

## ***Session 4. The Father's Throne and Jesus' Exaltation (Revelation 4-5)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Tonight we are going to be looking at session four in our book of Revelation class. This is two chapters and the subject and focal point is worship. Revelation 4 is the great scene which we come to when we worship. We want to learn this chapter as related to our worship lives. The context is not just how to worship better. The context of Revelation 4-5 is understanding God's end-time purpose and how it is related to worship. We will unfold this as we go.

In session four we are looking at the Father's throne—Revelation 4—and the Son's exaltation—Jesus' exaltation—in Revelation 5. The Father's throne and the Son's exaltation—the Father's plan for His Son and what He is going to do to Jesus in terms of exalting Him on the earth, particularly in the Millennial Kingdom and then beyond.

### **THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD IN REVELATION 4**

Roman numeral I. Revelation 4: the Father's court. The first thing that happens is that John is caught up in a vision and he sees the beauty of God. This chapter gives us much insight into God's beauty, both of His person and the beauty in the court scene around His throne.

The reason this reveals God's beauty in such a specific way is because what God put around His throne, He put there specifically to reveal His beauty to us. If you think about it, He began with an empty white board so to speak. He could have put anything He wanted around His throne. The things He chose intentionally, He chose to express Himself to creation. I call chapter 4 the beauty realm of God.

Paragraph B. You will notice that there are four categories of God's beauty. Each one of these categories has three specific themes. We are going to look at the beauty of God's person, the beauty of His partners, the beauty of His power as it breaks forth in thunder and lightening and the beauty of His presence—how the fire of God is on the lamps, the fire of God is on the sea, and the fire of God is on the angelic beings around His throne. They are called seraphim. They are filled with the fire of God.

### **THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S PERSON**

In Revelation 4:2-3, John says, "I was in the spirit and behold. . ." He sees a throne and He sees the One who sits upon the throne.

Now He is going to describe God's person. He says, "He who sat there was like a jasper." That is like a bright brilliant diamond and it tells us what God looks like—the brilliance of a diamond and far beyond. "And He is like a sardius stone." A sardius stone is a deep red gem which depicts the burning passion in God's heart. It tells us what God feels like.

Then John notices the rainbow around the throne which has an emerald green color. That is how God acts because the emerald rainbow is a statement of God’s covenant mercy in relation to His creation.

We know He is beautiful in His brightness, He has burning desire—the sardius stone—and He acts in covenant mercy and tenderness toward all who approach Him on His terms.

### **THE BEAUTY OF GOD’S PARTNERS**

Verse 4. Now John sees the partners whom God has brought into relationship with Him. They are the saints—the twenty-four elders. They are the top government of the saints in eternity. John notices that God is sharing His leadership and His government with people. Obviously all these people were at one time broken, sinful human beings. This gives us insight into what God does. God has all the power and all the wisdom. What does He do with it? He brings us into partnership and exaltation with Him.

In Verse 4 he says that he sees twenty-four thrones around the throne. God is making a statement. He is saying, “I am sharing My leadership and the government of My empire with My people who are dear to My heart.”

These elders are the leading governmental ministries of the redeemed in eternity. Can you imagine being one of these elders? These elders are enthroned, they are robed, and they are crowned.

Each one of those descriptions has massive meaning, depicting the beauty of God, what His heart is like, and the plans that He has for His people. This is about the beauty of God’s partners or the beauty of God’s people, because it is people who are partnering with Him—that is the point.

### **THE BEAUTY OF GOD’S POWER**

Verse 5. The next things John sees are the power manifestations around the throne in. There is thunder and there is lightening and there are voices—all kinds of sounds and music breaking out from the throne. This thunder and lightening is imparting His power to the rest of creation. We are just looking at this ever so briefly. My point is to give you just a brief picture to meditate on when you are worshiping and to make you hungry to go after these subjects.

Over the years I, and others as well, have spent a lot of time developing each one of these themes. All twelve of these themes are huge subjects in themselves relating to the beauty of God.

### **THE BEAUTY OF GOD’S PRESENCE**

Finally, John sees the beauty of God’s presence. He sees seven lamps of fire. These are not little table lamps. These are massive lamps—the burning manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Then he sees the sea of glass right before the throne. This sea of glass is where we will stand when we have the great gatherings in the age to come. All the saints will gather on the sea of glass. That sea will be able to hold billions of people and it says in Revelation 5 that the fire of

God is mingled with the sea. As we will be standing there and worshiping, the fire of God will be on the sea.

Even now, when you are worshiping, in the most quiet or most energetic way, you are before God on that sea with that fire. I know you do not feel it in the natural, but that is where your worship ascends before the throne of God.

When I worship, I try to quiet my spirit, focus on God in the jasper, sardius glory, with the rainbow around the throne and with the twenty-four elders. Then I see myself on the sea of glass mingled with fire before this massive throne, with lightening and thunder coming out and hitting me with the glory of God. It is actually real.

### **THE ANGELIC AND HUMAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE THRONE**

Paragraph C. We are continuing on the scene around the throne. In Revelation 5 we are going to look at the themes in which we are involved in a practical way when we worship, but what we see in Revelation 4:8-11 are the governmental leaders—the top of the angelic realm. They are called the four living creatures. If you compare Scripture with Scripture we know they are seraphim. Another word for seraphim is *the burning ones*. Seraphim means *the burning ones*.

