

Session 6 Behold a Throne and One Who Sits on It (Rev. 4:2)

I. REVIEW: THE NEED TO ENCOUNTER GOD’S BEAUTY

⁴ ***One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the House of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)***

A. Why do we need to understand God’s beauty? The Spirit is orchestrating a worldwide prophetic worship and prayer movement that is essential in releasing God’s power to the nations before Jesus’ Second Coming. This movement is fueled by the revelation of Jesus’ beauty. Isaiah prophesied that the revelation of Jesus’ beauty would be revealed in the generation He returns.

² ***In that day the Branch of the LORD (Messiah) shall be beautiful and glorious. (Isa. 4:2)***

B. The subject of God’s beauty is the same as the subject of His holiness and glory. There is a compelling power in the revelation of beauty. It answers an ache in our soul that was put there by God. We cannot live to our fullest spiritually without the revelation of beauty. Beauty is intrinsic to our emotional and spiritual health. It is a vast subject.

C. The pursuit of the deep things of the knowledge of God is the highest and most difficult reality in the Spirit. ***It is the Mt. Everest of the Kingdom of God.*** The study of God’s beauty takes time and work. It comes slowly. Do not be impatient, but persevere with a marathon pace as you mine for gold. ***Our life is a long treasure hunt into God’s beauty.***

D. Revelation 4 and 5 give us the highest revelation of God’s beauty in Scripture. They describe the Holy of Holies of the Eternal City. God could have put anything around His Throne that He wanted. What the beautiful God put around Himself expresses His beauty to creation. It is all very purposeful. I call Rev. 4-5, the “beauty realm of God” and the “heavenly symphony.” Here we see that the great Governmental Prayer Center of the universe is fueled by God’s beauty.

E. Rev. 4:1-7, describes the 15 “doorways” into understanding God’s beauty as seen in His governmental center. Here are 15 main aspects that point to God’s beauty.

1. The ultimate reality: God’s life, Throne, and Person (Rev. 4:2)

2. The beauty of God: what He looks like, feels like, and acts like (Rev. 4:3)

3. The beauty of God’s partners: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)

4. The beauty of God’s power: manifestations of power (lightning, thunder, sounds (Rev. 4:5a)

5. The beauty of the Spirit’s fire: on the Throne, the seraphim and the saints (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)

¹ ***Behold, a door standing open in heaven...the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet...saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place." 2 I was in the Spirit and...Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. 3 He...was like a jasper and a sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the Throne...4 Around the Throne were 24 Thrones...I saw 24 elders...in white robes; they had crowns...5 From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning... 6 Before the Throne there was a sea of glass...around the Throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:1-6)***

II. A THRONE AND ONE WHO SAT ON IT

² *I was in the Spirit and behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. (Rev. 4:2)*

- A. John sees God's Throne which is far more powerful than the throne of the Roman empire that was crushing Israel and the Church. John sees the Throne and the Person who has total authority over Rome and Satan's kingdom. This revelation brings great confidence to us. A key focus in the Book of Revelation is God's Throne (referred to 40 times).
- B. This "set Throne" is set forever. It is not a temporary power like the Roman Empire. God's Throne guarantees us that all of God's plans will come to pass. God's Throne assures us that our destiny cannot be stopped, thus we cannot fail as we relate to Him with faith and obedience. God's will in our life cannot be stopped by Satan, demons or men.
- C. The Throne guarantees the certainty of God's plans. The Throne of God is referred to 40 times in the book of Revelation. The Throne pictures God as the ruler over everything; the One who conquers everything. Nothing can resist it and overcome it; it's the highest of all. There are seven Throne scenes in Revelation (4:2-6:17; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 14: 1-5; 15: 2-8; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:9).
- D. John sees a real Person on the Throne at the governmental center of the universe. A Person with fiery emotions, a vast intellect and who possesses all power, and is 100% observant as He watches over and cares for us. He is a Person who sees, cares, remembers and feels joy or sadness related to our responses to Him. What happens in our life and heart affects His heart. He feels our pain, sees our value, and plans our welfare. We are not alone; we will live together with Him. There is One who desires meaningful partnership with His inferiors.

III. BEHOLD A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN (REV. 4:2B)

- A. In Rev. 1-3, John saw Jesus and heard His last statement concerned the Church sitting on thrones (Rev. 3:21). John next mentions the Father's Throne (Rev. 4). Scripture speaks of two Thrones, the Father's Throne and Jesus' Throne (at His right hand). The two Thrones manifest the one authority of God. The Throne speaks of God's vast Empire or Kingdom.

²¹ *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His Throne. (Rev. 3:21)*

⁹ *"I watched till Thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days (Father) was seated...His Throne was a fiery flame...10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. 11 I watched till the beast (Antichrist) was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame....13 "I was watching ...behold, One like the Son of Man (Jesus), coming with the clouds...He came to the Ancient of Days...14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:9-14)*

- B. God's beauty is seen in His royal court where His Throne is set up. God's Throne is like the "royal palace" of a king and is synonymous with the heavenly Temple. The Father's Throne shines forth with Jasper (diamond-like), Sardius brightness and flaming fire (Dan. 7:10). Jesus' Throne is sapphire like the sea is around it (Ezek. 1:26; Ex. 24:10). Both Thrones are under the same emerald rainbow and are surrounded by the sapphire crystal Sea.

