

Appearance of the God of glory to men

In the Bible the God of glory appeared to Abraham, Moses and Paul and spoke to them. We need to take heed to

1. Why God appeared to them?
2. What He spoke? and
3. Also learn what were their responses? (mostly they are obedient and consecrated themselves to God because of faith (relative and not absolute)).

To every one of us, does God often or even every day appear / speak to me? (What did God speak to me? What were my responses?)

The Glorious God appeared and spoke to Moses: The 1st time on the mountain (there were probably 6 times on the mountain)

Exo.19:3 while Moses went up to God. **Jehovah called to him out of the mountain**, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:

Exo. 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and **how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.**

Exo. 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;**

Exo. 19:6 and you shall be to me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

The God of glory appeared to Moses and spoke to him (God's will): God desires

- 1. To bring us to Himself (enter into His heavenly and spiritual realm),**
- 2. Us to obey His voice and keep His covenant,**
- 3. Us to be His treasured possession among all peoples.**
- 4. Us to be a kingdom of priests (every one functions and the whole body serves) and a holy (sanctified living) nation.**

Why the God of glory appeared to Moses?

Heb.11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by **his parents**, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,**

Heb. 11:25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Heb. 11:26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Heb. 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

By faith, Moses began to know God in his parents' house, brought in a living of faith for himself and his household, and also cared very much for God's children.

By faith, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and left Egypt.

Why the God of glory appeared to Moses?

Acts 7:22 And **Moses** was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

Exo.4:1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, **they will not believe me or listen to my voice**, for they will say, 'Jehovah did not appear to you.'"

Exo.4: But Moses said to Jehovah, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, **either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.**"

God used 40 years to perfect Moses, to make him no longer believe in his "self" and his natural ability. **Afterward God appeared to him.**

The God of glory appeared to Paul the 1st time

Acts 9:3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

Acts 9:4 And falling to the ground he **heard a voice saying to him**, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**"

Acts 9:5 And he (Paul) said, "**Who are you, Lord?**" And he said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**"

Acts 22:10 And I (Paul) said, '**What shall I do, Lord?**' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'

Acts 26:16 **But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,**

Acts 26:17 **delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you**

Acts 26:18 **to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'**

When the God of glory spoke to Paul, Paul responded. He asked the Lord

- 1. Who are you, Lord? Then the Lord gave him the revelation of who the Lord is;**
- 2. What shall I do, Lord? Then the Lord told him the purpose of choosing him for His church.**

**May our living and the fellowship with the Lord be not as
what the Chinese hymn of life #555, stanza #13 describes**

In a lifetime we never met a clever adversary;

一生聰明未遇敵手)

I have a desire, God submits to it ;

I have a plan, God arranges it;

I have a preference, God concedes;

I have a work, God takes the lead;

If I am eager, God must be in a hurry;

At no time will God ever be a loser (to me).

The God of glory appeared to Abraham

In the Bible, **the God of glory appeared to Abraham 8 times (approximately) and spoke to him**. We need to take heed to

1. Why the Lord appeared to him?
2. What had been spoken (they are mostly the words of blessing and the revelation of the Lord's heart's desire)?
and
3. Learn what were the responses of Abraham (mostly his submission and consecration because of his faith in God).

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #1

Acts 7:2 And Stephen said :“ Brothers and fathers, hear me. **The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham** when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

Acts 7:3 and said to him, ‘**Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.**’

Josh.24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says Jehovah, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, **your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham** and of Nahor; and **they served other gods.**

Acts 7:4 **Then he went out** from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.

Heb. 11:8 **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out** to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And **he went out, not knowing where he was going.**

Heb. 11:1 Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

The purpose of the God of glory, who appeared to Abraham the 1st time, was to call him to depart from the land where he was serving other gods, to a place which God would show him. By faith, Abraham obeyed and went out.

**The brothers gave one example:
How did the glorious Lord appear and speak to a person?**

**It seems like at times
a brother is deeply moved by a sister, or
a sister is deeply moved by a brother**

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #2

Gen. 12:1 Now **Jehovah said to Abram**, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Gen. 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

Gal. 3:14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Gen. 12:4 So **Abram went, as Jehovah had told him**, and Lot went with him.

The purpose of the God of glory, who appeared to Abraham the 2nd time, was **to again** call him to depart from his homeland, his kindred and his father's house, to the land that God would show him (Canaan, representing Christ and the church). God also spoke to him, telling him that He would bless him, make his name great (Gen.17:5: father of many nations; the children of faith of Abraham would become the testimony in all the world) and all the families of the earth would be blessed.”

Abraham went, as Jehovah had told him, but he brought Lot with him, indicating that he did not fully understand what God had spoken to him.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #3

Gen. 12:6 Abram passed through the land to the place at **Shechem**, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Gen.12:7 Then **Jehovah appeared to Abram** and said, “**To your seed I will give this land.**” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Gen. 12:8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of **Bethel** and pitched his tent, with **Bethel** on the west and **Ai** on the east. And there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of the Lord.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham the 3rd time and spoke, saying “I will give this land to your seed ” (Both the land and the seed represent Christ and the church).

Abraham built an altar (offering what he has received, that is Christ, to God) at Shechem (shoulder, power) where Jehovah appeared to him. He then moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent (lived a sojourner’s life), with Bethel (House of God; church life) on the west and Ai (rubble; world) on the east. There he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of the Lord.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #4

Gen. 13:14 Jehovah said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

Gen. 13:15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

Gen. 13:16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

Gen. 13:17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

Gen. 13:18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #4

Gen. 13:17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

Gen. 13:18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

Gen. 35:27 And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, **Hebron**), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

The purpose of the God of glory, who appeared to Abraham the 4th time, was **again** to speak to him, saying that “all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land and I will give it [the Christ that has been gained] to you.”