The top of the angelic government—the seraphim, the burning ones—and the top of the human, redeemed government, are there together—the angelic and the human government.

The elders do not have their resurrection bodies yet. They will get those at the second coming. They are before the Lord and they are glorying in God. When they give God glory, what it means is that they are boasting in who He is with affectionate delight and joy. It’s as if they are confidently saying, “Oh, God, we glory in who You are. All our springs of joy are in who You are and what You do.” That is what it means to glory in the Lord.

“The four living creatures—the seraphim, the burning ones, the top of the angelic government—they do not rest day or night, but forever they cry out, ‘Holy, holy, holy’” (Rev. 4:8, paraphrased).

*Holy, holy, holy*, means *transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty*. That is what they are saying. “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and who is and who is to come.” They are talking to the Father.

### **THE ELDERS FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP**

Look at verse 9. Look at the reaction of the worshipers around the throne, “Whenever the seraphim give glory, honor, and thanks, they are giving these prophetic oracles of thanksgiving. I am assuming they give these offerings of thanksgiving like prophetic oracles. I assume they give them collectively, and I believe that on occasions one of them breaks out just like we would in a worship setting, and breaks forth with an oracle giving God glory or declaring their confidence, delight, and affection in God.

Whenever they do this, whenever they break out in one of these prophetic oracles, verse 10, the elders are impacted by the power of God. Whenever they do it, the elders—or the human government—fall down and worship. They are so overwhelmed and inspired by the anointing which is released when the seraphim are worshiping, that they take their crowns and cast them before God, and they say, “You are worthy to receive all of this attention, all of this adulation, all of this obedience, and all this loyalty from your creation” (v. 11, paraphrased)

### **THE MEANING OF “HOLY”**

Paragraph D. I describe the two different ways in which to apply the word *holy*. Both of them are valid here. The most common way in which we understand the word *holy* is that God is separated from sin. He is pure.

That is not what they are saying here. They are talking about God being holy as separated from everything which is common or created, meaning, He is infinitely superior to everything that exists. What they are saying is that He is wholly-other-than. They are saying in effect, “Holy, separated from everything, in a class of Your own. There is none like you.” They are declaring God’s transcendence, His magnificence and His beauty. They will do this forever. The reason they do this forever is not because they are mandated to, but because it is a compulsion that breaks out of them.

God has such vast inexhaustible beauty in His being that those nearest the throne are forever receiving new revelation and new impartation when gaze at God, and it strikes them yet another time. They cry out in the overflow of what they see. When they cry out, the elders are moved. I can imagine talking to these elders one day and saying, “Why is it that you are falling down?”

They might say, “If you get a chance to be next to the throne and you get to be in one of the worship settings, and when you hear these seraphim worship and you hear the things they say about God, you will fall down too.”

### **TAKE TIME TO STUDY REVELATION 4-5**

Roman numeral II. Now we are going to move on to Revelation 5. We described in Revelation 4 the scene of God’s beauty. In itself, it is a worthy theme, it is a worthy subject. My point in addressing it tonight is mostly to point it out to you. You want to spend hours and hours and hours in Revelation 4 in the years to come. It is not a chapter you want to just rush over one time and say, “I think I can picture it, I got it.”

It is not as if I measured the time, but I think over the years I have spent more time in Revelation 4-5—maybe there are a couple other chapters I have done that with—but a lot more time in Revelation 4-5 than most places I’ve been in the Word of God. I have a cluster of Bible passages which I would put up at the top of the list. My point is, that you will never exhaust what the Holy Spirit will give you in Revelation 4-5.

### **GOD’S PLAN TO EXALT JESUS FOREVER**

God revealed Himself to John, not just so John would be awestruck by God, but with the purpose of showing how sure God’s plan is for Jesus, which is in Revelation 5. The reason God revealed this to John is that He wants John to be struck in an overwhelming way with how God feels about Jesus, what God has planned for Jesus, and how all the resources of heaven and all of the resources of God as described in chapter 4 back up this plan in chapter 5, to exalt Jesus forever.

Then the rest of the book of Revelation is the unfolding of the plan which is introduced and initiated in Revelation 5. It is the plan to give Jesus all the power on earth. It is as if God is saying, “This is not a casual plan. This is the plan which the whole of My throne—chapter 4—is backing up.” You can be sure it is a true plan.

### **JESUS WILL BE EXALTED AS A HUMAN KING ON THE EARTH**

Paragraph A. In Revelation 5 we gain insight into the Father’s plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over the earth. There are some really important phrases here. The key is that God is exalting Jesus as a human.

Jesus is fully God. He has been fully God from eternity past. He is the uncreated God, like the Father and the Spirit. He is as much God as the Father is. He is uncreated. There was never a time where Jesus did not exist. He is uncreated. For God to exalt God is not surprising. What is surprising is that God has set His heart to exalt a human being in this most extraordinary way as described in Revelation 5, particularly verse 12, which is the high point of the plan.

John is going to see how far God is going to take this exaltation of Jesus. The rest of the book of Revelation only makes sense if you understand God’s plan to exalt Jesus as is described in Revelation 5. He is going to exalt Him as a human king on the earth.

