

AWAKEN

GOD'S GLORY AMONG
THE NATIONS



CHAPTER 1

THE GOD OF GLORY

Everything begins and ends with the glory of God! Because God is supremely good, holy, just, and loving, He is right to be jealous for His name and to call us into a white-hot affection for Him. His passion for His glory doesn't limit His love for us, it actually strengthens it. God's passion for His name should be our central motivation for our engagement in world **evangelization**, local witness, fellowship, and even in the daily activities of life.

DAY ONE
STARTING POINT

DAY TWO
RIGHTSIZING
GOD

DAY THREE
A JEALOUS GOD

DAY FOUR
HIS GLORY, OUR
RESPONSE

DAY FIVE
DRUKPA IN
BHUTAN



MEMORY VERSE

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

Psalms 96:1-3

DAY ONE

STARTING POINT

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

– AW Tozer

Pause and let that sink in for a moment. What comes into your mind when you think about God? Is He a *Loving Father* from whom every good and perfect gift flows? Is He a *Distant Creator* who after setting the mechanisms of the universe in motion, left Earth alone to spin on its axis? Is He a *Firm Disciplinarian* anxious to mete out judgment upon a wayward humanity for falling short of all that it was intended to be? Whether or not you completely agree with the opening quote, there is an inescapable truth that our thoughts about God—who He is, what He is like, how He goes about being God—have a profound impact upon our lives.

By the time you’ve completed this book, we hope that you have so saturated yourself in the truths of God’s Word that your heart is pulsing with wonder at the magnitude of His glory and that you arrive at the fitting conclusion that your life ought to be a conduit for His purposes in the world. But before we get ahead of ourselves, perhaps it’s best to get our bearings for the journey ahead. Much like a navigation system giving directions to a driver, a reliable course to our destination can only be charted after an accurate starting point is discovered. How can we get to where we’re going if we haven’t a clue where we are? And so today’s reading is all about asking ourselves questions. Questions that, like the satellites used for navigation, will give each of us a clear picture of our starting point.

The first set of questions has to do with your current view of God. There are no right or wrong answers here. Your view is simply that—*your view*. Pause and take a moment to write your honest and unfiltered responses to the questions below.

- What thoughts and images come into your mind when you think about God?
- Why do you think those things? Where did they come from?

Now that you've considered what you truly believe about God and how those beliefs came to be, it's natural to ask, *What does God think about us?* Some may even argue that asking what God thinks of us is more important than reflecting on our beliefs about Him since God alone has infinite wisdom and understanding. Our response to *What does God think about us?* has direct bearing on why we believe we exist, how we ought to treat those around us, and how we ought to live our lives. As with the above reflection, pause and take a moment to write your honest and unfiltered responses to the questions below.

- What does God think of humanity as a whole?
- What does God think of you personally?
- Why do you believe God thinks these things?

Much of this book is dedicated to diving into Scripture and reflecting upon what God's Word has to say to us because only *His Word* is uniquely capable of transforming our hearts, minds, and behavior. It is His Word that provides the corrective plumb line to truth, whereas our opinions can be off the mark. With this in mind, let's turn our attention to a passage of Scripture that evokes images of a term we will soon be acquainted with: *the glory of God*. The scene below picks up at the twilight of human history where a chorus of the redeemed breaks forth in song.



REVELATION 15:3-4

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.

- What is being declared about who God is and what He has done?
- How does this depiction of God in the Book of Revelation compare with your thoughts and images of Him?

As mentioned in the Introduction, each daily reading concludes with a *Selah*—an invitation to pause, reflect, and allow God to speak. Let today's Selah be focused on this central question: What would it mean for us to be *awakened* to a vision of God's glory and to His heart for the peoples of this world?

SELAH

- Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for the answer and then write your response below.

DAY TWO

RIGHTSIZING GOD

The average person takes close to 22,000 breaths per day; that's around 150 million breaths by the time someone has entered adulthood. In the time it took to read this you've probably taken two breaths already. Your diaphragm contracted, pulling air into your trachea where it was divided between your lungs. Then it passed through a complex matrix of airways where it finally arrived in the hundreds of millions of air sacs responsible for moving oxygen into, and carbon dioxide out of, your bloodstream. At some point, your diaphragm relaxed, allowing you to breathe out that wasteful CO₂ and continue the breathing cycle. All of this is essential for life and most of the time we don't even think about it.

Our bodies are but one of the countless wonders of creation! It's estimated that there are somewhere between 100 to 400 billion stars in our galaxy alone. If you attempted to count *merely* 200 billion of those stars at the rate of one star per second without a single pause, it would take 6,000 years! Our universe is vast, complex, and incredibly fine-tuned for life! From the most minute detail to the greatest expanse, it is both art and architecture at its finest. And it has a message for us:



PSALM 19:1-2

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.*



1 CHRONICLES 29:11

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

- What are some things in this world that you consider truly awe inspiring?
- What does this reveal about God?

