when we put our faith in his faithfulness. Then we see here this glory to glory, I think this is astounding. We are in glory and this 2 Corinthians passage, just a couple of verses prior, it says the veil will be removed. We're looking in a glass right now. When the disciples said to Jesus, show us the Father, Jesus, while in his image as man, said if you've seen me, you've seen the Father. When we're looking in the mirror, Paul is almost saying, look at yourself, you are the image of God and in that, he's talking to believers. But we're gonna be transferring from the glory we have now to another glory and the Spirit gives us access to this glory.

You are seeing something Paul very intentionally weaves together — and **2 Corinthians 3–4 may be the single densest passage in the New Testament about image, glory, Spirit, and transformation**.

What you're noticing is not separate ideas stacked together.
Paul is describing **one continuous movement of divine life**.

Let's walk slowly through the structure Paul is building.

---

1. The Context: Moses, Face, and Veil

Paul begins with Exodus 34.

After meeting YHWH:

Moses' **face shone** with glory.

But Israel could not bear it.

So Moses placed a **veil** over his face.

Paul interprets this event spiritually.

2 Corinthians 3:14–16:

the veil remains…
but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

The veil represents:

- partial perception
- mediated access
- indirect glory

Under the old covenant, glory was **real but external**.

---

2. The Astonishing Claim of Verse 18

Now Paul says:

"We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Every phrase matters.

Unveiled face

Access once limited to Moses now belongs to all believers.

Beholding

Not striving.
Not achieving.

Transformation begins with *seeing*.

Same image

Direct Genesis language.

Paul is saying:

The Genesis image project has restarted.

---

3. Mirror Language — Not Self-Admiration

Your insight here is very close, but Paul's nuance is subtle.

The mirror is not:

"Look how divine you are."

It is:

While looking at Christ, you discover what humanity truly is.

Christ is the true Image.

As we behold Him,
the reflection changes.

So the mirror works both directions:

- we see Christ

- we recognize restored humanity
- we ourselves are reshaped

This echoes John 14:9:

“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

Jesus reveals God —
and simultaneously reveals **true man**.

---

4. Glory → Glory (What Does That Mean?)

Paul does not mean moving from *no glory* to *glory*.

He assumes glory already exists.

Believers possess **real present glory**.

But it is transitional.

Think:

- dawn → sunrise
- seed → tree
- reflection → direct sight

Present glory is participatory.

Future glory is unveiled.

---

5. Your Connection: Grace → Grace (John 1)

John 1:16:

“of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”

The phrase carries layered meaning:

- grace replacing grace
- grace corresponding to grace
- grace overflowing upon grace

Yes — this resonates deeply with Numbers 6.

Numbers 6:25–26:

The LORD make His face shine upon thee…
lift up His countenance upon thee…

Face shining = glory presence.

John is declaring:

What the priestly blessing anticipated now flows continuously through Christ.

The shining face once external now becomes relational participation.

---

6. Faith → Faith (Romans 1:17)

Paul says:

“The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.”

This likely carries multiple overlapping directions:

Historical

OT trust → NT fulfillment

Relational

our faith responding to God's faithfulness

Christological

the faithfulness of Christ enabling human faith

Galatians 2:20 captures your thought well:

"…the faith **of** the Son of God…"

Our acceptance rests ultimately on **His faithfulness**, not ours.

So:

Faith begins in God → awakens faith in us → completes in God.

---

7. Now the Unified Pattern

You've noticed three parallel movements:

John	Paul	Result
Grace → Grace	Glory → Glory	Transformation
Faith → Faith	Image → Image	Restoration
Face shining	Veil removed	Direct access

All describe the **same unfolding reality**.

---

8. The Spirit as the Agent

Paul ends:

"…even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Key shift:

In Exodus:

- glory visits temporarily.

In the New Covenant:

- glory indwells permanently.

The Spirit does not merely guide behavior.

The Spirit restores **image-bearing capacity**.

Romans 8:29:

predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

---

9. Present Glory vs Future Glory

Paul immediately continues in chapter 4:

we have this treasure in earthen vessels.

Meaning:

Glory is present —
but hidden inside mortal weakness.

Then:

2 Corinthians 4:6:

God… hath shined in our hearts.

Genesis 1 language again.

Creation light now occurs **inside humans**.

---

10. The Movement You're Seeing

You could summarize Paul's vision like this:

- Genesis: image created in glory
- Exodus: glory glimpsed externally
- Christ: glory embodied perfectly
- Spirit: glory implanted internally
- Resurrection: glory revealed fully

So yes —

we are already in glory,
yet moving toward unveiled glory.

The Quiet Astonishment of Paul's Claim

Moses alone once reflected God's glory.

Paul says now:

We all do.

Not clergy.
Not prophets.
All believers.

One Sentence Anchor

By beholding Christ through the Spirit, believers progressively become what they were created to be — God's unveiled image, moving from participated glory now to revealed glory then.

If you want, the next connection that naturally follows is why Paul immediately talks about **light shining out of darkness in human hearts** (2 Cor 4:6) — explicitly tying Genesis 1 creation light to believer transformation.

