

**God's Glorious
Invitation
To Come And See
The Saviour And King**

First To The Israelites And Then To The Gentiles

by B. R. Hicks

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God's Divine Principles are the same from generation to generation. He never changes, nor do His Spiritual Laws. When Christ was born, God used His Glory to lead the shepherds to the Babe in the manger and the Wise Men to the house in which the young Child lived with Mary and Joseph. In like manner, He uses His Glory, today, to lead sincere, hungry-hearted people to new revelations of His beloved Son, the LORD Jesus Christ.

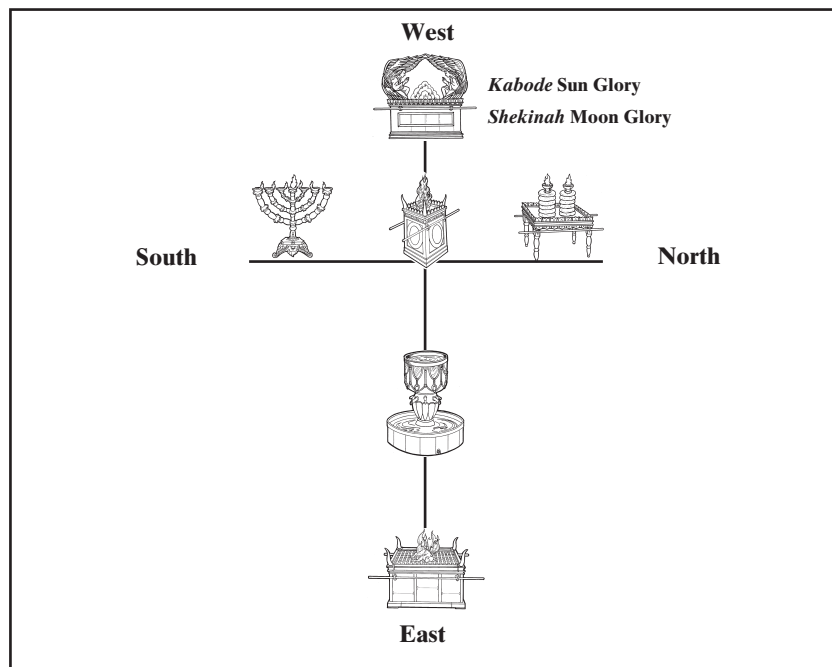
Learning more about the Spiritual Principles of the Glory in the Christmas lesson will help us to understand the different ways that the LORD leads us. We need to learn how to apply God's Spiritual Principles to our life, whether we learn about them from the Christmas Story or from some other Truth in the Bible.

God's Word compares God's Spiritual Glory-Light to the glory of the sun, the moon, and the stars. When Jesus Christ was born into this world as a Babe in Bethlehem, God sent forth glorious invitations to both the Israelites and the Gentiles to come and see His Son, the One through Whom all the families of the earth were to be blessed (Genesis 12:2,3).

The Israelites received the first and most glorious announcement about Christ, the promised LORD and Saviour, because they had lived for generations under the spiritual Light Rays beaming out from the *Kabode* and *Shekinah* Glories in the Holy of Holies on the west side of the Mosaic Tabernacle.

Interestingly, the word *Kabode* is masculine in Hebrew; whereas, *Shekinah* is a feminine word. The LORD's *Kabode* or

exalted Sun Glory rested upon the Mercy Seat; His *Shekinah* humility Moon Glory rested upon the Law inside the Ark of the Covenant. The invisible rays from the fullness of the LORD's Glory, shining out from the Holy of Holies, illuminated the hearts and minds of the Israelites both day and night with the Light of the Promise of the Coming Redeemer.



Since the Israelites had known and walked in the Light of the fullness of the LORD's Glory on the west side of the Temple, the Angel who appeared to the shepherds out on the hillside came in the fullness of the LORD's *Kabode* Glory to announce to them the Saviour's birth and invite them to go down to Bethlehem to see the Performance of the Prophecy given to Abraham.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And,

lo, **the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:** and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us now go even unto Bethlehem,** and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:8-20).