### **JESUS’ KINGSHIP OVER THE NATIONS**

Right now, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. He is not on the earth, He is at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to the earth and God is going to exalt Him in a very specific and powerful way. He is going to make Him King over all the nations. That is the main theme throughout the book of Revelation. The main theme is Jesus’ kingship over the nations.

The Great Tribulation is the action plan to confront evil, in order to clear the way for Jesus’ kingship to be established on the earth. The Great Tribulation is not mostly about what the devil does to the church. It describes what the church does in prayer under the leadership of Jesus to the devil and the Antichrist empire in order to move things out of the way and to drive evil off the planet, so that Jesus can receive His rightful exaltation on the earth, as a man.

In Psalm 2 the Father promised to give Jesus the nations. Jesus is going to receive the nations in fullness. Every single aspect of the nations will be under Jesus’ control forever. First for 1000 years and then forever.

From the cross to the second coming, the approximate 2000 year period, Jesus has an inheritance in the nations. There is a small number of people among of nations of the earth who are obeying

Jesus, maybe as much as one billion people some say. I do not think the number is quite that high. The majority of the earth is not obeying Jesus, but Jesus has some inheritance in the nations right now. The day is coming at the second coming when He will fully take the leadership of the nations and He will have it forever. That is what Revelation 5 is about.

### **A GREAT MYSTERY**

Paragraph B. The challenge in understanding this chapter is the challenge in understanding that Jesus is fully God and He is fully man. This is a great mystery.

Paul says it himself in 1 Timothy 3:16 (paraphrased). He confesses, “Great is the mystery of how godliness works. Great is the mystery of how this whole thing operates, how we are redeemed, how we are made godly, how we are joined to Jesus, and how the plan of God is manifest through Him and through us.” He says, “It is a great mystery. At the core of the mystery is this issue. God who is uncreated and eternal is manifest in human flesh” (v. 16, paraphrased). This stretches the mind beyond our comprehension.

Beloved, a million years from now, we will still be awestruck by the implications of the eternal God being fully human forever, in the future, forever. Not in the past. It started at the incarnation.

### **JESUS HAD TO BECOME HUMAN**

The important thing we have to understand is that Jesus became human in order to redeem us. The way it works is that He has to be human forever. He did not put on the robes of humanity, come to the earth, pay the price for sin, get raised from the dead, cast off His humanity and say, “Wow, that surely was a wild ride. My goodness, being human was intense.” Now He is resurrected and now He is not human. He is back to only being God. No, that is not how it works.

When the Father, the Son, and the councils of the Godhead came up with this plan and agreed on it, the deal was this in effect, “Jesus, You cannot redeem them if You do not become human, but if You do become human You can redeem them. But You have to be human forever. Billions and billions of years from now, You have to be human.”

### **THE LIMITATIONS OF JESUS’ HUMANITY**

If you are fully God and only God, the implications of this are staggering. The second person of the Trinity said, “Yes.” Again, a million years from now, we will still be struck by how awesome, how costly, and how humble it is for the uncreated God to have the limitations of humanity, because He is fully God and unlimited in that way.

There is a supernatural dimension to the mystery of who He is with the limitations of humanity. He is a man anointed by the Holy Spirit, so there is a supernatural dimension operating in His humanity.

Forever, Jesus in His person will be in one place at one time. By His Spirit He can touch all of us and be omnipresent through the Holy Spirit. But when Jesus is on the throne in Jerusalem, He is not walking in a park in New York City with somebody. Like at His first coming, in His humanity, He will be at one place at one time in His physical human person. That is a really different situation for God. He has human emotions and feelings and dynamics which He did not have before He became a man, but He has to be a man forever. That is how the arrangement works.

### **HE IS HUMAN FOREVER**

Paragraph C. God promised Jesus something. He said in effect, “If You become a man—human—You have to be human forever. If You obey Me, I will exalt You high above all other humans.”

He is going to exalt Him as a man. This is not God exalting God. This is not the first person of the Trinity exalting the second person of the Trinity. It is God exalting a human being in the earthly realm. That is what this verse is talking about. Again, there is mystery to this.

“Well, He does not leave part of Himself behind does He?”

“No, He is fully God and fully man in total, together, forever, from the incarnation onwards.”

I want you to understand that here in Philippians 2 when it says in verse 9, “God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name”, that this is talking about a resurrected man, a human being with a human body, though resurrected, on the earth. He will have the greatest name that any human being has ever had on the earth.

Again, that sounds awesome, but from where Jesus started that is real step down. Even to be the most exalted human, that is still quite a step down. There is a humility involved even in that exaltation. It is as if the Father said, “That is what I am going to do.”

### **THE EARTH COULD ONLY BE WON BACK BY A MAN**

Paragraph D gives us insight as to why Jesus had to become human. The essence of this is in Genesis 1:28, when God gave the dominion of the earth to Adam and Eve. He gave it as an eternal stewardship.

When He said, “Adam, Eve”—Genesis 1—He blessed them and said, “Have dominion over everything” (v. 28, paraphrased). That was something God would never ever reverse. He would never take back the leadership of the earth from human beings. When Adam sinned and gave the leadership of the earth to Satan, Jesus had to become a human, because the earth can only be won back and ruled by a man.