I used to have a theory that when Adam and Eve were made, that when God breathed in them, the spirit was inside of them, just like when Jesus breathed on the disciples, the spirit came in them. And this was the origination point where Satan was jealous and covetous and wanted to have the image of God himself. He wanted to be like God. And here, Adam and Eve, particularly Adam, the spirit was breathed into Adam, and Adam now had, in essence, spirit indwelling. When I have the spirit inside of me as a believer, I'm still capable of sin, and when Adam and Eve had the spirit inside of them, they were still capable of sin. But when they sinned, the presence left, and that's why Yahweh, walking in the garden, says, Adam and Eve, where are you? They've been separated from the indwelling. And this was the goal of the deceiver, was to take away not only the indwelling, but now to become a ruler and a king. And in other studies I've done, the MEI versus the MEG. So the glory is damaged, and now the first Adam... is forfeiting life, but the second Adam is bringing life and life everlasting, and we know that it's from the order of Melchizedek, a priest-king status, instead of stewards with dominion, which we will become stewards with dominion again, as demonstrated in Revelation 21 and 22, God is creating priests and kings that are underneath Jesus, who is the priest and king, firstborn over all creation, firstborn over the kings and firstborn over the priests. But I also believed that babies from conception all the way up through birth and up to a point where they choose rebellion are born alive. And it's for every man to die twice. So if they're born alive, then Paul and James talk about sin gives birth to death and that comes from desire. And then once I sin, death entered me and I died. It's not quite accurate in the way that I painted it, but what I see now is that maybe it's more likely that when God breathed into Adam, he had the spirit inside of him in the form of

glory, but not in union. When we are born again after the death, resurrection, and enthronement, we have union with Christ. And then in Revelation 21, 22, when we reach completion, we're the dwelling place of God. As living stones, Peter says. So the glory was damaged, but then when we have unity through the Spirit in Christ through belief, we have the Spirit again bringing about that glory, but now we have unity. And then in Revelation 21-22, we have the unity and full glory and full image of God, just like he desired, God desired in Genesis 1.

You are circling around one of the **deepest continuity questions in Scripture**:

What exactly changed between Adam, the believer now, and humanity in the New Creation?

And you've already sensed the key distinction that helps everything lock together:

presence vs union
life given vs life shared
image bestowed vs image completed

Let's walk this carefully and keep Scripture as the governing frame.

---

1. Genesis 2:7 — The Breath of Life

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Two elements appear:

1. **Dust formed body**
2. **Divine breath (neshamah / ruach)**

The result is not:

man received a spirit *object*

but:

man **became** a living being.

Adam's life is directly sourced from God.

So yes — humanity begins **God-animated**, God-derived, God-oriented.

But Scripture never explicitly says Adam possessed the **indwelling Holy Spirit in covenant union** the way believers do after Christ.

This distinction becomes crucial.

---

2. Adam's State: Life *From* God, Not Yet Union *With* God

Adam lives by God's breath.

He walks with God.
He reflects God.
He represents God.

But notice:

- no language of sealing
- no language of indwelling temple
- no "in Adam / in God" union formula

Those appear later in redemption history.

So Adam's condition can be described as:

☑ animated by God
☑ relationally near
☑ image-bearing
❌ not yet permanently united

He is **upright but unconfirmed**.

Capable of obedience.
Capable of rebellion.

---

3. The Serpent’s Desire — Image Without Dependence

Genesis 3:5:

“ye shall be as God…”

The temptation is not merely knowledge.

It is **independent godlikeness**.

Satan’s pattern (Isaiah 14 / Ezekiel 28 imagery):

exalt self
seize throne
possess glory autonomously

So your instinct is right:

The conflict centers on **who bears divine rule and how**.

Humanity receives glory by relationship.

The rebel seeks glory by seizure.

---

4. What Actually Happened at the Fall?

Death enters immediately — but not biologically first.

Genesis 2:17:

“in the day thou eatest… thou shalt surely die.”

Yet Adam lives physically.

So death = separation from divine life-source.

Evidence:

- hiding from presence
- shame replaces openness
- exile from garden
- barred from tree of life

The relational communion sustaining life fractures.

So rather than saying:

Spirit left like an object removed,

Scripture suggests:

Humanity lost participatory access to God’s life.

Glory collapses.

Psalm language fits:

glory in the dust.

---

5. First Adam vs Second Adam

Paul explicitly frames history this way.

1 Corinthians 15:45:

The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving Spirit.

Notice contrast:

Adam	Christ
receives life	gives life
animated	indwells
steward	priest-king
earthly	heavenly

Christ does not merely restore Eden.

He **advances humanity beyond Adam's starting point**.

---

6. John 20 — Jesus Breathes Again

You made an important connection.

John 20:22:

He breathed on them, and saith… Receive the Holy Spirit.

John intentionally echoes Genesis 2.

New creation begins.

But now something new occurs:

Not animation —
but **union with the risen Christ**.

Paul's new phrase appears everywhere:

- *in Christ*
- Christ in you
- one Spirit
- one body

This language never describes Adam.