The Hebrew New Testament clearly shows that the highest realm of Glory, the *Kabode* or exalted Sun Glory, accompanied the invitation given to the Israelites. Since the Sun Glory also contains the humility Moon and Star Glories, this means that the fullness of the LORD's Glory was present to reveal to the shepherds that the LORD's Promise to Abraham had been performed. The long-awaited Saviour was born!

Many people have the idea that exaltation and glory are given so that *they* can stand in a high place and boast of their greatness. Such thinking is contrary to God's divine Principles. The Angel did not tell the shepherds to ascend into a high mountain so that everyone could see and know *them*. Instead, he told

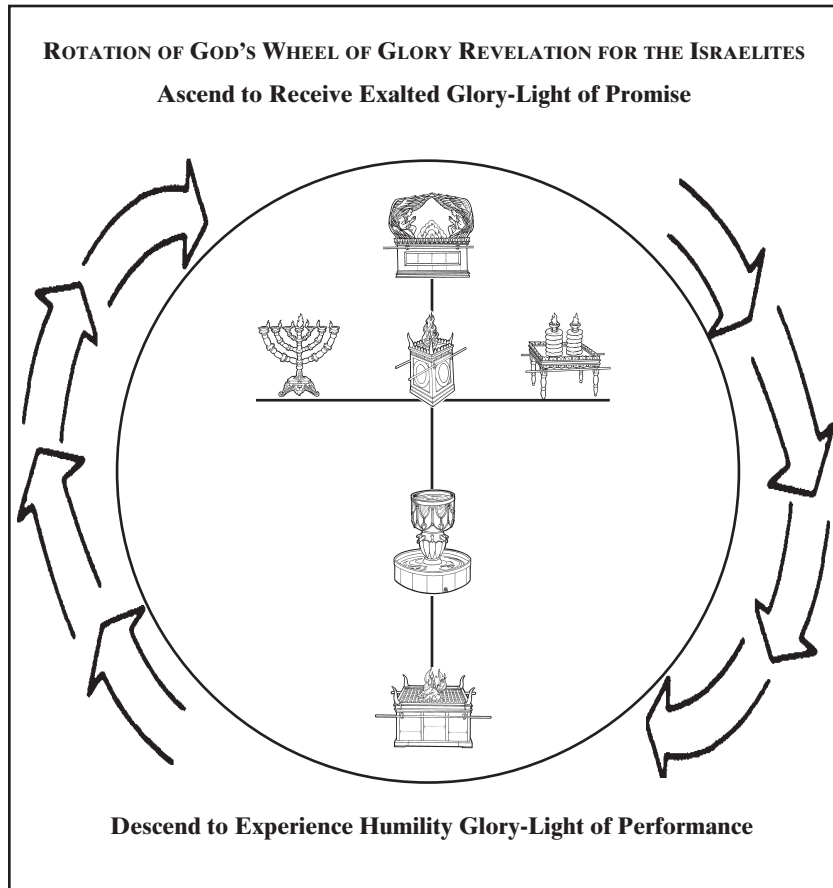
them to go to Bethlehem so that they could see the *Saviour*, and in order to do that, they had to descend. They had to leave Jerusalem, the high place, where the fullness of Glory-Light radiated out from the west side of the Temple, and go down to Bethlehem where God had promised to reveal the Redeemer in His humility human form.

Psalm thirty-six, verse nine, says, “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.” Thus, at the birth of the Saviour, the Glory-Light of Performance appeared to those who already had the Glory-Light of the Promise in the *Torah*, the Law. The Psalmist said, in so many words, “Unto you who sit in the Light of the Promise is Christ the Lord born. Come and see the Light of Performance of God’s Word!”

Notice how much Light the LORD gave to the shepherds to get them to go the short distance from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. As Israelites, they had lived their entire lives in the Light of Promise; then, when Jesus was born, the LORD encircled them, by gift, with still more of His exalted *Kabode* Glory. The reason that the LORD did this is that it is more difficult for the flesh to descend than it is for it to ascend.

God lifts us up, by gift, and gives us the exalted Glory of His Promise; however, to see the Performance of the Promise and gain the stature of humility Glory that goes with it, it is necessary to choose, personally, to descend. Exalted Glory is given, not to help us ascend, as so many people think, but to enable us to descend into new depths of Christ’s Humility and gain, by stature, the Glory hidden in the manger experiences of life.

(See Diagram on following page.)