The Father looked at His right hand and said in effect, “Jesus, I cannot win it back except a man do it because I gave the dominion of the earth to humans. Only a human can win it back and govern it for My glory.”

Jesus said, “I will do it.”

“But Jesus, You will have to be human forever.”

“I will do it, because I will redeem them to You, God, and I will bring the earth back under Your glory.”

### **GOD GAVE THE REALM OF THE EARTH TO MAN**

Once God gave the dominion of the earth to a human, God would never ever take it back, because He would be breaking His word to Adam when He gave the dominion of the earth to him as a man.

He did not just give it to him as an individual, He gave it to him as a representation of the human race. Psalm 115:16 (paraphrased) says it really clearly, “The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earthly realm He gave to men.” God says, “The heavenly realm I will lead and govern directly, but the earthly realm I will govern through humans who obey Me” (v. 16, paraphrased). This is a staggering decree which God established for His vast eternal empire.

He says in effect, “The heavenly realm I will lead directly. I will not need intervention unless I choose to use the angels or whatever. When it comes to the earth, I will govern it, but through humans. I will use humans from now on and forever and ever when I do something on the earth.”

Some people say, “Well, if God wants it to be done, He will do it.”

It is as if God says, “No, I bound Myself to work on the earth through humans and most specifically through the prayers of humans who are on the earth.”

The saints still pray, up in heaven. They are worshiping around the throne right now and the prayers are going on forever. God works through humans. And not just humans, but humans who are in covenant with God. Humans who are on the earth and who are in agreement with God. God has bound Himself to lead the earth through this arrangement.

### **ADAM GAVE AWAY HIS DOMINION OF THE EARTH**

Paragraph E. When Adam sinned, he took this huge, massive stewardship which God had given him—God had made this commitment to govern the earth only through humans, through their prayers, through their obedience, and through their agreement with Him—the devil came and deceived Eve, and Adam sinned in rebellion. What they did was giving their stewardship to the Devil.

The Lord did not say, “Well you know what, I do not like that, so I am going to take the whole deal back. I am just going to act like I never committed the earth to you.”

No, when Adam gave the dominion of the earth in part to Satan, it was as if the the Lord said, “No, I will keep My word. Adam, it was yours to give away. Now, what I am going to do is to raise up a man who is going to win it back. This man is going to save humans on the earth who will be in covenant with Me and who will live in agreement with Me. They are going to agree with Me so that My leadership is established through them on the earth forever.” That is the plan of salvation.

### **THE DEVIL OFFERED JESUS THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH**

Look what the Devil said when he came to offer Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in Luke 4:5-6. This is in the wilderness temptation. It says that the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. This is after the forty day fast in the wilderness—in the desert.

In some visionary way, he shows Jesus all the kingdoms. The Devil said, “I will give all this authority over every nation to You because it has been delivered to me” (v. 5, paraphrased). He meant that it had been given to him by Adam back in Genesis 3. He said in effect, “The one to whom God gave it had the right to do with it whatever he wanted. He gave it to me because I tricked him. He gave it to me and God cannot violate His word because God gave it to Adam.”

When Adam could really do with it what he wanted, because he had free will, he gave the principle place of influence to the Devil. It was not just that Adam sinned as an individual, he gave the stewardship of the government of the earth—the primary role—to the Devil, who is God’s arch enemy. The Devil undoubtedly thought he had a victory which would be permanent. The Father already knew where this thing was going. It is as if He said, “No, I am going to win it back, but according to justice, through a man.”

That is what Revelation 5 is all about. That is why this chapter is so important. Because the whole book of Revelation—the judgments and revival in the book of Revelation—do not make sense if you do not understand the drama going on in Revelation 5.

### **THE LEAST SEVERE MEANS**

It looks like the Great Tribulation is trouble. Why would there be trouble? God says, “No, I am releasing the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love in order to regain the authority of the earth and give it back to people—human beings in covenant with Me who will do My will—so that My glory can be released across the earth.”

Let’s read Luke 4:5-7. The Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth—all the nations. The Devil said, “All this authority I will give it to You, Jesus, as a man.” He said, “You have to do what Adam did. You need to bow down and you need to yield to me” (v.5-7, paraphrased).

Jesus said in essence, “You do not have to give it to Me. If I obey My Father, My Father will give it to Me, but I will not take a shortcut and skip the cross. He will give it to Me as the end result of My obedience as a man, offering Myself on the cross. He will give all the nations back to Me.”

Of course the book of Revelation is the action plan at the end of natural history which will bring everything to a crescendo, to a new level of intensity. It will escalate at a level never seen before in history. In the book of Revelation this plan comes to a crescendo. In verse 6 (paraphrased) the Devil said, “All this authority I will give to you Jesus, because Adam gave it to Me.”

The premise is that he had the right to give it. “And I can give it to whoever I want because he gave it to me” (v.6, paraphrased).

### **GOD’S PLAN WILL ESCALATE**

The earth was given to people who were living in right relationship with God. So through Jesus a whole different race and a whole different empire is being raised up of people who are living in right relationship with God through Jesus. They are on the earth doing the will of God and God’s delegated authority is released through them.

Of course that went to a whole different level on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit began to live in people. For 2000 years this seed has been growing, but in the final hours before the second coming of Christ, this plan is going to escalate to a whole different level of intensity. The scope of it is going to reach proportions never reached in history before.