---

7. The Critical Difference You Identified

Your refinement is strong:

Adam had glory-life derived from God.
Believers have union-life shared with Christ.

That matches New Testament theology.

Believers are described as:

John 15:

abiding in the vine

Ephesians 1:

sealed with the Spirit

2 Peter 1:4:

partakers of the divine nature

This is deeper than Eden proximity.

It is covenantal union.

---

8. Why Sin Still Remains Possible Now

Even with indwelling:

Romans 8 describes tension:

- Spirit present
- flesh still mortal
- creation awaiting redemption

So believers live in an **already / not yet** state.

Union begun.
Transformation ongoing.
Completion future.

---

9. Revelation 21–22 — Final State

Here your Phase C insight lands well.

Revelation 21:3:

“Behold, the dwelling of God is with men.”

Now notice escalation:

Stage	Relationship
Eden	God walks with humans
Church	God dwells in humans
New Creation	God and humanity fully co-dwell

No temple remains:

the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Humanity itself becomes the living dwelling.

Exactly Peter’s language:

living stones.

Glory fully restored and stabilized.

---

10. Priest-King Completion

Revelation 5:10:

made us kings and priests… and we shall reign.

Psalm 8 fulfilled.
Melchizedek order realized under Christ.

Human dominion returns —
now permanently aligned with God.

What Adam held conditionally,
Christ secures eternally.

---

11. About Children and Life

Scripture speaks cautiously here, but your instinct tracks biblical themes:

- life originates from God
- death spreads through sin (Romans 5)
- moral accountability involves awakened desire (James 1)

James 1:15:

desire… brings forth sin; sin… brings forth death.

The Bible emphasizes that spiritual death is tied to **actual participation in sin**, not mere biological existence.

But Scripture stops short of mapping precise developmental moments, leaving room for humility.

---

12. The Grand Arc You're Seeing

You can summarize the whole biblical movement like this:

Humanity Stage	Glory Condition
Adam	Image given
Fall	Glory fractured
Christ	Glory embodied
Believer	Glory indwelling
New Creation	Glory unveiled

God's Genesis intention is not abandoned.

It is fulfilled **through Christ-centered union**.

One Sentence Anchor

Adam lived by God's breath; believers live in union with God's Spirit through Christ; and in the New Creation humanity becomes the permanent dwelling place of divine glory.

If you want, the next profound question sitting right under this is:

Why Scripture says Jesus was "glorified" *after* resurrection — even though He already possessed divine glory — and how that relates to humanity's final state.

Yes Why Scripture says Jesus was "glorified" after resurrection — even though He already possessed divine glory — and how that relates to humanity's final state.

This question sits right at the center of **Christology + anthropology + destiny**.

Because on the surface it sounds contradictory:

If Jesus already possessed divine glory…
why does Scripture repeatedly say He was *glorified*?

The answer unlocks why **humanity's final state in Revelation looks the way it does**.

Let's move carefully.

---

1. Jesus Possessed Glory *Before* Incarnation

Jesus explicitly says this.

John 17:5:

"Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

So:

☑ Christ already possessed eternal divine glory.
Nothing was added to His deity.

He did not become more God.

So the later glorification must mean something else.

---

2. The Incarnation: Glory Veiled, Not Lost

John 1:14:

“The Word was made flesh… and we beheld his glory.”

Yet Isaiah 53 says:

no form nor comeliness.

Here is the paradox:

Divine glory is present,
but hidden inside ordinary humanity.

Philippians 2:6–7 explains:

being in the form of God… he emptied himself.

“Emptying” does not mean loss of deity.

It means **laying aside manifested status**.

He accepts:

- mortality
- weakness
- suffering
- humiliation

The King enters creation without visible crown.

---

3. The Cross — The Turning Point of Glory

John's Gospel says something shocking.

John 12:23:

"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified."

And He is speaking about… the cross.

Biblically:

The cross is paradoxical glory.

Why?

Because glory ultimately means:

the full revelation of God's character.

At the cross we see:

- self-giving love
- obedience unto death
- victory through sacrifice

God's nature becomes unmistakably visible.

---

4. Resurrection Glory Is New — But Not New Deity

After resurrection something genuinely new occurs.

Luke 24:

- physical yet transformed body
- recognizable yet altered
- death no longer possible

Paul explains:

Philippians 2:9:

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him…

This exaltation follows obedience.

So what changed?

Not His divinity.

His humanity.

---

5. The Critical Insight

Jesus becomes the **first glorified human**.

Hebrews 2:9:

we see Jesus… crowned with glory and honour.

Notice Psalm 8 language again.

Jesus fulfills humanity's destiny.

He is:

- fully God (always)

- now glorified man (newly accomplished)

Resurrection is humanity entering irreversible glory.

---

6. Why This Matters for Us

Paul makes the connection explicit.

Romans 8:29:

conformed to the image of his Son.

1 Corinthians 15:49:

As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Jesus' glorified body is not an exception.

It is a prototype.

He is called:

firstborn among many brethren

Firstborn means:
others follow.

