

Session 5 The Father's Throne and Jesus' Exaltation (Rev. 4-5)

I. THE MAJESTY OF THE FATHER'S THRONE: GUARANTEES JESUS' EXALTATION

- A. In Revelation 4-5, John described the majesty of the Father's royal court in heaven and the glorious occasion when Jesus took a scroll from the Father indicating His right to rule the earth.
- B. Revelation 4 gives us the most detailed description of God's beauty in the Scripture. I refer to this chapter as the "beauty realm of God."
- C. Revelation 5 gives us insight in the Father's plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over the earth. The primary theme in the book of Revelation is Jesus coming back as King to rule the nations.
- D. God's vast majestic resources (Rev. 4) are committed to establishing His plan for Jesus (Rev. 5).

II. THE FATHER'S HEAVENLY COURT: THE BEAUTY OF GOD (REV. 4)

- A. Revelation 4:2-7 outlines four categories of God's beauty, each with three themes, totaling 12.
²I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones... I saw twenty-four elders sitting...in white robes; and they had crowns of gold... ⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:2-6)
 - 1. The beauty of *God's Person*: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)
 - 2. The beauty of *God's Partners*: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)
 - 3. The beauty of *God's Power*: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, voices (Rev. 4:5a)
 - 4. The beauty of *God's Presence* (fire): on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)
- B. In Revelation 4:8-11, we see the governmental leaders of heaven worship God and declare His transcendent beauty (v. 8). They glory or boast with delight in God as they honor and thank Him.
⁸The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne... ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down...and worship Him...and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹"You [Father] are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things..." (Rev. 4:8-11)
- C. Their foundational hymn forever magnifies God's holiness (v. 8). There are 14 hymns in Revelation. To be holy means "to be totally separated from." God is separated from everything sinful; thus He is pure. God is also separated from everything created; thus He is transcendent or infinitely superior to all that exists. God's holiness points to His transcendent beauty.

III. THE GRAND DRAMA IN HEAVEN (REV. 5:1-14)

- A. Revelation 5 describes Jesus' destiny on the earth as a Man. He is fully God and fully man. Because of His obedience to death, God highly exalted Him in heaven and on earth (Phil. 2:10). His exaltation is manifest *in part* on earth now, and *in fullness* in the Millennium.
- ⁹...God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth...
(Phil. 2:9-10)
- B. Daniel prophesied that Israel's messiah would receive the leadership of the earth forever. David wrote of the Father's promise to give the leadership of the nations to Jesus (Ps. 2:8). This promise is fulfilled in the eyes of the nations *in part* in this age and *in fullness* in the Millennium.
- ¹³...the Son of Man [Jesus] coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]...¹⁴Then to Him was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... (Dan. 7:13-14)
- ⁸I [the Father] will give you [Jesus] the nations for your inheritance... (Ps. 2:8)

IV. JESUS TAKES THE SCROLL FROM THE FATHER'S HAND (REV. 5)

- A. John saw a scroll in the Father's hand. Many see this scroll as representing the title deed of the earth and Jesus' action plan (Rev. 6-19) to bring in the harvest of all nations and to prepare the Church as a Bride to partner with Him in ruling the earth (Rev. 19:7-20:6) as He cleanses the earth of evil and replaces its governments so as to fill the earth with God's glory (Rev. 20-22).
- ¹I saw in the right hand of Him [the Father] who sat on the throne a scroll...sealed with seven seals. ²I saw a strong angel proclaiming... "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"...⁵One of the elders said, "...the Lion of the tribe of Judah...has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals"...⁶in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God...⁷He took the scroll out of the right hand of Him...on the throne. (Rev. 5:1-7)
- B. Open the scroll: Jesus will open the scroll and loose or break the seven seals (v. 2, 5). This includes releasing the judgments that are described in Revelation (Rev. 6-19).
- C. Taking the scroll: by taking the scroll, He accepted responsibility to cleanse and rule earth.
- D. Who is worthy: Jesus is the only man who was found worthy or deserving and capable to take the scroll from the Father. No other man is able to solve the problems of the nations.
- E. Lion and lamb: Jesus has the fierceness and fearlessness of a lion (v. 5) and the tenderness and humility of a lamb (v. 6). He will forever be a Jewish Man from the tribe of Judah (v. 5).
- F. Seven horns and eyes: Jesus is described as a lamb with seven horns, or all power, and seven eyes, or all wisdom. Because He possesses all power and wisdom, He is qualified to open the scroll.