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Satan is called the god of this age. He was given that place of influence through Adam yielding to him, and Adam gave him his stewardship of having the primary role in the government of the earth. He gave that to Satan and that is why Satan is called the god of this age.

### **GOD IS COMMISSIONING JESUS**

Roman numeral III. What happens now is that we see the plan God has for Jesus. He is commissioning Jesus. John gets to see this. He is commissioning Jesus as a man. It is not God commissioning God, it is God commissioning a man.

Again, I cannot say too many times that Jesus is fully God and fully man. He has forever been God and will forever be fully God. Our problem is not so much that we struggle with Jesus as God. Our real struggle is understanding His role as a man in the age to come. It is His human role that trips us up, not His divine role. It is easy to imagine God being over everything, but it is a challenge to think of a person with a human body being over everything—a real human being. That challenges our thinking and stretches our imagination. It is an absolutely fascinating reality.

### **WHO CAN OPEN THE SCROLL?**

It says here in Revelation 5:1 (paraphrased), John said, “I saw in the right hand of the Father . . . a scroll.” This scroll in the right hand of the Father has seven seals. It is like a cylinder scroll with seven seals around it keeping the contents of the scroll private, hidden and enclosed.

Verse 2. “Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’” You have to break the seals and unroll the scroll. If you cannot break the seals, you cannot unroll the scroll.

Verse 5 (paraphrased). “One of the elders said, ‘I know who is worthy. He is a man, but He is a lion. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He has prevailed. He has conquered. He has conquered Satan in His obedience to God and His work on the cross. He has prevailed so that He can open the scroll and loose the seven seals.’”

### **THE LION AND THE LAMB**

In verse 6 John looks and he sees that this lion is also a lamb. It is a man who has the personality of a lion—He has the fearlessness and the fierceness of a lion—but He has the tenderness and humility of a lamb. He has extremes in His personality. It would take this kind of man to oversee the action plan of the book of Revelation to cleanse the earth.

That is what the book of Revelation is all about. It is about a man taking leadership on the earth and cleansing the earth to prepare the way for the Kingdom to be fully manifest and to drive evil off the planet. What kind of man has the ability to do this? Well, He is like a lion. He is fierce and fearless. He is bold, but He is also like a lamb. He is tender and He is very humble. He has all of these dimensions in His personality to an extreme, but in perfect balance. What I mean by extreme is that He has these abilities and characteristics in His personality in the highest measures.

### **HE TOOK THE SCROLL**

Verse 7. Here is the key—a very key point here. This man took the scroll out of the right hand of the Father. When Jesus took the scroll as a man, He was saying in effect, “I am accepting the leadership of the earth and I am accepting the responsibility of the action plan which is in the scroll, to cleanse the earth and to establish it under human government. For the glory of God. I am taking the responsibility to do this.” This is a massive statement, “He took the scroll.” Of course the Father would not give the scroll to anybody but this man.

Paragraph A. The scroll represents the title deed of the earth. Though God owns the earth—no question about that—God has given the leadership of the earth to humans. So a man must hold the title deed to the earth.

There is one man who will own the entire earth—all the property of the earth. The scroll—the title deed—has one man’s name on it. He will own every single piece of property on the entire earth. He will delegate His authority and give people who are in relationship with Him stewardship over that land, in time and eternity, in the age to come. He is doing that now in the church age, but He will do this in fullness at His coming.

### **THE TITLE DEED AND THE ACTION PLAN**

This scroll is more than the title deed of the earth. It is the action plan. It is the title deed and the action plan necessary to prepare the Church as a Bride, so that the church can bring in the great harvest and loose the judgments on the Antichrist, judgements which will eventually drive evil off the planet.

This is quite a master plan. The problem with the title deed and the master plan is that it is rolled up in a scroll, which needs to be unrolled and in the hands of a human being who is worthy. The government will never be in the hands of a man unless a man—with human beings—administers, oversees, and takes leadership of this plan.

It is in fact more than a title deed, it is an action plan. The book of Revelation, the core of it—chapter 6-19—is the action plan that Jesus and the Father came up with, in order to prepare the Church, win the harvest, bring judgment on the Antichrist, and drive evil off the planet. It is very important that we grasp the action plan and that we understand it.

### **JESUS BREAKS THE SEALS**

Paragraph C. He took the scroll to open the seals, because that is what Jesus is going to do. We find out in Revelation 6, that He will open the seven seals in order to unroll the scroll so that the action plan is executed. Each one of those seals releases judgment through the Church against the kingdom of darkness. So when it says that Jesus breaks the seals, it means He is taking the responsibility of loosing the judgments on the kingdom of darkness.

The book of Revelation is not mostly about the Devil acting against the church. It is the church under Jesus’ leadership releasing judgment on the Antichrist. Jesus is the one breaking the seals, not the devil—Jesus is breaking them. Judgment is breaking forth from the throne of God upon the Antichrist kingdom, upon the kingdom of darkness.

### **JUDGEMENT AND RESTORATION**

It is not just that the Antichrist and the kingdom of darkness are being judged. The action plan involves more than judgment. The action plan also involves the reconstruction of all the cities in all the nations of the earth.