---

7. What "Glorified Humanity" Means

Paul contrasts two bodies:

1 Corinthians 15:

Present	Future
perishable	imperishable
dishonor	glory
weakness	power
natural body	spiritual body

“Spiritual” does not mean nonphysical.

It means:
fully animated and governed by the Spirit.

Exactly what you were tracing earlier.

---

8. Revelation 21–22 — Shared Glory

Now the endpoint appears.

Revelation 21:23:

the glory of God gives it light.

Then astonishingly:

Revelation 22:5:

they shall reign forever.

Humanity shares in Christ’s reign.

Jesus remains uniquely supreme —
but redeemed humanity participates.

This fulfills John 17:22:

The glory which thou gavest me I have given them.

---

9. The Movement of Glory Across Scripture

Here is the full arc:

Stage	Glory Condition
Pre-incarnate Son	Eternal divine glory
Incarnation	Glory veiled
Cross	Glory revealed morally
Resurrection	Humanity glorified
Ascension	Human enthronement
Church	Glory indwelling
New Creation	Glory shared openly

Jesus' glorification marks the moment when:

human nature permanently enters divine life without ceasing to be human.

That had never happened before.

Not even in Eden.

---

10. The Astonishing Implication

Adam was innocent but unconfirmed.

Christ is glorified and irreversible.

Believers are united to **that** humanity.

So salvation is not merely rescue from sin.

It is participation in Christ's glorified human life.

Colossians 3:4:

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

The Deep Answer

Jesus was glorified after resurrection because:

For the first time, humanity itself was crowned with indestructible divine life.

And because believers are united to Him,

His glorification becomes the guarantee of ours.

One Sentence Anchor

Christ did not gain divine glory at resurrection; rather, human nature in Him was glorified — becoming the first completed image of what redeemed humanity will eternally be.

If you want, the next layer explains something Paul says that almost no one slows down to notice:

why he calls Jesus **"the Lord of Glory"** *after* resurrection — and how that title reverses Eden itself.

Yes, why he calls Jesus "the Lord of Glory" after resurrection — and how that title reverses Eden itself?

This title — **"the Lord of Glory"** — is one of Paul's most compressed theological statements. It quietly announces that **the Eden story has been overturned**.

Let's unfold it step by step.

---

1. Where Paul Says It

1 Corinthians 2:7–8:

"…they would not have crucified **the Lord of glory**."

Paul deliberately chooses this title *after* speaking about the crucifixion and resurrection reality revealed by the Spirit.

This is not casual wording.

For a Jewish reader, this phrase is explosive.

---

2. "Lord of Glory" in the Old Testament

In the Hebrew Scriptures, this title belongs to **YHWH alone**.

Psalm 24:7–10:

"Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty…
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory."

Here:

- King
- LORD (YHWH)
- Glory

are inseparable.

The **Lord of Glory** is the divine King entering His sanctuary.

So when Paul applies this title to Jesus, he is saying:

The crucified Jesus is the YHWH-King of Psalm 24.

But Paul adds something even more radical.

---

3. The Shock: The Lord of Glory Was Crucified

Paul's statement means:

Humanity crucified the very Glory it was created to bear.

Remember Eden:

Humanity was crowned with glory (Psalm 8).

But instead of ruling under God,
humanity rejected God's rule.

In Eden:

- humans grasped at godlikeness.
- glory was forfeited.

At the cross:

- humans reject God Himself when He appears as man.

The Fall reaches its climax.

---

4. Eden’s Core Problem

The serpent’s promise:

Genesis 3:5:

“you shall be like God.”

Humanity sought glory **apart from trust**.

Result:

- exile
- death
- lost dominion
- fractured image

Humans attempted ascent.

---

5. Christ Reverses the Direction

Philippians 2 gives the reversal:

Instead of grasping upward:

He humbled himself… unto death.

Then:

God highly exalted him.

Adam reached upward and fell.

Christ descended and was exalted.

This is the **anti-Eden movement**.

---

6. Why Resurrection Matters for the Title

Before resurrection:

Jesus possesses divine glory eternally,
but human nature remains mortal.

After resurrection:

Humanity itself sits enthroned.

Acts 2:33–36:

God hath made that same Jesus… both Lord and Christ.

A human being now occupies the throne of divine rule.

For the first time:

the Image bearer fully shares the Glory throne.

So “Lord of Glory” now includes:

- ☑ eternal Son
- ☑ glorified human king

He rules **as restored Adam**.

---

7. Psalm 24 Revisited — The Gates Open

Psalm 24 asks:

“Who is this King of glory?”

Early Christians read this as resurrection/ascension imagery.

The victorious king enters heaven.

But now something unprecedented happens:

A resurrected **man** enters.

Hebrews 6:20:

Jesus entered as our forerunner.

Eden barred humanity from God’s presence.

Now humanity re-enters in Christ.

The flaming sword is effectively passed.

---

8. The Eden Reversal

Compare carefully:

Eden	Christ
humans expelled	humanity welcomed
tree guarded	tree of life restored
glory lost	glory enthroned
serpent deceives	serpent crushed
dust returns to dust	dust raised immortal

Calling Jesus **Lord of Glory** declares:

The failed Adamic story has been rewritten.

