

Session 7 The God of Jasper-like Beauty (Rev. 4:3)

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... (Ps. 27:4)***

- A. The Spirit is orchestrating a worldwide prayer movement that will result in God releasing His power across the nations. This movement is fueled by the revelation of Jesus' beauty. 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. It takes time and work to mine for gold.
- B. Revelation 4 and 5 give us the highest revelation of God's beauty in Scripture.
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)***
- C. Rev. 4 provides us with a brief description of the majesty and beauty that surround God's Throne. God gave us this passage to help us meditate on God's majesty.
- D. It is not enough to study about God's majesty, we must talk to God about it. Bible study must create an active dialogue in our heart with God. The power of God's Word touches us as we declare it back to God. First, ***we thank God*** for His Throne. Second, ***we ask God to reveal*** (*release*) for a spirit of revelation about the Throne (Eph. 1:17).
- E. The fact of God's Throne guarantees us that all God's destiny for our life will come to pass.
- F. There is much happening around the Throne of God. The living creatures gaze upon God's Throne night and day with adoration and fascination (Rev. 4:8; Isa. 6:2-3). They peer into the mysteries of God that leave them overwhelmed and awestruck. Isaiah witnessed these burning ones. It left him undone and thus gave us insight into how God's beauty can impact us.
¹ ***I saw the Lord sitting on a Throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isa. 6:1-3)***

- G. Those nearest the Throne continually bow and cover their eyes in response to the awesomeness of God's beauty. As the power impact of the revelation of God races through their being, they bow and rise up again invigorated with the revelation of God. They cry, "Holy, holy, holy" which means, "Transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty!" They are undone with incessant fascination, never exhausting the endless ocean of God's beauty.
- H. The fascinating God created us with a need to be fascinated. Thus, there is a craving in every human spirit to marvel and to be fascinated. When God the Holy Spirit reveals God the Son to our human spirits--our spirits resonate in spiritual pleasure. It is the deepest and most profound pleasure available to the human race. When our spirit is touched, nothing else compares.
- I. The desire for holy fascination is placed within each one of us. It creates a gnawing desire for the revelation of the 'deep things of God.'
- J. The secular entertainment industry has identified this human longing and has targeted it commercially. When we are not fascinated with Him we are bored, spiritually dull, and spiritually passive. Then money, drugs, alcohol, and immorality are far more tempting. God did not create us to grit our teeth in our efforts to say no to a lifetime of inferior pleasures.
- K. A satisfied, fascinated believer is a spiritually strong believer. God revealing God to the human spirit is the most exhilarating experience in the universe. I call this "Divine entertainment." God is orchestrating a Divine revolution that will reveal Jesus as the One who deeply moves us. At the end of the age, God's people will be more fascinated with Jesus than at anytime in history (Rev. 22:17).
- L. God will answer our craving for awe and wonder by revealing to us the beauty of Jesus as the Bridegroom God. He will liberate His people from the tyranny of inferior pleasures by introducing us to superior pleasures; the revelation of His Son to our hearts. A fascinated man does not need pornography. God has more than simply gritting our teeth as we seek to avoid evil.
- M. People will walk in extravagant love with God. They will consider it their glory to give up all to Him. God has chosen to conquer our hearts through releasing the knowledge of Jesus.
- ³⁷ *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart..." (Mt. 22:37)*
- N. The reason people think they do not have time for prayer and the Word is that they do not know what it means to experience fascination. They will see spending time with God not as a bargaining chip to earn God's favor, but as the way to experience spiritual pleasure! It's the way into power and an enthralled heart!
- O. In revealing His Son, God will fascinate His people beyond anything they have ever known. This fascination will serve as a holy protection mechanism from the deceptions of the enemy and will impart to believers a godly motivation to love God with all our heart.

II. BEAUTY OF GOD: WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE, FEELS LIKE AND ACTS LIKE (REV. 4:3)

³ *He who sat there was like a jasper (diamond like) and a sardius stone (deep red) in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the Throne, in appearance like an emerald (green). (Rev. 4:3)*

A. 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.

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

⁹⁶ *I have seen the consummation of all perfection (beauty and majesty)... (Ps. 119:96)*

² *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. (Ps 50:2)*

B. John seeks to bridge the unknown with the known. He refers to seeing One like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance (v. 2) and a rainbow like an emerald in appearance (v. 3).

C. Ezekiel spoke of the unknown by using the bridge of that which is known. He says, "It is like fire! It was like this and that." He was lost for words at what he was gazing on. Fifty three times when describing God's Throne, Ezekiel used the word like or likeness or appearance. He used the word "likeness" fourteen times, "like" nineteen times and "appearance" twenty times. Likeness (14x): (Ezek 1:5 (2x), 10, 13, 16, 22, 26 (3x), 28; 8:2; 10:1, 21, 22). Like (19x): Ezek. 1:4, 7 (2x), 13 (3x), 14, 16, 22, 24 (3x), 26, 28; 8:2 (3x), 4; 10:1, 5). Appearance (20x): Ezek. 1:5, 13 (2x), 14, 16 (2x), 26 (2x), 27 (4x), 28 (3x), 8:2 (3x); 10:1, 10).

D. God's beauty is seen as His Throne shines forth with jasper and sardius brightness along with flaming fire (Dan. 7:10). The fire around the Throne beautifies, anoints, and makes holy all that comes nearest to God. God's Throne is adorned by the fiery lamps, sea, and servants (seraphim).

⁹ *I watched...the Ancient of Days (Father) was seated...His Throne was a fiery flame...¹⁰ A fiery stream (river; NAS) issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. (Dan. 7:9-10)*

E. Sea of glass around the Throne is like crystal and is covered with flaming fire (Rev. 15:2). This is the place in the Eternal City in which the saints gather to stand together before God.

