

The dazzle factor

Notes on the Bible readings

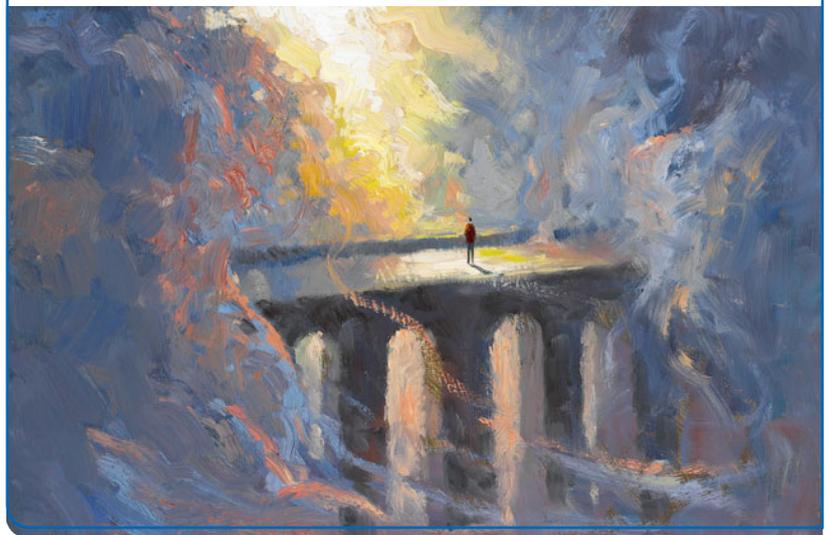
● This week's Gospel, Old Testament and New Testament readings fit together very well. The themes of light, the glory of God, and things that blind us run through all three passages. In fact, we don't really appreciate what's going on in Mark 9 without some awareness of the Old Testament background. 'Six days later' echoes Moses' face-to-face encounter with God in the clouds on top of Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.15-18). In 2 Kings 2, Elijah is taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire at the end of his life, and his mantle passes to the prophet Elisha, who will carry forward the power and glory of God. Moses and Elijah both appear on the mountain with Jesus.

● At the Transfiguration, God's glory focuses on the person of Jesus. He becomes dazzling white with God's presence (v.3) and makes his glory known in the world. Everything that has gone before has been leading up to this moment. And through Jesus, we can carry something of God's glory with us.

● In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul uses the Exodus image of Moses covering his face because it is shining so brightly with divine glory. He suggests that the truth is 'veiled': that those who do not see the glory of God in the face of Jesus have been blinded by 'the god of this world' (v.4). This should prompt us to reflect on what can prevent us from seeing God's glory and understanding what he is doing around us.

Questions for reflection

- ▶ When did the glory of God last break through into your day?
- ▶ What might blind us to God's glory?
- ▶ How can we help people perceive the glory of God?



A prayer to see God's glory Look at the flames of a candle.

*Creator God,
the world is full of your amazing works,
which shine out like flames, dancing on a candle.
Open our eyes to your glory,
and help us to sparkle with your beauty and love. Amen.*

A personal prayer

*Jesus, God's beloved child,
help me to listen for your voice,
and watch for your blessing,
with faith, obedience and gratitude. Amen.*

A prayer for the week

*Lord of light, guide us each day,
and let the light of your glory shine through us
into the lives of all those we meet.
May the dazzling light of your presence bring us comfort and hope
whenever we feel sad or worried. Amen.*

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to www.rootsontheweb.com and click on PostScript.



Live your faith

Look for things or people that speak to you of God's glory. Then, think about how you might reflect God's glory to those you meet.