---

9. Why Paul Connects This to Hidden Wisdom

Immediately Paul says:

1 Corinthians 2:9–10:

Eye hath not seen… what God prepared…

The rulers of this age did not understand.

Why?

Because killing Jesus appeared to destroy glory.

Instead it installed it.

The cross becomes enthronement.

10. What This Means for Believers

Now the astonishing part:

Romans 8:17:

heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ…

Colossians 3:4:

you also will appear with him in glory.

If Christ is the Lord of Glory,
and believers are united to Him,

then redeemed humanity shares in His restored dominion.

Not equality with Christ —
but participation under Him.

Exactly Revelation:

kings and priests… reigning with Him.

---

11. The Deepest Reversal

In Eden:
humans tried to become like God without God.

In Christ:
God becomes human to bring humans into God's life.

So the title "Lord of Glory" means:

Glory no longer stands outside humanity —
it now permanently dwells within redeemed humanity through Christ.

Final Anchor

Jesus is called the Lord of Glory after resurrection because, in Him, humanity itself has re-entered and been enthroned within the divine glory that Adam lost — permanently reversing Eden's exile.

If you want, the next breathtaking connection is this:

why Paul says believers are already **"seated with Christ in heavenly places"** — present tense — even while still living on earth.

Psalms 110:1, the LORD said to my Lord (Adoni [not Adonai])... Jesus is declared as the Messiah Christ, who is enthroned. Section 9 reminds me of Ephesians 3.

Yes — and you are seeing a connection that the **New Testament writers themselves repeatedly make**.

Psalm 110:1 is arguably the **most quoted Old Testament verse in the New Testament**, precisely because it explains *how Jesus becomes the enthroned Messiah after resurrection* and how that relates to what Paul describes in **Ephesians 3**.

Let's walk the thread carefully.

---

1. Psalm 110:1 — The Two Lords

Psalm 110:1:

“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

Hebrew distinction matters:

- **YHWH** — covenant name of God
- **Adoni** — my lord/master (royal ruler)

David says:

YHWH speaks to *my* Lord.

This creates a mystery:

How can David have a future descendant who is also his Lord?

Jesus Himself raises this question (Matthew 22:41–45).

---

2. Adoni — The Enthroned Human King

“Adoni” in the Old Testament is used for:

- kings
- rulers
- exalted human authority

So Psalm 110 presents:

☑ YHWH enthroning
☑ a human ruler
☑ beside divine authority

This is unprecedented.

No Israelite king literally sits at God's right hand.

Until Christ.

---

3. Resurrection Fulfills Psalm 110

After resurrection, Peter explains:

Acts 2:34–36:

David is not ascended into the heavens…
but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord…

Then Peter concludes:

God hath made this Jesus… both Lord and Christ.

Meaning:

Psalm 110 happens **at the ascension**.

Jesus is declared Messiah not merely by birth —
but by **enthronement**.

Romans 1:4:

declared to be the Son of God with power… by the resurrection.

Resurrection = royal installation.

---

4. Why This Connects Directly to Ephesians

Now we arrive at your instinct about Ephesians 3.

Paul builds Ephesians around Psalm 110 theology.

Ephesians 1:20–21:

raised him from the dead,
and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power…

That is Psalm 110 language expanded cosmically.

Christ is enthroned over:

- earthly powers
- spiritual rulers
- unseen authorities

---

5. Ephesians 3 — The Hidden Result

Then Paul says something astonishing:

Ephesians 3:10:

that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

Here's the connection:

Psalm 110:
→ Messiah enthroned over enemies.

Ephesians:
→ Those enemies now witness God's wisdom through the Church.

The enthroned Messiah rules,
and His people become evidence of that rule.

---

6. The Church Participates in the Enthronement

Paul goes even further.

Ephesians 2:6:

and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Present tense.

Believers share covenantally in Psalm 110's reality.

Not independent rule —
but union participation.

Christ sits.
We sit **in Him**.

---

7. This Is the Reversal of Eden Authority

In Eden:

Humanity loses dominion to deception.

After resurrection:

A true human (Jesus) occupies the throne above all powers.

Through union:

Redeemed humanity is restored under the victorious King.

So Psalm 110 becomes:

- Messiah enthroned
- enemies subdued
- humanity restored to rule under Him

---

8. Why Paul Links This to Spiritual Powers

Remember Genesis 3 introduced competing spiritual authority.

Ephesians reveals the outcome:

The risen Adoni reigns,
and the Church demonstrates that reign
before those very powers.

Your earlier insight fits perfectly:

Daily faithfulness is not merely moral behavior.

It is participation in Messiah's enthroned kingdom.

---

9. Priest-King Connection (Melchizedek)

Psalm 110 continues:

"Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

So the enthroned Adoni is:

- [x] King
- [x] Priest
- [x] Mediator
- [x] Ruler over heaven and earth

Jesus fulfills both offices simultaneously.

Revelation then extends this:

made us kings and priests.

Under the Priest-King.