Can you imagine the task Jesus is taking on as a man, as a Jewish man with a resurrected body? It is as if the Father says, “I want You to drive evil off the planet, but I also want all the cities to be restored.” Because in the tribulation, the cities are going to be greatly shaken. Not just shaken with judgment, they are going to be shaken with immorality, sorcery, and murder. All kinds of sin will be in the fabric of the nations. So the nations have to be cleansed, the governments have to be replaced, and the laws have to be reestablished. And this is going to happen in real time and space, in real human history.

### **STEP BY STEP**

Jesus is not coming back, waving His hand, and all of a sudden all sin disappears, and all of a sudden the cities are rebuilt and the governments are righteous and in order. Jesus is going to do this line by line, step by step, through a process and He is going to use His people each step of the way.

Paragraph D. The book of Revelation is the action plan which is contained in the scroll. Jesus is the only man with enough wisdom, humility and love to open the seals of judgment in a way which is going to produce righteousness and love across the nations.

The governments are always debating what are the best ways to fix the economy or the education or what are the best programs to establish family order or make things work in the government. Jesus is going to take on all of these areas in every nation of the earth.

He says in effect, “I am willing to do this under the anointing of the Spirit as a man through My people who are connected to Me. They will have resurrected bodies, but they will be human beings in physical material bodies connected to Me by the anointing. We are going to completely restore and refurbish the entire planet, all of its laws and all of the social institutions. We are going to do it step by step, line by line, we are going to do it together. I know that if I take the leadership, love and righteousness will be the net result of this great action plan.” When Jesus comes and takes the scroll, He is accepting the responsibility take the leadership.

When Jesus takes the scroll as a man, it is one of the greatest moments in all of human history. A man who is worthy and qualified takes the scroll. When He takes that scroll, He is saying, “I am going to take back everything Adam gave away.”

It is parallel to Adam giving the scroll to Satan. It was not an actual scroll he gave him, but he gave Satan the primary place of governmental leadership over the nations. It was given to Adam as a man and he gave it to Satan.

### **A MASSIVE MASTERPLAN**

When Jesus takes the scroll, it is as if He is saying, “A man is in the right place, rightly related to God, and He is going to bring the whole government of the earth back under humans to the glory of God.” When He takes the scroll He says in effect, “I will do it.”

It is one thing to say you are going to do it and another thing to have a clear action plan. How is this going to happen? Again, He is not going to appear in the sky, wave His hand, and all the bad people say, “Oh, I guess time is up.” No, they are going to resist Jesus every step of the way.

Jesus is committed to do it, because it is the Father’s eternal decree to only defeat the devil through human beings who are in covenant with God, who live on the earth and who are in agreement with Jesus. Jesus is not going to make it happen by Himself. He is going to do it in relationship with other human beings who are on the earth. This is a massive master plan.

### **THEY SAY, “YOU ARE WORTHY.”**

Let’s read Revelation 5:8-10. This is such a dramatic reality. The living creatures are seraphim, burning ones, the top of the angelic realm. They are higher than the cherubim—the seraphim are the very highest. The elders are the top of the human government of the redeemed. So the top angelic government and the top human government fall down before Jesus.

Jesus takes the scroll from the Father’s hand. The man who has accepted the responsibility to turn everything around does not just get us forgiven and out of hell. We are talking about more than people avoiding hell. We are talking about Jesus saying in effect, “I am going to set in place

a plan to bring righteousness and love into every institution of every city and village in every part of the earth and it will last forever.” That is what Jesus is saying when He takes the scroll.

So the living creatures and the elders—the top angelic and the top human government—fall down before Him and they sing a song. They say, “You are worthy.” They are representing all the angels and all the redeemed and they are saying in effect, “You are worthy and you have the ability to actually do this successfully” (v. 9, paraphrased)

### **WORTHY TO TAKE THE SCROLL**

It is not just a great plan. It is a plan which will have perfect success. It will work. “You are worthy to take the scroll, to take the leadership, to open it” (v. 9, paraphrased). To open the scroll is serious, because it means that the judgements of Revelation 6-19 will be released. When those seals are broken, it means that Jesus is releasing the tribulation judgments through the praying church.

“Why are You worthy? Because You were slain. Because, when You had all the power as God, You laid it aside and became human. You have proven that when You have all the power and all the glory, you use it for love. That is why You are worthy, because You have proven that when You have the power, You use it for love and for obedience. And because Your history has proven it, we are confident that the future will be like the past.

“By Your blood, out of every tribe and nation, You have made us kings and priests and we will reign upon the earth” (v. 9-10, paraphrased). The elders are taking it up a notch. It is as if they are saying, “We have not just escaped hell and we are not just going to watch Your leadership, but You are going to dynamically involve us in the leadership of the earth”—I am talking about the material, physical earth.

When Jesus comes and the New Jerusalem comes to the earth at the resurrection, we get resurrection bodies, but we still have physical material bodies, just like Jesus’ resurrected one—it is not just that we are going to appreciate Jesus doing it from a distance, but we are going to be deeply and dynamically part of reigning with Him and we will take part in the reconstruction process of the earth.

The elders see the big picture. They are saying in effect, “We are a part of this action plan. We are a part of this dynamic reality as well.”

