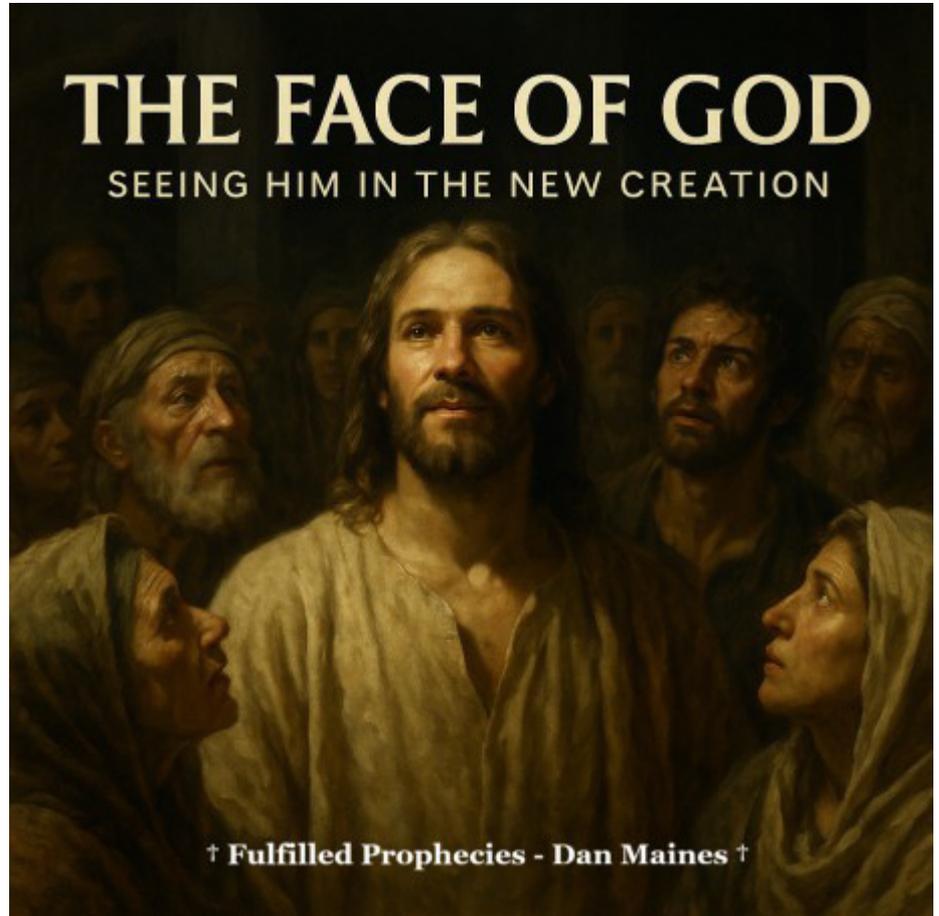


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The Face of God: Seeing Him in the New Creation



By Dan Maines

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Exodus 33:18-23

Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by,

that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

† Under the old covenant, no one could see God's face and live, sin separated humanity from His unveiled presence.

† Moses, though closest to God, could only glimpse His glory partially, hidden within the rock.

† The cleft of the rock foreshadowed Christ, the Rock in whom we are hidden and through whom we behold God's glory.

† What Moses could not see then, believers now see fully through the revelation of Christ.

John 14:8-9

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

† Philip's request echoes Moses' cry, both desired to see the face of God.

† Jesus revealed that He Himself is the visible image of the invisible God.

† To see Christ is to see the Father because the fullness of deity dwells in Him.

† The old covenant veil was removed through the incarnation, and God's face was revealed in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

† The light that once shone at creation now shines spiritually through the face of Christ.

† Paul ties the Genesis light to the revelation of the gospel, new

creation light.

† The glory of God is no longer distant or hidden behind a veil; it lives within us.

† The face of Christ is where the full knowledge and glory of God are revealed.

Revelation 22:3-4

There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

† The ultimate fulfillment of Exodus 33 occurs here, God's people now see His face without fear.

† The curse of separation has been removed; divine fellowship has been restored forever.

† His name on their foreheads represents ownership, identity, and full communion with Him.

† The face once hidden by glory is now the light of the New Jerusalem.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

† Purity of heart under the new covenant is not through works but through Christ's cleansing blood.

† The pure in heart now live in the continual vision of God's presence.

† This blessing is realized, not postponed, believers see Him now by faith and truth.

† To see God is to know Him intimately through the Spirit dwelling within.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

† John connects likeness with sight, to see Him as He is is to share in His nature.

† This transformation was completed when Christ appeared in glory at His coming to the saints.

† They saw Him as He truly is, the glorified Son who restored image and likeness to His people.

† The face of God once veiled became visible in the glorified Lamb among His redeemed.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

† The unveiled face represents open access to God's presence through the Spirit.

† The transformation "from glory to glory" signifies covenantal change, from the fading glory of the old to the eternal glory of the new.

† We behold Him not dimly, but clearly, as His image is reflected in us.

† The veil Moses wore is gone forever, the face of God is revealed in the face of Christ.

How it applies to us today

† We live in the unveiled presence of God, seeing His face in Christ and reflecting His glory to the world.

† The longing of Moses and Philip is our present reality, God has made Himself known.

† Every believer carries the light of His face, shining as living images of the risen Lord.

† The new creation is marked by sight, not shadow, we no longer look through types but behold the truth.

† The face of God is no longer hidden; it shines within His people forever.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Exodus 33:18-23; John 14:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:3-4; Matthew 5:8; 1 John 3:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

† Athanasius, On the Incarnation, ch. 54

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

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