---

10. The Unified Picture

Put your observations together:

Psalm 110	Resurrection	Ephesians
Adoni enthroned	Jesus exalted	Christ above powers
enemies subdued	victory declared	powers observe
priest-king	mediator	church participates
right hand rule	ascension	seated with Him

Section 9 earlier — believers demonstrating glory before spiritual rulers — is exactly the lived consequence of Psalm 110 fulfilled.

Final Anchor

Psalm 110 reveals that a human Messiah would be enthroned beside YHWH; the resurrection installs Jesus as that Adoni, and Ephesians declares that His enthroned rule is now displayed to heavenly powers through the transformed lives of those united to Him.

If you want, the next layer ties Psalm 110 to something even more striking:

why early Christians believed **the ascension—not merely the resurrection—was the moment humanity permanently re-entered heaven's throne room.**

So the natural progression, if we're talking about glory, must lead to God because Jesus himself said God gets all the glory because God is the glorious one. And in all of creation, it says this is God's glory. And I think that's the idea of the manifold wisdom of Ephesians. It's that you don't have electricity, you don't have mathematics, you don't have atoms, you don't have quarks, you don't have quantum, you don't have photosynthesis, you don't have reproduction. Every simple system to every complex system are all created by God. And that's why we are surrounded by God's glory and we are created as special individual creations as image bearers that have a different kind of glory. And through Jesus and the indwelling of the Spirit, we take on yet another glory. And in Revelation 21 and 22, we take on even yet another glory and all of this brings glory to God because he is the sharer of glory, but he is the self-existent one of glory. And that's why Jesus says all focus needs to be on Jehovah, Yahweh, the Father, God the Father, because he is the self-existent one who makes all things possible, who creates light, who creates sound, who creates everything.

Yes — what you are describing is very close to the **Bible's ultimate logic of glory**, and Scripture consistently moves in exactly the direction you're outlining:

All glory originates in God,
is expressed through creation,
restored through Christ,
shared with redeemed humanity,
and finally returns in recognition to God Himself.

But the beauty of the biblical vision is that this is not a zero-sum glory.
God does not lose glory by sharing it.

He is revealed *through* sharing it.

Let's trace this carefully.

---

1. God as the Self-Existent Source of Glory

In Scripture, glory does not begin with creation.

It begins with **God's own being**.

When God reveals His name:

Exodus 3:14:

"I AM THAT I AM."

God is not glorious because something praises Him.

He is glorious because He **is**.

Glory flows from:

- self-existence
- fullness of life
- unlimited being

John 5:26:

"As the Father hath life in himself…"

This is unique to God alone.

Everything else is derived.

2. Creation as Displayed Glory

Psalm 19:1:

“The heavens declare the glory of God.”

Creation does not *add* glory to God.

Creation **reveals** it.

Every system you mentioned fits perfectly here:

- physical laws
- mathematics
- biological life
- energy structures
- quantum order
- ecosystems
- reproduction
- consciousness

All of these are expressions of ordered wisdom.

Paul calls this:

Romans 1:20:

His invisible attributes… clearly seen, being understood by what has been made.

Creation is glory made observable.

---

3. The Manifold Wisdom of God (Ephesians 3)

Now Ephesians deepens the idea.

Paul does **not** say creation alone displays God's wisdom.

He says:

through the Church
the manifold wisdom of God is made known.

"Manifold" (polypoikilos) means:

- multi-layered
- many-colored
- infinitely varied

Creation shows power and intelligence.

Redemption shows something creation alone could never display:

- mercy
- grace
- reconciliation
- self-giving love
- restoration of rebels

The Church becomes a *new kind* of glory-display.

---

4. Different Orders of Glory

Paul explicitly teaches graded expressions of glory.

1 Corinthians 15:40–41:

there are celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial…
one glory of the sun, another of the moon…

So Scripture recognizes:

Realm	Glory Type
Creation	functional glory
Humanity	image-bearing glory
Christ	incarnate glory
Spirit-indwelt believers	transformative glory
New Creation	perfected glory

All real.
All derived.

Only one self-originating source.

---

5. Humanity's Unique Glory

Psalm 8 again:

crowned with glory and honor.

Humans uniquely:

- know God
- respond morally
- love freely
- rule representationally

Creation reflects God unconsciously.

Humans reflect God relationally.

That is a higher glory.

---

6. Christ — Glory Revealed Correctly

John 1:14:

we beheld his glory…

Jesus reveals what divine glory truly is.

Not domination.

But:

- humility
- sacrifice
- obedience
- love unto death

Hebrews 1:3:

the brightness of His glory.

Christ is God’s glory translated into human life.

---

7. Spirit-Indwelling — Shared Glory

John 17:22:

The glory which thou gavest me I have given them.

This is astonishing.

God shares glory without diminishing Himself.

Why?

Because shared glory multiplies recognition of the Source.

Like light from a flame —
many candles, one fire.

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8. Revelation 21–22 — Glory Completed

Revelation 21:23:

the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Notice hierarchy:

- God = ultimate glory
- Christ = mediating radiance
- Humanity = illuminated participants

Then:

Revelation 21:24:

the nations walk in its light.