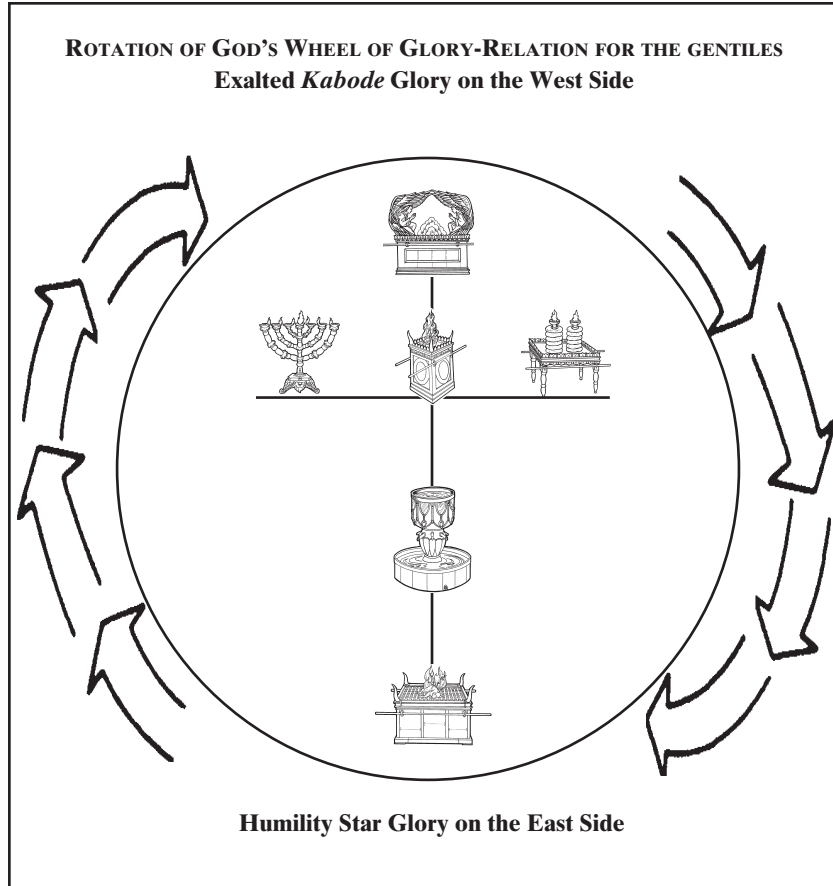


Those who desire to go on for God and grow spiritually must be willing to ride God's Glory-Wheel both ways. Many people will ride the wheel as long as it is moving to lift them, by gift, into new realms of exalted Glory revelation; however, only a few believers, comparatively speaking, are willing to ride the wheel down to Bethlehem in order to know, by stature, the LORD's humility Glory of Performance in the low place.

Notice how God's Wheel started turning to reveal the birth of His Son to the Gentiles.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem**, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way (Matthew 2:1-12).

God did not start the Wise Men out with His exalted *Kabode* Glory. Instead, because these men were down in the low place of heathen darkness, he started them on their journey with humility Star Glory. As they followed the Glory-Light of the Star, it led them all the way from the East up to Jerusalem, where the *Kabode* Glory rested upon the Mercy Seat on the west side of the Temple.



Star Glory is small in comparison to Sun and Moon Glory, yet it is a mistake to underestimate the power of the LORD's humility Star Light. In the Hebrew New Testament, the word for the particular Star that led the Wise Men means revolving, circular, penetrating, burning light. Thus, the powerful, revolving, circular Light of the LORD's special Star penetrated the darkness of heathenism, set the hearts of the Wise Men on fire with the Truth, and motivated them to set out on their journey from the East to the West to see the new King. Since they traveled at

night in order to follow the Star, it took them two years to reach the house where the young Child was then living.

God's Purpose in using Star Light to bring the Gentiles to Christ was to prove their love for the Creator and His true Light, even when it was revealed to them in a small form. Remember, that in addition to being kings, the Wise Men were scientists of their day; they were astronomers and sorcerers who worshipped the lights of Heaven. Every night they faced a new choice. Would they let the Light and Glory of the LORD's Star lead them, or would they follow after the light and glory of the creation as they were accustomed to doing?