⁵ *Seven lamps (torches) of fire were burning before the Throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶ Before the Throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rev. 4:5-6)*

² *I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast (Antichrist)...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)*

F. Ezekiel saw the sea of glass as awesome crystal and Jesus' Throne as sapphire (Ezek. 1:26; Ex. 24:10). Both Thrones are under the emerald rainbow and surrounded by the sapphire crystal Sea.

²² *The firmament...was like...an awesome crystal...²⁶ above the firmament...was...a Throne...like a sapphire stone...with the appearance of a man (Jesus) high above it...²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow...was the...brightness all around it. (Ezek. 1:22-28)*

III. GOD IS LIKE A JASPER STONE

³ *He who sat there was like a jasper (diamond like)...in appearance (Rev. 4:3)*

A. God is like a jasper stone in appearance. In other words, He shines forth like a diamond that releases unapproachable light. God radiates a beautiful diamond like light (translucent splendor).

⁵ *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn. 1:5)*

B. God sits on His Throne in jasper regal clothing with supernatural robes filled with light.

¹ ***O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment... (Ps. 104:1-2)***

C. The jasper stone is in the breastplate of the high priest and among the 12 stones on the walls of the New Jerusalem. The jewels of the high priest (Ex. 28:17-20) picture his nearness to God. The Shekinah glory of God's jasper like light fills the Eternal City.

¹⁰ ***He (angel)...showed me...the holy Jerusalem...11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper...24 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:10-11, 18-24)***

D. God dwells in the perfection of beauty and He covers Himself in unapproachable light. The light is unapproachable as it functions as a protective shield to those nearest His Throne. The very light that protects us from His Presence is in itself beautiful, but God is even more beautiful than that which protects Him.

¹⁶ ***Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.** (1 Tim. 6:16)*

E. At strategic moments, the light that covers God's person release more insight into God. Even the seraphim and cherubim who have the greatest capacity to receive God's beauty collapse.

F. The angels see His beauty and are overwhelmed, they collapse under the weight of His Presence. There is a tenderizing affect in the weight of His Presence that emanates out of Him. All of the hosts of Heaven and all the redeemed tremble with tenderness in their spirit. Five times in Revelation, the host of heaven around God's Throne collapses.

IV. JESUS SHINES FORTH IN BEAUTY

¹⁴ *His eyes like a flame of fire...¹⁶ His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:14-16)*

²⁶ *Above the firmament...was the likeness of a Throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the Throne was ...a man (Jesus) high above it...²⁷ the appearance of His waist and downward I saw...the appearance of fire with brightness all around. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud...so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. (Ezek 1:26-28)*

²³ *The moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)*

² *He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)*

¹² *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall...have the light of life. (Jn. 8:12)*

¹³ *Along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ When we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying..., 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? (Acts 26:13-14)*

V. FILLING OUR HEART WITH LIGHT

A. We are called to experience God's marvelous light and then to proclaim it to others.

⁹ *Proclaim the praises of Him who called you...into His marvelous light... (1 Pet. 2:9)*

B. We live according to the Spirit by setting our mind on the Spirit. This is what it means to be spiritually minded or to be "mindful of the Spirit" or have a "mind-filled with the Spirit."

⁵ *Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded (the mind set on the Spirit NAS) is life and peace. (Rom. 8:5-6)*

C. The language of our mind and spirit is images. Whatever images that we set our mind on, whether good or bad, is what we open our spirit to and therefore, determines what is imparted to our spirit. If we set our mind on impurity then impurity is imparted in our spirit. The human spirit is formed and developed by the images that are put into it. Those who live according to the flesh, are those whose who set or feed their mind on sinful images. Those who live according to the Spirit, are those who set or feed their mind by gazing on and talking to the indwelling Spirit.

D. To set our mind on the flesh or the Spirit is to look on images of the flesh or Spirit in short snapshots. One lives according to the flesh as the result of giving oneself to an extended series of short term gazes on the sinful things. One lives according to the Spirit as the result of giving oneself to an extended series of short term gazes on God in our spirit and God on the Throne. In other words, the human spirit receives according to what is the mind sets its gaze on.

- E. The eye gate is the place our imagination is fed. If our eyes look upon that which brings us light then our whole body (or person) will be full of light.
- ³⁴ *The lamp (source of light) of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. 35 Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light. (Luke 11:34-36)*
- F. Isaiah prophesied that His people would show forth the indwelling God by being filled with brightness (the indwelling light of Holy Spirit) and burning (indwelling fire of the Holy Spirit).
- ¹ *I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isa. 62:1)*
- ³⁵ *He (John the Baptist) was the burning and shining lamp.... (Jn. 5:35)*

VI. GOD DESIRES THAT HIS LIGHT BE IMPARTED TO HIS PEOPLE

⁹ *For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. (Ps 36:9)*

- A. God desires to shine the light of His face upon our hearts. This is the spirit of revelation.
- ²³ *Speak to Aaron...saying, "This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: 24 "The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD lift up His countenance upon you..." (Numb 6:23-26)*
- ¹⁵ *Blessed are the people who...walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. (Ps. 89:15)*
- ³ *Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me...to Your holy hill... (Ps. 43:3)*
- ⁵ *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. (1 Thess. 5:5)*
- ¹² *Let us put on the armor of light. (Rom. 13:12)*
- B. Walking in the light is our privilege and is what gives us the ability to truly fellowship.
- ⁷ *If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (1 Jn. 1:7)*
- C. The saints are filled with light because of the light of the indwelling Spirit..
- ³ *The...wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament...like stars forever. (Dan. 12:3)*
- ⁴³ *The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)*
- ¹⁰ *He...showed me the...holy Jerusalem...11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:10-11)*
- ¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. (Mt. 5:14)*