⁶...a Lamb...having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Rev. 5:6)

V. JESUS IS WORTHY (REV. 5)

- A. The highest governmental council around God's throne consists of the living creatures (angelic) and the elders (human). They fell awestruck before the worthy Man and boldly proclaimed their agreement with the Father's decree to make Jesus the supreme leader of the whole earth forever!
- ⁸*When He [Jesus] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals [release end times judgments]; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood [proved Your leadership and love] out of every tribe and tongue...¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."* (Rev. 5:8-10)
1. Sang a new song: a prophetic song indicating the changing of season in God's purpose. On earth there will be more and more expressions of this prophetic song released through prophetic singers as we get closer to the Lord's return.
 2. You were slain: when Jesus had all the glory, He laid it down for love and became poor for our sakes in becoming a man and taking our judgment so that we might become rich.
⁹You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)
- B. You are worthy: Jesus being worthy to be the supreme leader of the earth has three applications.
1. Jesus deserves it: He is worthy or deserving of the authority to be the supreme leader of the earth because He is our redeemer and creator. He has proven Himself by making every choice for love and righteousness.
 2. Jesus is capable: He is able to open the seals or administrate God's judgments and rule the earth forever. He is able to drive evil off the earth and then reorganize and rule all the governments. No other man has the ability (wisdom, humility, and power) to lead all the resources of all the nations in a way that sustains love and righteousness forever. It is not amazing that God rules the earth, but that He gave all the authority to one Man.
 3. Jesus is worth it: He is worthy of our wholehearted love—our *continual praise* of His beauty, our *confident trust* in His leadership and *sacrificial obedience* to His will. As we see the worthiness of Jesus, we count all things loss in our pursuit to love Him (Phil. 3:8).
⁸I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ... (Phil. 3:8)
 4. The devil seeks to stir up self-pity in us by telling us that we are getting a bad deal from God and that it is no longer worth the trouble to seek God with diligence. The devil tempts us to "*give up* (seeking God) and *give in* (to sin) because it is too hard."
- C. Father's promised to make Jesus preeminent in all things.

¹⁸***He is the head of the Body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)***

- D. Jesus' inheritance includes having the full authority over seven spheres of life: power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. There are many aspects implied by each sphere. These are seven manifestations of His leadership and the response of the nations to Him.

¹²***...saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)***

- E. The word **receive** is significant. In what sense does Jesus receive these? At His resurrection, He received authority as a Man from the Father to rule the earth (Eph. 1:20-23). He will receive the *full* obedience of all of His people in the Millennium. The kings will offer their national resources to Him. His people offer Him this response *in part* now and *fully* in the Millennium.

- F. **Power** (political): Jesus will publicly receive the political authority over all nations at His return. In the Millennium, the Father will establish Jesus as King over all nations, and all the kings will be saved and will base their governments on the Scriptures (Ps. 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2).

¹¹***Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)***

- G. **Riches** (financial): All the money and natural resources on earth will be openly seen as under Jesus' leadership in the Millennium. All the leaders of the nations will joyfully submit their riches to His leadership and worldwide plan (Isa. 60:5-13).

- H. **Wisdom** (intellectual): Jesus will use His great wisdom to bring every sphere of life to the fullness of the Father's plan (i.e., political, economic, family, agricultural, media, technology, environment, social institutions, etc.). He will have leadership over all the “intellectual property” forever. He will establish new leaders, laws, and policies in all the nations to bring every sphere of society to its fullness and fill the earth with God's glory.

- I. **Strength** (physical/emotional): The nations will love Jesus with all their strength or resources, which include their time, words, energy, and influence (Mk. 12:30). They will gladly offer to Jesus the fruit of their physical strength and labor with all their national resources. All the benefits of the labor force and human resources on the millennial earth will be submitted to Him.

- J. **Glory** (spiritual): Jesus will minister in the fullness of the supernatural realm of God's glory. The nations will submit to Jesus all that is gained by the glory of God operating in their lives.

- K. **Honor** (relational): Jesus will be the most praised, adored, respected, and listened-to man in all the nations. All in the nations will honor and love Him with their obedience (Eph. 6:1-2).

- L. **Blessing** (social) – all will fully cooperate with Jesus' leadership. By receiving such affirming cooperation from the nations, He will have the mightiest, largest, and most loyal, productive, unified, and joyful work force in history. The nations will bless all of His plans and policies.

VI. QUESTIONS FOR SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (e.g., FCF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS)

1. Identify one point that inspired or challenged you. Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
2. Identify one point that you want to impart to a younger believer. Why? How will you approach this?
3. Identify one point that you would like to gain more understanding of. How will you seek to gain it?