Creation itself becomes saturated with divine presence.

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9. Glory Returns to God

Here is the final movement you described.

Romans 11:36:

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever.

Glory moves:

from God → through creation → through redemption → back to God in recognition.

Not because God needs affirmation,
but because reality finally aligns with truth.

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10. Why Jesus Directs Glory to the Father

Jesus repeatedly says:

John 17:1:

Father… glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.

The Son glorifies the Father because:

The Father is the fountainhead of divine life.

Yet the Father glorifies the Son.

And the Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14).

So glory circulates within the Trinity and overflows outward into creation.

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11. The Ultimate Picture

You summarized it beautifully:

God is not merely glorious.

He is:

the sharer of glory while remaining its eternal source.

Creation displays glory.
Humanity bears glory.
Christ restores glory.
The Spirit transforms glory.
New Creation reveals glory fully.

And all of it says:

Life comes from Him alone.

Final Anchor

God alone possesses self-existent glory; creation reveals it, Christ embodies it, the Spirit shares it with redeemed humanity, and in the New Creation all reflected glory returns in recognition to the One from whom all glory eternally flows.

If you want, the next breathtaking implication is this:

why Revelation says **God's servants will see His face** — something even Moses was denied — and why that moment represents the completion of glory itself.

There is a sense of false kavod, false glory, and this is the false kavod, the false glory of Satan, who wanted to be MEG instead of MEI from previous studies. He wanted to exalt himself. People choose to want to exalt themselves instead of God through a rationale of what they wear, where they live, what they drive. It's their perceived identity. It's the perceived kavod. But what I perceive as my kavod, someone else may, actually the word would be project. The way that I project my kavod is probably very different than how someone perceives my kavod. And ultimately, when every person gives an account and they're before the throne of God, there is no

longer the projected kavod of self, there's only the perceived by God projection of kavod. This life, as Ecclesiastes says, is but a vapor, and that vanity, vanity, everything is vanity. And ultimately, it's because his kavod was wrapped around marriages, wealth, kingdom, worship, and tabernacle, all of these external things. And the wisest of the wise man explains in Ecclesiastes that in all my wisdom, I've realized that everything is kavod, except for the last verses of Ecclesiastes. The sum of the matter is this, and I forget the exact words, but love God and recognize his kavod.

You are touching something that the wisdom literature — especially **Ecclesiastes** — is intentionally exposing:

the difference between **true kavod** and **projected kavod**.

And Scripture repeatedly warns that humanity constantly substitutes one for the other.

Let's slow this down, because your observation aligns very closely with the biblical diagnosis of the human condition.

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1. Kavod Can Be Real — or Manufactured

As we established earlier:

kavod = weight, significance, honor, recognized worth

But humans cannot live without a sense of weight or importance.

So when true glory is not received from God,
humans construct substitutes.

The Bible shows two kinds:

Type	Source	Stability
True kavod	received from God	eternal

Type	Source	Stability
False kavod	projected self-importance	fragile

False glory is not nothing.

It is **borrowed weight**.

---

2. The First False Kavod — The Serpent

Isaiah 14 imagery captures the impulse:

"I will ascend… I will exalt my throne…"

This is glory sought **independently**.

Not glory given —
glory seized.

What you called *MEG instead of MEI* maps well conceptually:

- MEI → identity derived from God
- MEG → identity self-generated

The deception is:

significance without dependence.

That is Eden's temptation repeated endlessly.

---

3. Human Projection of Glory

You described this very perceptively:

People construct kavod through:

- status
- possessions
- appearance
- success
- influence
- reputation

These become signals saying:

“I matter.”

But projected glory always depends on observers.

And observers disagree.

So kavod becomes unstable.

Proverbs 27:2:

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth.

Because self-declared glory lacks weight.

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4. Ecclesiastes — The Collapse of False Glory

Ecclesiastes uses the word:

hevel — vapor, mist, breath.

Often translated “vanity.”

It means:

something that appears substantial but cannot be grasped.

Solomon tests every human glory-system:

- wisdom
- pleasure
- work
- wealth
- architecture
- relationships
- power
- religious achievement

And concludes:

All are **hevel** when treated as ultimate kavod.

They cannot bear existential weight.

They evaporate.

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5. The Key Realization of Ecclesiastes

You remembered correctly.

Ecclesiastes 12:13:

“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

The conclusion is not pessimism.

It is recalibration.

True kavod is not constructed.

It is aligned.

Human life regains weight only when oriented toward God.

---

6. Projection vs Divine Recognition

Your statement here is deeply biblical:

before the throne there is no projected kavod.

Exactly.

Hebrews 4:13:

all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Human identity management ends.

No branding.
No reputation engineering.
No social perception.

Only reality remains.

Paul echoes this:

1 Corinthians 4:5:

the Lord… will make manifest the counsels of the hearts.

God evaluates true weight.

---

7. Why False Glory Is So Attractive

Because humans were created for glory.

Psalm 8 reality still echoes inside fallen humanity.

We instinctively seek significance.

So the choice is never:

glory or no glory.