⁶ *Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)*

- C. John sees One called, "Him who sits upon the Throne." This is a mysterious title for One so eloquent. The great communicator of all the ages hides Himself in obscurity. He only hints about His glory throughout Revelation. He talks so little about Himself in the Book of the Revelation of Jesus. John sees the Father sitting in total confidence and security. None can challenge Him. This Throne has all power and cannot be conquered. He has dominion over all.

³⁴ *His dominion is an everlasting dominion ...³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say..., "What have You done?" (Dan. 4:34-35)*

²⁷ *His Kingdom is...everlasting...all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Dan. 7:27)*

¹⁵ *Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales...¹⁷ All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. ¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? ...²³ He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. ²⁴ Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He will also blow on them, and they will wither... ²⁵ To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?...²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high, and see...who brings out their host (stars) by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing. (Isa. 40:15-26)*

¹⁶ *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether Thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:16-19)*

²⁰ *He (Father) raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² He put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church... (Eph. 1:20-22)*

- D. God's Throne is good and establishes us in the fullness of joy forever. The glorious dream of happiness and joy will never end. It is the pinnacle of celebration of our intimacy with God.

⁴ *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Rev. 21:4)*

- E. God's Throne will sustain and unify us forever as it punishes evil and vindicates righteousness.
- ⁶ *It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven...⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those...who do not obey the gospel...⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day... (2 Thes. 1:6-10)*
- ² *...He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." (Rev. 19:2)*
- F. God's Throne is forever. All that is accomplished is forever permanent.
- ⁴⁴ *The God of heaven will set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the Kingdom shall...break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Dan. 2:44)*
- ³ *His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation...³⁴ His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. (Dan. 4:3, 34)*
- ¹⁴ *His (Jesus') dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:14)*
- ² *God...has...spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...⁸ To the Son He says: "Your Throne, O God, is forever and ever...¹⁰ And: "You, LORD...laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." (Heb. 1:2-12)*
- G. All the people of history will stand before God's Throne.
- ¹¹ *I saw a great white Throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. ¹² I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened...the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15)*
- ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)*

²⁸ *Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Mt. 19:28)*

³¹ *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats." (Mt. 25:31-32)*

- H. We have access to God's Throne right now by prayer. This is the place that our prayers are received. The greatest expression of our destiny in this age and the age-to-come is manifest as we relate to God's Throne on the Sea by worship and intercession.

⁶ *He...made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph. 2:6)*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

IV. THE ONE WHO SAT ON THE THRONE (REV. 4:2C)

² *Behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. (Rev. 4:2)*

- A. John sees a real Person on the Throne. He is One with fiery emotions and a vast intellect. What happens in our life and heart affects His heart. He cares for us as He sees and remembers our life and struggle. He feels joy or sadness related to our responses to Him. He feels our pain, sees our value, and plans our future blessing, prosperity and happiness. We are not alone. We will live together with Him forever. A real Person desires deep relationship and partnership with us.

- B. He is not only omnipotent (all power) but is omniscient (all knowing). He knows everything and possesses perfect wisdom for every situation.

- C. The Lord carefully takes notice of His friends as well as His enemies. This aspect of His Personhood is hated by the ungodly, but is pleasing to those who love Him. He is always watching us. We are always on His mind.

¹³ *There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13)*

³ *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on...evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)*

- D. He has total clarity and fullness of insight into every dark secret. The all-seeing eye of God discerns our negative and positive qualities. His eyes see the yes in our spirit when we fail, more clearly than we do. He sees the cry in our heart to obey Him. Our decisions, victories, failures and struggles heart affects His heart. We may feel alone in this age, however, we really are not.

²¹ *The ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD...He ponders all his paths. (Prov. 5:21)*

²³ *All shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts... (Rev. 2:23).*

- E. He sees when we endure trials instead of giving up. He sees the positive. He rewards every small act of obedience, especially those hidden from the eyes of others (Mt.6:1-6, 16-18). He remembers and rewards (Heb.6:10). Even small acts, such as giving a cup of cold water, do not go unnoticed by the Lord (Mt. 10:42). Our knowledge of His omniscience persuades us against evil, knowing that it is vain to attempt to hide evil from Him.
- F. God interprets all knowledge through the cleanness of His heart. A judge may know all the facts about a case. But if he has an unclean heart, he will misinterpret the information. God sees all without any distortion. His vision is clean. There is no exaggeration in what He perceives.
- G. This One desires to be known intimately and enjoyed, not only obeyed and honored.
- H. There is One who desires meaningful relevant partnership with His inferiors.
- I. John saw the realm of life where all are God-centered. How awesome and unified this place is.

V. BEHOLD: WHAT JOHN SAW OVERCAME HIM

² ***Behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. (Rev. 4:2)***

- A. Behold! What John saw overcame him. We want to feel what John felt. John was awed at seeing a Throne before him. John's spirit trembles as he is overloaded.
- B. When John says, "Behold" he is seeing the purpose of his existence and the reason for his suffering and struggle. He is face to face with his purpose. It overwhelms him as the reason of his very being is before him. Our purpose is found in understanding the Throne and One sitting upon it. Our reason for being and our very relevance is only seen as we connect with this One.

²⁵ ***He gives to all life...28 in Him we live and move and have our being... (Acts 17:25-28)***

³⁶ ***For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things... (Rom. 11:36)***

¹¹ ***"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev. 4:11)***

⁹ ***Worthy are You to take the book...for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Rev. 5:9; NAS)***