### **YOU ARE WORTH IT**

Paragraph B, now when they say to Jesus, “You are worthy,” it means three things. Number one, “You are worth it Jesus.” It is worth obeying You. Because the devil comes and whispers in our ears—if you have heard this, do not feel like you are the only one because he has told every single human being this same lie—the devil whispers in your ear, “You are not getting the deal you deserve.” Do you ever hear that whisper? Every human being has heard that lie thousands of times throughout their lives if they have lived long enough, but we agree with this song and we say, “You are worth it, Jesus.”

Saying, “You are worthy,” is saying, “You are worth it.” “Obeying You with costly diligence is worth it, because we see the big picture of who You are and how You have involved us in Your master plan. You are worth it.”

### **YOU ARE CAPABLE**

The next way in which Jesus is worthy, is that He is capable. He will have the anointing of the Holy Spirit to actually succeed in this master plan of the restoration of the earth. I am talking about the physical earth and all the cities and all the political infrastructure. He has the ability under the anointing, the wisdom and the power to pull it off, to actually pull it off. When they say, “You are worthy,” they are saying, “You are capable, You are skillful enough, You are powerful enough under the anointing, as a man, to actually succeed even on a global level.”

I mean, there is not even a government in the world which is able to rightly sort out the fifty different areas in their own nation. We have one man who is going to take every area of every nation and He is going to bring them into righteousness and love on a global level. This is quite a man we are worshiping.

### **YOU DESERVE IT**

The third point of Jesus being worthy is that He deserves it. If there is any man who should have all of this power, who would it be? You have heard that famous statement throughout the years, “Power corrupts and total power totally corrupts.” It has been quoted. A leader in England said—I think it was in the 1800’s—that power corrupts and total power corrupts totally. That is true, power does corrupt. When a guy has a lot of money and a lot of influence and everybody has to say “yes,” sooner or later the guy gets off.

Power corrupts and total power totally corrupts, but there is one man of whom this is not true at all. He has total power and He is totally pure. He has proven it. He deserves this role, because in 2 Cor. 8:9 it says that, when He was rich—when He had all the power, being fully God—He laid aside the privileges of His deity in order to work for our good. He has a proven history. He has proven that if He has the power and the glory, He will make choices which will cause love and righteousness to increase every time.

### **YOU ARE WORTHY BECAUSE YOU WERE SLAIN**

Paragraph C. They go on to say, “You are worthy. . . because You were slain” (v. 9). When it says that Jesus is slain, the implication is obvious: He had to become human to be slain. When He was fully God and only God—you cannot kill God. He had to become human. By saying that He was slain, they are indicating and magnifying the fact that He embraced humanity.

Remember the arrangement: if He becomes human, He has to become human forever. They are saying in effect, “You made this huge choice in the essence of Your being to become human”—the mystery of the incarnation. If You would do that for us, we know that You will use power rightly.”

Not only did He become human forever, but there was great sacrifice and humility involved in being human forever. Every choice He has ever made as a human, He has made in perfect love and righteousness. Every choice He has made as human since the incarnation—every one of them—has been made in wisdom, righteousness, and humility.

### **JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN**

Number three, Jesus as a man—this is really where it pushes our thinking in a way that is really hard to grasp—Jesus as a man has to live in dependence upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to release acts of power through His human ministry and His human stewardship.

What I mean by this is that when Jesus was on the earth—in the incarnation—and when He ministered on the earth, He was always fully God, but He never drew on His own power as God to heal one person. Every time He operated in power, He never, ever said, “Hey I do not have to bother with waiting on God, praying, and trusting the Holy Spirit. Forget all that, I will just heal the guy.” No, not once. Every single time He refused to draw on His own power as being the uncreated God, the second person of the Trinity. He only operated when the Spirit of God came upon Him. He had to pray, fast, intercede and wait on the Holy Spirit, like we do.

Not only did He do that for thirty-three years and particularly during His three and a half year ministry, but He is going to live that way forever. I mean, even in a million years, Jesus will still be praying and waiting on the Holy Spirit in order to release power on the earth through His human stewardship. He knew that all along.

You might ask, “Jesus, You are so humble. Why did You do this?” He says in effect, “I love you and I want you to be with Me and a part of My government forever.”

### **JESUS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The verse I have here which we are not going to look at, is Isaiah 11: 2-3, which is talking about Jesus being dependent upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit. That is in the Millennial Kingdom. This verse is talking about the Millennial Kingdom. We are talking about a resurrected man still waiting on the Spirit to release power through His human stewardship and human assignment.

You would think that after a few million years He might say, “Hey, come on, I am God. We all know it. Let’s kick into another gear here.” He will not say it—forever. In humility, in dependence, in the Father’s will, in the arrangement before the Father, like us, He will wait on the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Jesus might say, “But Father, the task is too big. I do not have time. I have to govern the entire earth and every department of the entire earth. I have to restore it all. I have to get going.”

The Father says, “Trust Me. Wait upon Me and wait until the Spirit moves, like the people joined to You will do.”

### **JESUS DESTINY ON THE EARTH IN THE FUTURE**

Paragraph E. This one verse right here—Rev. 5:11-12—is one of the most significant passages about Jesus’ destiny on the earth in the future, as a resurrected King. There are so many implications to this verse. “The voice of many angels. . . they cry out, saying, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive’”—it lists seven different spheres of leadership over the nations—“power, riches, wisdom, strength, glory, honor, and blessing.”