There is a grandeur to the God we worship that escapes description. He is the *God Most High*, the *Ancient of Days*, the *Self-Existent One*, the *God Who Sees*. “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” [Colossians 1:4]. He is the artist of heaven whose canvas is the cosmos, created to express His glory. The Hebrew word most commonly translated as “glory” in the Old Testament is *kabod*. It is used most often in reference to the holy God of the Bible. It carries with it overtones of weightiness, honor, and splendor. In Exodus 24, God’s *kabod* took on the appearance of a consuming fire atop Mount Sinai, causing millions to stand back. His glory, if nothing else, is an awesome thing to behold. God is well aware of the magnificence of His glory. Sadly, we aren’t. This is why, for our benefit, He has to remind us every now and then.



ISAIAH 40:25-26

*To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
and because he is strong in power,
not one is missing.*

**JOB 38:1-7**

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

*“Who is this that obscures my plans
with words without knowledge?*

Brace yourself like a man;

*I will question you,
and you shall answer me.*

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set,

or who laid its cornerstone—

while the morning stars sang together

and all the angels shouted for joy?”

- What thoughts and images about God do the above verses invoke in your mind?
- Why is God right to remind us of just how incredible He is?

The mystery of mysteries is that this *Indescribable One* has chosen to make Himself known to us, to draw near to us, and to love us. As the late Brennan Manning so beautifully put it, *"If you took the love of all the best mothers and fathers who have lived in the course of human history, all their goodness, kindness, patience, fidelity, wisdom, tenderness, strength, and love and united all those qualities in a single person, that person's love would only be a faint shadow of the furious love and mercy in the heart of God the Father addressed to you and me at this moment."*

SELAH

- What does it mean to you that God is both incomprehensible in every way and yet so personal in His deep love for you?
- What is a fitting response to such a God?

DAY THREE

A JEALOUS GOD

Let's have a little thought experiment.

Consider that God truly is **the** perfect being—one of absolute and indescribable goodness, holiness, truth, beauty, power, and wisdom—the Ultimate Good. Now consider that same perfect being is our Heavenly Father, who loves us immeasurably. What then would be the natural desire He has for us as His children? Would it not be for us to experience the unsurpassable joy found exclusively in His presence? In fact, wouldn't it go against His loving nature if He were to tolerate us being satisfied with anything less than the Ultimate Good? To quote C.S. Lewis, *"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us...We are far too easily pleased."*

This leads us to an aspect of God's being that might seem to contradict our understanding of a loving and kind God.

God. Is. Jealous.

To say that God is jealous does not mean that He is insecure, childish, or petty. We are all too familiar with the damage that is caused when our own jealousies rear their ugly heads. Human jealousy is one of selfishness, impulse, and vanity, but the jealousy of God is a different thing altogether. His jealousy is a proper and holy commitment to His honor and glory. J.I. Packer describes it as, *"a praiseworthy zeal on His part to preserve something supremely precious."* Could there be anything so precious as the presence and glory of God?

The jealousy of God first appears in Scripture as God enters into a covenant relationship with the children of Israel after rescuing them from Egypt. Covenants are a serious thing; they are relationships formed with intense desire and unyielding commitment. And it is in this context that God commands the following through Moses.

**EXODUS 20:4-6**

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- According to this passage, how do the love and jealousy of God relate to one another?
- What is your natural impulse towards the idea of a jealous God?

In a social climate where our understanding of God's love for us can be distorted by sinful tendencies towards self-centeredness, we can fall into the trap of thinking that we are the center of God's love—as if His capacity for love depends upon our existence. The Scriptures that follow speak to the jealousy of God, the passion He holds for His glory, and His preeminence in all things (our own joy included). Read them slowly and with an open heart. Use the space provided after each passage to note your initial thoughts.



DEUTERONOMY 4:23-24

Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.



EZEKIEL 20:9

But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.



PSALM 106:7-8

*Our fathers, when they were in Egypt,
did not consider your wondrous works;
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,
but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.
Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
that he might make known his mighty power.*



COLOSSIANS 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

- What might it mean that God is a consuming fire?
- For whose namesake did God act? Why?
- Who is the source of all that exists? What are the ramifications of this revelation?

Put plainly, if God was not jealous for His glory and for His name, He would not be God. In His mercy, He liberates us from the slavery of self-love and making much of ourselves so that we might make much of Him—the Perfect One, the Ultimate Good, our Heavenly Father. As John Piper states, *“God’s love for us keeps God at the center. God’s love for us exalts His value and our satisfaction in it.”*

SELAH

- After reflecting on today’s reading, how has your understanding of God being jealous changed?
- What does it mean for you to find your greatest satisfaction in glorifying God?

DAY FOUR

HIS GLORY, OUR RESPONSE

In the late 1600s, the Westminster Assembly drafted the Shorter Westminster Catechism in an effort to educate children in the Christian faith. Composed of 107 couplings of questions and answers, it is perhaps best known by its first and most famous question and response.

