

A Glory Eclipse

by Julie Luetke

I am guessing we have all seen a lunar eclipse. The shining full moon is gradually overtaken by shadow. After a time the shadow covers the entire moon, completely, but only temporarily, hiding the moon's light.

Jesus is true God, 100% all the time, God. As God, Jesus is filled with glory. On the mount of Transfiguration recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke we read that Jesus's face and clothing shone like lightning. The brightness was Jesus's glory being revealed to strengthen the faith of and give courage to Peter, James, and John.

Think of Jesus's glory like the full moon shining super brightly. Imagine you are watching the lunar eclipse in stop motion photography. Each photo shows a bit more of the moon being hidden by shadow. We are in the season of Lent when we ponder the suffering and death of Jesus before we celebrate His resurrection on Easter. Each event leading to the cross is like photos of an eclipse of Jesus hiding a bit more of His glory.

Think of the glory eclipse beginning when Jesus permitted soldiers to bind his hands in the Garden of Gethsemane. The mock trials, the spitting and striking of Jesus by soldiers and temple guards are all steps in the eclipse of Jesus putting His glory aside in order to save us from our sin.

Our sin had to be paid for. The Father knows we are not capable of being perfect, even for a day. So He sent His Son to be perfect for us so Jesus could be the sacrifice that pays for sin once and for all.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

If Pilate saw Jesus in His glory, bright like lightning, he would not have had the courage to sentence Jesus to death. Pilate probably wouldn't even have had the courage to stand. Jesus had to hide his glory in order to be our substitute and pay for our sin.

As you think about the crown of thorns, the lashes of the whip, the nails, the mockery, remember that an eclipse is temporary. We can think of Jesus's death as the full eclipse, but the glory was coming back brighter than ever!

The glory was back when Jesus showed Himself the victor over sin and death to Satan in hell. The glory was back when the earth shook on Easter morning. The glory was back when Jesus burst from the tomb and the soldiers fell like dead men. The glory is back for good.

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."





Season: Transfiguration/Lent

Video: 7. Confirmed in Christ!

Devotions: 51. TROPHY FRIEND by Christine Wentzel

75. Plan to Reflect God's Glory by Christine Wentzel

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Prayer: 22.Christian Living by Tracy Hankwitz

Super Girl: 44. Politicians, pundits, and reporters keep talking about reform...

122. This morning I woke up with *To God Be the Glory* on an eternal loop in my head...

Scripture References: John 16:10; Romans 5:2; 2 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 3:12; Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 9:14, 26, 28; Hebrews 10:10; 1 Peter 2:21

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