

8. ALL GOOD!

Every system in the universe worked perfectly. No accidents, no need for surgery or medical tests, no deadly viruses. No lies. No fatalities or funerals. Every detail functioned as it had been designed (*Psalms 104:24*). God wanted to confirm that his work was of the highest quality, so he inspired Moses to record the words of *Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31*.

Did you recognize a pattern? The Creator was sending a message for everyone of all times to hear. He emphasized his goodness to show that he demanded absolute perfection. This explains why he refused to stop creating until every detail was perfect.

For a while, Adam was the only person on earth. If Adam were to remain unhappy, God's creation would not be perfect. God's **template** for the human creature said that Adam would be a social being, like the persons of the Trinity. But the animals didn't think like Adam. They couldn't talk or reason with him. Adam needed a soulmate—someone to fill the part of himself that was still empty. He needed someone with whom he could share his joy of knowing GOD. Someone to help him create a new generation of human beings (*Genesis 1:28*).

Now imagine God, looking into the distance from the top of a mountain. He is surveying the new reality he created for humankind, and he is pleased with what he sees. God's creation work was filled with the glory of his perfection. It was not only good; it is *very* good—grand and glorious in every way. The glory disappeared when the first humans made the choice to disobey his only command. With sin came evil. God permitted Satan to make the world miserable as a reminder to humankind of that first disobedient act. The perfect systems that God had created were flawed by sin's **corrosive** effects. Life in a sinful world became harsh and difficult. Weather became hard to predict, and it made life uncomfortably hot or cold. Human bodies succumbed to a litany of illnesses and diseases. No part of God's creation was immune to the damaging effects of sin. In a sinful world, humans forgot God's infinite goodness and the glory of his work. So, on a few occasions God allowed people to catch a tiny glimpse of his extraordinary goodness and glory.

One of those rare moments happened on a mountaintop called *The Mount of Transfiguration*. (Scripture often used mountaintops to highlight big events.) Jesus had taken three of his disciples

with him to the top: Peter, James, and John. (Read about this event in *Matthew 17:2 ff.*; *Mark 9:2 ff.*; *Luke 9:29 ff.*) There Jesus was **transfigured** before their eyes. His face glowed like the sun. His clothes were brilliant white. Jesus wanted his followers to witness a tiny bit of his divine glory. It was a reminder that he was God's Son.

Jesus' Transfiguration happened a few weeks before he was crucified. God sent Moses and Elijah to the mountaintop to reassure the disciples that Jesus was the Son of God. Both men had been dead for centuries. A cloud surrounded them and God spoke: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him" (*Matthew 17:5*)! The disciples had heard those words before, when Jesus was baptized.

This is not the first time human beings caught a glimpse of God's glory. From a safe hiding spot in the cleft of a rock, Moses saw the passing end of God's cloak (*Exodus 33:12-23*). Elijah experienced God's glory in the chariot of fire that whisked him away to his eternal home (*2 Kings 2:11-12*). And, "The glory of the Lord shone round about" the shepherds, as they tended their sheep near Bethlehem. Luke says they were terrified. (*Luke 2:9*). The Hebrew word for these rare sightings of God's glory is **Cavode Adonai**. It means, the *Glory of the LORD*.

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

Do you remember another time when God spoke about Jesus, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased"? (If you don't know the answer, see *Matthew 3:17*.)

WORD POWER: template; corrosive; transfigured; Cavode Adonai

FROM THE TOUR

Can you think of any other mountaintop events that occurred in the Bible?

Why do you think God said, "... Listen to him" to the disciples?

How would you feel if God gave you a peek of his heavenly glory? How would you react?

LEARN MORE

Read *Exodus 19:16* and *24:16-17*. Here is an example of God's glory frightening people? Why were they afraid?

Read *2 Peter 1:17-18*. AGREE or DISAGREE: *In a way, we have seen God's glory by reading the description of what Peter, James, and John reported in their own words.*

Read *John 14:2*. How does this text offer comfort and hope as we wait for life in God's glory?

TAKE-AWAYS

Thank God for letting you see the glory of his Son through the gospel writer's record of Jesus' transfiguration..

Make a list of some of the corrosive or destructive effects that sin brought into God's world.



How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you made them all.

Psalm 104:24