

I. OUR HEAVENLY CALLING

A. **Introduction:** In Revelation 4-5, John is brought through an “open door” in heaven and subsequently finds himself in the throne room of heaven. The throne room of God (as seen in Rev. 4-5, Ezekiel 1, Dan. 7, Is. 6) is the highest revelation of God’s beauty and splendor in scripture. Every feature, sound, color, light, etc. displays the unparalleled beauty and majesty of God.

B. We must understand this place to rightly understand our eternal calling, the nature of God, and the relevance of prayer. We are called to find our life in the eternal city and interact with the One seated on the throne. We are one spirit with Him. Therefore, we are seated right now with Christ in heaven.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. - 1 Cor. 6:17

And you He made...us alive together with Christ...and raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. - Eph. 2:1-7

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling.... - Heb. 3:1

C. Christ’s seat in heaven speaks of his authority over all powers and principalities and also his intimacy with the Father. Both of these realities are ours in Christ’s enthronement. (Phil. 2; Zech. 6:12-13; Eph. 1:18-23)

Therefore, I...do not cease to make mention of You in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know...the hope of His calling...the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... - Eph. 1:18-23

*"Today we have a Christianity made easy. We have made accommodations to an age unwilling to face reality; an age unwilling to face the implications of Calvary; an age that has eliminated the supernatural from christian experience. But you cannot do that! Are we willing to face the implications of Calvary? A Christian is a supernatural being. Who has had a supernatural experience and is so supernaturally altered that godliness will characterize every part of his being, body, soul, and spirit the moment he is born again. **God has come in. And God is supernatural.**" -Duncan Campbell*

D. Humanly speaking, God began with a blank slate. Heaven and the throne room is *a created place* where God displays His glory and beauty unto the fascination and provocation of all creation to worship. Heaven *does not contain* (prevent or limit) the uncreated God. It is in the throne room where God interacts with creation without any hindrance or effects of the Fall.

But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him? – 2 Chronicles 2:6

E. God created Heaven and Earth. Each were originally designed to interact together in one reality. When man abdicated his dominion to Satan, Heaven and Earth separated and another kingdom was inserted in between them. (*Gen. 1; 3:14-15, v.17-19*) God’s ultimate plan is to restore these two realities together again -- this is the plan of redemption.

...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he (the Father) set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. – Ephesians 1:9-10

II. THE THRONE ROOM REALITY

A. John the Beloved sees a **throne set in heaven** and **One seated on the throne**.

1. ***A throne set in heaven... (Rev. 4:2):*** the throne speaks of the unchallenged, unshakeable sovereignty of God (Ps. 45:6; Is. 9:7; Heb. 1:8-9). Daniel 7 and Ezekiel 1 reveal a picture of the throne being sapphire in color and mingled with fire. A river of fire proceeds from it. The throne is filled with light and color, engulfed in fire. The revelation of the throne gives relevance to our life and prayers.

2. ***One seated on the throne... (Rev. 4:2):*** When we pray we are not speaking to the air. We are speaking to the Person of God. He is our loving Father, who is pleased with us.

3. ***And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone... (Rev. 4:3):***

Jasper is a brilliant stone that can be red, yellow, green, or blue. God actually clothes Himself in light, which includes all the colors in the spectrum (and probably more than we know of!). All of His attributes work together in perfect harmony and manifest as light radiating from Him like a diamond.

Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment.. - Psalm 104:2

...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. - 1 Timothy 6:16

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. – 1 John 1:5

Sardius is a deep red stone. The red speaks of God's heart of passion and desire (Deut 4:24). The desire of God is one of the greatest revelations of His character. He has all-sufficient power, yet He is moved by desire. *This means that His desire comes to pass.*

4. ***...there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.... (Rev. 4:3):*** this rainbow is a predecessor of the rainbows on the earth, signifying covenant mercy and kindness toward humanity (Gen. 9:13-16). God keeps all who receive His mercy inside and everything seeking to destroy His beloved ones out.