So Abraham moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre (**rich, fat**), which are at Hebron (**fellowship with God; in the New Testament, fellowship with Christ in the saints**), and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #5

Gen. 15:1 After these things **the word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision**: “Fear not, **Abram, I am your shield; and your great reward.**”

Gen. 15:2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Gen. 15:3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

Gen. 15:4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; **your very own son shall be your heir.**”

Gen. 15:5 And he (Jehovah) brought him outside and said, “**Look toward heaven, and number the stars**, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “**So shall your offspring be.**”

Gen. 15:6 And he believed the Lord, and the Lord counted it to him as righteousness.

The God of glory who appeared to Abraham the 5th time spoke, saying “I am your shield and your great reward. Your very own son shall be your heir. Look toward heaven, and number the stars, so shall your offspring be.”

Abraham believed the Lord, and the Lord counted it to him as righteousness.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #6

Gen. 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old **Jehovah appeared to Abram** and said to him, **“I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,**

Gen. 17:2 that **I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”**

Gen. 17:3 Then **Abram fell on his face.** And God said to him,

Gen. 17:4 **“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.**

Gen. 17:5 **No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham,**

Gen. 17:6 **I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.**

Gen. 17:9 **And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.**

Gen. 17:23 **Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him.**

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #6

The God of glory who appeared to Abraham the 6th time spoke, saying

- 1. I am God almighty.**
- 2. Walk before me, and be blameless (living in His presence, continuously enjoying all His richness and all inclusive rich supply.)**
- 3. My covenant is with you (Circumcision; deny the “Self”).**
- 4. I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.**
- 5. I will make you into nations (God builds His testimony in every city) ,**
- 6. Kings shall come from you (Gen.1:28: To be God’s testimony on earth and represent Him to serve the saints and friends) .**

Abraham fell on his face, and then he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him.

Why the God of glory appeared to Abraham?

Gen.18:1 And **Jehovah appeared to him** by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

Gen.18:2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, **he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth .**

Gen.18:3 and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, **do not pass by your servant.**

Gen.18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,

Gen.18:5 while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

Gen.18:6 And **Abraham went quickly** into the tent to Sarah and said, "**Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.**"

Gen.18:7 And Abraham **ran** to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.

Gen.18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf **that he had prepared**, and **set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.**

Abraham was so humble before God and diligently served God.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #7

Gen. 18:9 They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

Gen. 18:10 The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

Gen. 18:14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

The God of glory who appeared to Abraham the 7th time said:

1. “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.
2. Is anything too hard for the Lord?

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #8

Gen. 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and **said to him**,
“Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Gen. 22:2 He said, **“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”**

Gen. 22:15 And the angel of Jehovah called to Abraham a second time from heaven

Gen. 22:16 and said, **“By myself I have sworn, declares Jehovah, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,**

Gen. 22:17 **I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,**

Gen. 22:18 **and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”**

The God of glory appeared to Abraham #8

The God of glory appeared to Abraham the 8th time and spoke to him, saying, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” This is also a test to Abraham. And Abraham obeyed.

Jehovah declares, “Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

- 1. I will surely bless you,**
- 2. And I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore . And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies [Hades' gates shall not prevail against the built church (Matt.16:18)].**
- 3. In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”**

In the New Testament, an example of Paul to follow the Lord's leading: an exercise of **the fellowship with the saints**

Acts 16:8 So, passing by Mysia, they (Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke) went down to Troas.

Acts 16:9 And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night**: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Acts 16:10 And when Paul had seen the vision, **immediately we (Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke) sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding** that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Paul represents a brother with Christ's life dwelling in him and having grown unto maturity, and one who received a vision (God's appearance). But he did not make a decision right away; rather he **fellowshipped with other brothers, namely Silas and Timothy and Luke who were relatively young in the Lord (Paul's spiritual team at that time. Then they concluded (tried) that God had called them to Macedonia).**

Other examples of Paul in the New Testament: In addition to pursuing the Lord diligently, he has teams of spiritual companions

Phi.3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, **but I pursue** on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Acts 20:4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, **Aristarchus and Secundus**; and **Gaius** of Derbe, and **Timothy**; and the Asians, **Tychicus** and **Trophimus**.

2nd Tim.4:13 When you (Timothy) come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also **the books**, and **above all the parchments**.

2nd Tim.4:21 Do your best to come before winter. **Eubulus** sends greetings to you, as do **Pudens** and **Linus** and **Claudia** (a sister) and all the brothers.

Indeed, we need to pursue and live by the Lord's leading. At the same time, to fellowship with our companions (**spiritual team: the Christ in them will appear and speak to us**) is a good protection to us and the church. In a spiritual team, to try something together is a healthy exercise. Because **the Christ in us is limited**, even though we may have the Lord's leading, we may not understand clearly His leading. Just before Paul's martyrdom for the Lord, he still took heed to accompany and **raise up a team to serve together**. May we also exercise to have such a practice in our church life.

God may appear and speak to us

if one has a heart's desire for the Lord (many of us stop at this stage);

if one consecrates his/her life (time, strength, energy , finance, etc) to Christ and His church;

if one has the burden from the Lord to execute God's heart's desire (serve every saint in a church and then churches);
and

if one lives a crucified life for Christ and His churches only.

When anyone has the glorious God's appearance and speaking, may he/she have a submissive and an obedient heart, and a living supported by a diligent, laborious and effective operation.

God may appear and speak to us much more clearly if we have close and intimate fellowship with Him and with spiritual companions, church serving teams and servants of the Lord.