Notice the key word is the word *receive*. Jesus has to receive these from others. The people giving Him these seven things are other human beings. He is receiving them from people who are giving them to Him of their own free will. He is also receiving this in His humanity from the Father under the anointing of the Spirit.

Jesus could say, with a natural mind, “Hey, I am God. I do not need to receive power and riches. I already have them.” No, He does not.

The Father is saying in effect, “When You come back and receive the kingdom as a man, the other human beings on the earth will give these things freely to You. The anointing of the Spirit will come upon You and enrich You and empower You in these seven areas.”

So there is an anointing of the Spirit released in these seven areas and there is a response of the people in the nations giving these things freely to Him as well, because they like His leadership.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE POWER**

Number one, He is going to receive power. All of the political power of every single nation of the earth is going to be offered to Him. The anointing of the Spirit will enable Him, as a man, to carry this load. All the leaders of the earth will come and say, “All the power in all the institutions is Yours.” I mean, my goodness, that is awesome. All the power is going to be His.

You do not give God power, He already has the power. Jesus will receive power by the anointing of the Spirit and He will receive political power by the voluntary agreement of the leaders of the nations, forever. Power is His forever. It is not a one time deal. A thousand years and a million years from now we will not all be on automatic pilot. We won’t say, “You know what, we made a decision a long time ago. It is a done deal.” No, we will agree forever to give Him the power because of the winsomeness, the beauty, and the glory of who He is. We will desire to give the power to Him forever.

This arrangement will go on and on and on forever. It will be based on the voluntary responses of His people and it will be based upon the fresh anointing of the Spirit upon Him as a man forever and forever. This is staggering in its implications.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE RICHES**

The second thing: He will receive riches. What does it mean for God to receive riches? God is already rich. Why does He need money if He is God?

We are not talking about God receiving riches. We are talking about a human King receiving all the wealth of the earth and He will delegate it through His people forever.

Can you imagine one guy who owns all the wealth of the earth—one man? All of the riches will be given to Him. All of heaven is totally ecstatic about this. They are saying, “You are worth it, you are capable, and you deserve this kind of arrangement.”

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE WISDOM**

The next thing: He will receive all the wisdom. We talk about the wisdom of Solomon, but Jesus is going to have an anointing of wisdom to fix every area of life with foresight and depth of understanding.

All the wise men and women of the earth will gladly, and voluntarily, bring their wisdom under His leadership. All the wisdom God has given others as well as the wisdom of the Holy Spirit directly, will be under His authority. All the wisdom will come under the leadership of one man, forever. Again, this is not a one time decision, “At the second coming, all seven of these areas are Yours. We said it, it is done. Push “save” on that document before we save it.”

No, these are seven realities which will be given to Him in a fresh way based on voluntary responses and agreement of the people, forever and ever. God will govern the earth through Jesus under this arrangement.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE STRENGTH**

He will receive strength. Ephesians 3:16 talks about strength in the inner man. Because He is man—yes, He is fully God, but He is ruling as a man under the anointing, He is ruling the earth and the earth has to be governed by humans—as a man under the anointing, He will receive a supply of strength. It will be sufficient forever, as He restores all the nations and contends against all the resistance and all that is involved.

He will never, ever wear out as a human being or draw back because of diminished energy in His inward life. He will be strong in righteousness, He will be focused on His task, and He will be kind. He will not say, “Wow, this has been a stressful decade. I am a little edgy because I am fixing 300 nations right now.” He will have strength in righteousness and strength in His emotions as a man under the anointing.

It is not surprising for God to have strength, but for a man to receive strength at this level is absolutely staggering. It is a fascinating reality.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE GLORY**

He will receive glory. The nations will boast in His leadership with loving delight. It is like Paul said in Philippians 3:3 (NIV), “We glory in Christ Jesus.”

To glory in God: the word *glory* is used in several different ways. Proverbs says, “Children glory in their father” (Prov. 17:6, paraphrased). Young men glory in their strength.” (Prov. 20:29, paraphrased).

God’s people glory in God’s name. This is an enthusiastic delight, and a loving, trusting, and joyful response of the earth. Loving God is what it really boils down to. He will receive all the glory of the nations. They will love Him and it will be their glory to know Him, to work with Him, to talk about Him, and to be near Him. That will be their glory.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE HONOR AND BLESSING**

He will receive honor. He will be the most respected, the most popular, and the most listened to man in all of history. He will receive blessing. The problem with presidents and prime ministers in all nations is that they put forth their policies and that part of the government resists them.

What is going to happen is that all the governments of the earth at every level will bless all the plans of His heart and they will cooperate. Instead of saying, “We are opposed to this,” they will say, “Yes! Amen! We bless what You are doing—all the plans of Your hands—and we will throw in our strength to participate with You. We have nothing but blessing, no resistance to anything God has entrusted to You.”

This is the sevenfold leadership favor which He is going to receive from people. This is the anointing the Holy Spirit will put upon Him—upon Jesus the man. This is how Revelation 5 ends, with Jesus described in His position before the nations. The rest of the book of Revelation is now going to unfold the plan. So it ends with Jesus as described in these seven areas in Revelation 5:12. Amen.