B. Heaven is relevant to us in that it is the place ***where the perfect will of God is openly manifest***. We must ask the question of why every feature of the throne room exists. The Holy Spirit is strategic in what He revealed to us about the throne room. It is designed to produce the First and Great Commandment in us (Mt. 22:37).

- C. God in his sovereignty has set the precedent for how he will manifest that perfect will on earth: through the interaction with the imagebearers. This interaction is called worship and intercession. We boldly approach the throne of grace and we get to ask Him for things!
- D. Thus we pray: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. -Luke 11:1***

III. REVELATION 5: THE SEARCH FOR ONE

- A. The scene described in Rev. 4 has been going on “night and day” since God created it “in the beginning.” Currently, this reality is taking place and the redeemed has access to it through the body and the blood of Christ. However, John witnesses in Rev. 4-5 a *future event that has yet to take place*. John sees a very real moment to come *which will initiate the rest of events in the book of Revelation*.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. – Revelation 5:1

- 1. ***A scroll*** - this scroll represent the title deed or “action plan” for the restoration of all things on the earth. It is God’s battle plan to cleanse the earth of evil so that God’s glory, justice, and love fill the earth.
- 2. This plan is written down! It will not change. It is a Day set in God’s heart and everything He promised will come to pass. (Mt. 24:35; Is. 55:11)

Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look at it. - Revelation 5:2

- 3. This was a very real question and a very real declaration to John. There is a crisis. Otherwise John would not be weeping.
- 4. God through His established Word, in His perfect wisdom, gave dominion of the earth to a man, Adam. Through the Fall, Adam gave over dominion to Satan, the leader of the demonic rebellion against the kingdom of God.
- 5. Yet, God would not revoke His word. In order for the restoration of all things, a man must be found to give dominion back to. A man must be found worthy to give over the world to and leadership of the governments and people of the earth. ***John witnessed the search for another Adam.***

The search for one begins: ***In heaven, on the earth, or under the earth... (Rev. 5:3)***

Searching heaven: No creature in all of created order could take the place God designated to the imagebearers.

Searching the earth: The spirit of the Lord searching the hearts and minds of men. Kings and presidents, billionaires, scientists, teachers, economist, etc. ... The greatest minds, the strongest

and brightest, the most powerful and successful on the earth, the leaders of the greatest humanitarian organizations, the pastors of the largest churches.

Searching under the earth: The greatest minds throughout history. The greatest scientists and inventors; Einstein, Newton, Da Vinci. The greatest military heroes; Alexander the great, Napoleon. The greatest political leaders: Lincoln, Churchill, Pharaohs and Caesars. Philosophers and Spiritual leaders: Ghandi, Plato, Socrates, Niche. Even the greatest revivalists and church leaders of history; the Apostle Paul!

6. ***No one was found worthy... (Rev. 5:4):*** a fundamental flaw was found; they were all born with a sin nature. All had broken agreement with the Father, had fallen short of the glory of God, and walked bent toward in independence.

IV. "ONE FOUND WORTHY"

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain... - Rev. 5:5-6

- A. John beholds Jesus, a real Jewish Man, who has the fierceness and fearlessness of a lion but the humility and tenderness of a Lamb. As "humility exalted" and the great Intercessor, He's found operating in servanthood in the midst of the elders, still!

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist... and began to wash the disciples' feet. - John 13:3-5

And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. - Luke 22:24-27

He (Jesus) came and took the scroll out of the hand of Him (the Father) who sat on the throne... - Rev. 5:7

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." - Revelation 5:8-10

- B. When Jesus takes the scroll, the living creatures bring forth the bowls of incense. He will not execute this battle plan without his eternal partner, the praying church. He has yoked himself to them forever and will not usher in the kingdom without her. The Father loves us, and so we pray! We pray because the Father loves us!

1. ***The sign and wonder of night and day prayer:*** testifies of the coming day of Christ's exaltation and preeminence in all things. We exist to magnify Him, and He desires to be worshipped on the earth just as He is in Heaven. The Father loves us, and so we pray! We pray because the Father loves us!