It is always:

received glory or fabricated glory.

---

8. Jesus and the Rejection of False Kavod

John 5:44:

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Jesus identifies misplaced glory as a barrier to faith itself.

The Pharisees possessed religious projection,
but lacked divine recognition.

---

9. The Final Judgment of Glory

Revelation imagery shows crowns laid down.

Why?

Because even redeemed glory is acknowledged as derived.

True kavod ultimately says:

Whatever weight I possess came from You.

False kavod says:

I generated my own worth.

Only one survives eternity.

---

10. Ecclesiastes Meets Revelation

Ecclesiastes ends with humility.

Revelation ends with restoration.

What Solomon discovered negatively —

worldly glory cannot satisfy —

is fulfilled positively when:

God Himself becomes humanity’s glory.

Revelation 21:7:

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God.

Identity no longer rests on projection,
but communion.

Final Anchor

False kavod is the projected appearance of significance apart from God; true kavod is the weight of identity received from God and ultimately confirmed by Him alone when all human projections vanish before His throne.

If you want, the next profound connection is why Paul says believers should **"not glory in men"** — because misplaced glory is actually the continuation of Eden's original deception.

Etymology Online says that the word glory actually originates as a word of boasting, or bragging, or exalting of oneself, or to be exalted or bragged about, or made recognition of.

Yes — and that observation is extremely helpful, because it exposes something important:

the English word *glory* carries a history that overlaps with, but does not perfectly equal, the biblical idea of *kavod* or *doxa*.

Understanding that difference actually clarifies many passages that otherwise feel confusing.

Let's unpack this carefully.

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1. The English Word "Glory" — Public Recognition

Etymologically, English *glory* comes through:

- Latin **gloria**
- meaning: fame, renown, praise, honor, boasting, public reputation

So historically the word includes:

- being spoken well of
- celebrated status
- exalted reputation
- something worth boasting about

In Greco-Roman culture, *gloria* was strongly tied to **honor culture**:

Victory → recognition → fame → glory.

So yes — boasting and exaltation are built into the linguistic history.

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2. Greek *Doxa* — The Bridge Word

The New Testament uses **δόξα (doxa)**.

Originally in classical Greek:

doxa meant:

- opinion
- reputation
- what people think about you

So early meaning = **perceived worth**.

But when Jewish translators rendered the Hebrew Bible into Greek (Septuagint), they used *doxa* to translate:

kavod

And something profound happened.

The word shifted from:

human reputation

to:

divine weight and manifested presence.

So biblical usage reshapes the cultural word.

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3. Hebrew *Kavod* — Not Boasting First, but Weight

Hebrew starts somewhere different.

kavod = heaviness, substance, importance.

A person with kavod matters because reality bends around them.

So the movement historically looks like this:

Culture	Meaning
Hebrew	intrinsic weight
Greek	recognized reputation
Latin	celebrated honor
English	glory/exaltation

The Bible merges them.

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4. Why Boasting Language Still Appears in Scripture

Because recognition naturally follows real glory.

If something truly has weight,
people speak of it.

So Scripture sometimes uses boasting language positively.

Jeremiah 9:23–24:

Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom…
but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me.

Notice:

Boasting itself is not abolished.

It is **redirected**.

---

5. False Glory = Misplaced Boasting

Now your earlier insight fits perfectly.

Sin corrupts glory by relocating boasting.

Instead of:

"My significance comes from God,"

humans say:

"My significance comes from myself."

Paul diagnoses this repeatedly.

Romans 1:23:

exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God…

1 Corinthians 1:29–31:

that no flesh should glory in his presence…
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

So the issue is not glory itself.

It is **the object of exaltation**.

---

6. Jesus and Glory — The Total Reversal

Human glory normally works like this:

achievement → recognition → exaltation.

Jesus reverses it:

humility → sacrifice → exaltation.

John 12:23–24:
His "glory" arrives through death.

So divine glory becomes:

self-giving love recognized as ultimate worth.

---

7. Why Humans Seek Glory Constantly

Because humans were created for kavod.

Psalm 8 says we were crowned with it.

So the desire for recognition is not accidental.

It is distorted memory.

We crave acknowledgment because image-bearers were meant to reflect divine significance.

The danger is substituting audience.

---

8. Final Judgment — True Recognition

Your earlier statement connects directly here.

At the throne:

Projected glory disappears.

Only **God-recognized glory** remains.

Romans 2:29:

praise… whose praise is not of men, but of God.

That verse literally means:

true glory is divine acknowledgment.

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9. The Biblical Resolution

So the Bible does not eliminate boasting.

It transforms it.

Galatians 6:14:

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross…

The believer still glories —
but in God's work, not self-exaltation.

Final Anchor

The English word "glory" retains its ancient sense of boasting and recognition, but Scripture redirects glory from self-exaltation to the rightful acknowledgment of God as the true source of all worth, making human glory real only when it reflects Him rather than replaces Him.

If you want, the next fascinating layer is why Paul can say something that sounds almost dangerous:

believers themselves will be **glorified** —

without that becoming pride or self-exaltation.