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

The term *chief end* refers to one's ultimate and greatest purpose. In other words, we exist first and foremost to glorify God, AND our enjoyment of Him is the result of bringing Him glory! How could it be any other way? If God's own response to His magnificence is the unbridled passion for His name and glory, shouldn't His glory become our highest priority as well? The act of glorifying God conjures up images of wonder and worship. Renowned worship leader Matt Redman succinctly put it this way, "*When we face up to the glory of God, we find ourselves face down in worship.*" The following passages depict this sense of wonder and worship as a response to God's glory.



REVELATION 1:12-18

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

*There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*

*All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.*

*For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.*

*Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.*

*I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.*

- Based upon the passages above, how does wonder and worship relate to the glory of God?

The call to glorify God has implications for every single aspect of our lives, not least of which is our participation in His mission of reconciling all of humanity to Himself. It stands to reason, and to this Scripture attests, that to be the people of God we must be engaged in the work of God. Every hero of faith we read about in Scripture exemplified this truth. As they participated with God in His purposes, they lived out the fullness of who God had created them to be.



ROMANS 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- What does it mean to present our lives as a living sacrifice to God?
- What should be our motivation for doing good works?
- What role are we to play in making Christ known throughout the world?

Through Christ, we have not only been brought near to God but have also received a personal invitation to join in the greatest work of all, His global rescue mission of people from every tribe, nation, and tongue! A mission that has spanned the course of human history! Over the remaining chapters of AWAKEN, we will trace the thread of God's redemptive work throughout Scripture so that our hearts can be set ablaze with a passion for His glory to be made known among the entire Earth. May it be so!

SELAH

- Reflect upon a time when the presence of God felt especially real and powerful to you. How might God be prompting you to share that experience with others?

PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS

DRUKPA IN BHUTAN

PERSECUTION
RANKING

34

PROGRESS
SCALE

01

STRATUS
INDEX

38



POPULATION

218,000

PRIMARY RELIGION

BUDDHISM

EVANGELICAL
ADHERENT PERCENTAGE:

0.00%

SCRIPTURE

COMPLETE BIBLE

JESUS FILM

YES

ONLINE AUDIO BIBLE

NO



Arthur Glasser and Donald McGavran offer a robust definition of global missions: *“carrying the gospel across cultural boundaries to those who owe no allegiance to Jesus Christ and encouraging them to accept Him as Lord and Savior and to become responsible members of His church, working as the Holy Spirit leads, at both evangelism and justice, at making God’s will done on earth as it is done in heaven.”* Additionally, it is important that we understand that what we call “missions” is first and foremost “God’s mission.” As David Bosch wrote, *“Mission certainly involves human mediations, but always in total dependence on the initiative of God.”* The church plays an important role in this grand narrative by bringing the transforming power of the Gospel to unreached people groups (UPGs) around the world so that all nations can glorify God.

Each chapter of *Awaken* will introduce you to one of the over seven thousand UPGs on this Earth. These groups are men, women and children who live in places of unspeakable suffering, have no church to attend, no Bible to read, and no Christians to share the love of Christ with them. We are strategically working to bring the Gospel to each of these groups so that God is glorified among them. One of these groups is the Drukpa in Bhutan.

Inhabiting hilly terrains of high altitude marked by extreme cold, high rainfall, medium snowfall, and dense forests, approximately 218,000 Drukpa people live in the “land of the thunder dragon” (Druk-yul), otherwise known as the country of Bhutan. For thousands of years, this country has been under the powerful dominion of Buddhism, completely closed off from the rest of the world. Believing their Buddhist

roots originated in AD 746 when the Tibetan sage Padmasambhava flew on the back of a tiger across the Himalayas to bring the religion to Bhutan, the Drukpa people remain within the tight grip of Buddhism as 100% still devoutly follow its tenets. In recent years, as borders opened, the Gospel has begun to infiltrate this country. Currently, there are between 500–600 Christian Drukpa people, so negligible a number that they equate to 0% of the Drukpa population, facing many hardships such as ostracism from the community, difficulties finding a job, and accessing educational advancements. The fortress of the Buddhist “thunder dragon” has a stronghold on this nation, and the need for Gospel-work is significant among the Drukpa people.



HOW TO PRAY

With centuries under the stronghold of Buddhism and so few believers in country, pray for God to send laborers into this harvest field and for His Spirit to awaken the hearts of the Drukpa people to the Gospel.

Pray for movements of disciple-making, multiplication, and church planting to spread rapidly among the few Drukpa Christians to be a powerful witness that reaches families, friends, and neighbors.

Pray for humanitarian aid, along with the Gospel message, to reach the area where the Drukpa live, which is often inaccessible due to rugged terrain.

GO DEEPER

Visit the following websites to learn more about the people and country of Bhutan.

OpenDoors.org/en-US/

[StratusEarth](https://StratusEarth.org/)

JoshuaProject.net

- What difficulties do Bhutanese citizens face if they become Christians?
- In light of these difficulties, what Bible passages come to mind that you could pray over Bhutanese Christians right now?