One has to respect these men for their sincerity. They had to have let that revolving, penetrating Star Light circumcise their hearts in a measure; otherwise, they would not have left their country, their home, and their friends to go out in search of a King they did not know personally.

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" This was their inquiry when they arrived in Jerusalem. They did not ask, "Where *was* He?" Nor did they ask, "Where *will* He be?" They wanted to know "Where *is* He? He is the great I AM. We know that He is here, for we have seen His Star."

Naturally, it did not take long for this news to get to King Herod. Was this fleshly king delighted to hear that the promised King of the Jews had been born? No indeed! Herod was greatly angered that anyone should suggest that there was a greater king than he. Although Herod pretended to the Wise Men that he, too, wanted to worship the King, his real motive for wanting to know Christ's whereabouts was evil. And, Herod proved this beyond doubt when, hoping to destroy the newborn King, he ordered the death of all children under two years of age.

The stop in Jerusalem at Herod's palace was another test for the Wise Men. God never intended that they stay in Jerusalem. They were there to become acquainted with the LORD's glorious Light of Promise given to the Israelites. Thus, there was another choice to be made in Jerusalem. On one hand, the

exalted *Kabode* Glory of the LORD radiated out from the Temple; and, on the other hand, the corrupted glory-light of wicked King Herod shined forth to dazzle their eyes. Would they choose to join themselves to the deceitful, exalted glory of a fleshly king, or would they choose to continue to allow the Light and the Glory of the LORD's Star lead them to the spiritual King whom they had set out to find?

It was dark, spiritually, for the Wise Men when they had to make their choice because the Glory Rays from the Star had stopped shining forth to influence their thinking. Yet, because they had allowed the revolving Glory Light of the Star to circum-cise their hearts with the Truth, as they had traveled along the way, they knew that Herod could not be the One they had come to see. Herod was too big. They knew that when they found the King, Whose Star had led them, His Stature would be small.

Upon hearing the Prophecy of where the promised King would be born, they said, in so many words, "That is He." And, they decided right then that they would rather worship the small Stature of God's true King than to be joined to wicked King Herod's full stature of corrupted, exalted glory. When they had determined in their hearts to go to Bethlehem, the Star reappeared to lead them on their way down.

Jerusalem was just part of the journey the Wise Men had to take to find the Promise that would show them how to get to the Performance and Stature of God's King of Humility. So also is our trip through this world just part of our journey toward spiritual maturity by stature. This world is not our home; we are just passing through. However, because we are carnal, earthly, mortal creatures, it is very easy to get attached to the material things of this earth, especially to the exalted things of the world. It is sad to see people being deceived by the bright lights and seeming grandeur of the world. Think what remorse they will feel when they discover that they based their eternal choices upon illusionary things that are destined to pass away.

It does not really matter, in one way, whether we are Israelites or Gentiles because God has extended a glorious invi-

tation to both. To the Israelites, who had known the full stature of the Glory-Light of Promise, God gave the glorious invitation to descend and look upon the Seed of Performance, Jesus Christ, in His tiny, infant form. The LORD invited them to the manger because He knew that it would take a vision of the Saviour's Humility to redeem them from their spiritual pride of exaltation.

Conversely, God's Star Glory led the Gentile Wise Men up to Jerusalem where they could hear the glorious Promise given to the Israelites. Then, after having heard the Promise, the Gentiles had to make the same journey down to Bethlehem that the Hebrew shepherds had made. This is why it does not really matter whether we are Israelites or Gentiles by birth; the ultimate destination is the same.

If we are on the top of God's Wheel with His exalted Sun-Glory Light of Revelation shining down upon us, we have to ride it down to the manger in order to see the One Who will save us from our spiritual pride of exaltation. If, however, we are in the low place, on the east side, where the Wise Men were, we have to let the Light of His Star Glory penetrate the darkness of our fleshly ignorance, and we must keep following the Star and riding the ascending Wheel until our ears hear the Promise that enflames our heart with new determination to keep following the Star as it descends into the depths to reveal the Stature of the Messiah, the King of Humility, Who has Power to rule over our fleshly pride of exaltation.

May we answer the invitation to follow Jesus' humility Light so that we may know the depths of His Love that brought Him down to Earth; and He will lead us into His exalted Light so that we may know the heights of His Love in Eternity.

