

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

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

- A. In Revelation 4-5, John described the majesty of the Father's royal court in heaven and the glorious occasion when Jesus took a scroll from the Father indicating His right to rule the earth.

We are on session five in our series on the book of Revelation. We are looking at Revelation 4-5. These two chapters go together in a very dynamic way. I hate trying to cover this in one session! There are so many dimensions of truth. We are going to just touch it, a quick overview, to stir up your hunger for these two glorious chapters.

Revelation 4 and 5 describe the majesty of God's royal court in heaven and the occasion when Jesus took the scroll from the Father's hand. We see the majesty of God in chapter 4, and then the Jesus comes and takes the scroll with seven seals around it in chapter 5. That scroll indicates Jesus' commission and right to rule the earth forever.

- B. Revelation 4 gives us the most detailed description of God's beauty in the Scripture. I refer to this chapter as the "beauty realm of God."
- C. Revelation 5 gives us insight in the Father's plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over the earth. The primary theme in the book of Revelation is Jesus coming back as King to rule the nations.

Revelation 5 gives us insight into the Father's plan to exalt Jesus to be King over the earth. It is not amazing that God rules the earth. What is amazing is that God chose a man to rule the earth. It is not Jesus as God, though He is fully God and forever God, but it is Jesus as the son of David in His humanity ruling the earth as a fellow human being. He is fully God, fully man. He always will be, forever in the future. The mystery is that a man is going to rule the entire earth. A man with a physical human body, a resurrected body, but a physical human body. One man, all the nations. That is so remarkable.

- D. God's vast majestic resources (Rev. 4) are committed to establishing His plan for Jesus (Rev. 5).

The connection of the two chapters. Why do we have Revelation 4 and 5? Why are they connected together? One idea is that God's vast resources of His own throne and of His person in chapter 4 are what is available and committed to the plan of chapter 5. That is one angle on why Revelation 4 and 5 are together. There are several others. The Father is saying, "All of My infinite resource as God the Father on this glorious throne is committed,"—that is chapter 4—"to the plan of chapter 5. It cannot fail. It will come to pass. My Son, as a man, will rule the earth forever."

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

- A. Revelation 4:2-7 outlines four categories of God's beauty, each with three themes, totaling 12.

²I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones... I saw twenty-four elders sitting...in white robes; and they had crowns of gold...⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:2-6)

Revelation 4:2-7 outlines four categories of God's beauty. Each one of these four categories has three specific themes. We find a total of twelve themes. I am going through these ever so fast. Let's look at these four categories. Each of them has three themes.

1. The beauty of God's Person: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)

In verse 2, John is speaking, "I was in the Spirit, and behold, I saw a throne set in heaven." He sees one on the throne. In verse 3, he describes three facets of the Father. First, "He who sat there was like a jasper." Ancient jasper was different than modern day jasper. It had a diamond-like brilliance, a diamond-like gem. This radiant diamond-like stone is what the Father looked like to John when he saw this glorious light emanating out of the Father.

"A jasper and a sardius stone." Sardius was a deep red gem. There was this bright, diamond-like radiance with a deep red gem color coming out of the being of God. That color is emanating from Him. Around the Father's throne is a rainbow with all the different colors of the rainbow, but the dominant color in the midst of the various colors of the rainbow was emerald. There is this emerald rainbow arching over His throne, which of course speaks of the mercy of God. All that God does from His throne is covered with mercy.

2. The beauty of God's Partners: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)

Verse 4, "Around the throne there were twenty-four thrones, and I saw twenty-four elders." There are two theories. One theory is the elders are angelic beings. The other theory, which I believe is the most plausible one, the right one, is that the elders are human. He sees twenty-four elders. I believe these are redeemed human beings. They are sitting in proximity to the throne of God. They have white robes, and they are crowned. They are enthroned, they are robed, and they are crowned. This makes a huge statement about how God relates to the redeemed, because this is a statement of how close and how dear the redeemed are in God's salvation plan.

3. The beauty of God's Power: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, voices (Rev. 4:5a)

Verse 5, "Then from the throne is lightning, thunder, and voices." Three completely distinct realities emanating out of the throne. Lightening, thunder, and voices.

4. The beauty of God's Presence (fire): on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)

The next category is fire. There are seven lamps of fire burning in front of the throne, which is the Holy Spirit. In front of the throne are not only the seven lamps, which are manifesting the glory and power of God through the Holy Spirit, there is also a sea of glass like crystal.

There is a crystal sea in front of the throne. All the glory of the rainbow and the colors is mirrored in that crystal sea. We find in chapter 15:2, that the sea is mingled with flaming fire. The fire of God is all over the sea, and the sea is what I call the convening area, the convocation place, where the billions of the saints and angels come. The big conference center before the throne. It is a sea of glass. It is not a lake. It is not a pond. It is a vast sea. That is where the throngs of angels and saints gather for those holy convocations, for those special times when they all gather together before the throne. It is not like when you are in your resurrected body in the age to come that you will spend all your time on the sea. You will be ruling on the earth; you will have tasks to do. There will be key moments when everyone is summoned to the crystal sea.

Then there are the four living creatures, who I believe are seraphim. I do not believe these are cherubim. They are seraphim, which they are burning ones. They are these angelic beings with fire on them. There is the fire of

seven lamps, there is the fire on the sea, and there are these four living creatures called the burning ones, the seraphim around the throne. That is kind of snapshot.

So, number one, we see the beauty of God's person in verse 3. We see how God feels, how He looks, and how He acts. He is like jasper, He is like sardius, and He acts in mercy with an emerald rainbow.

Number two, we see the beauty of God's partners, His people, those who are in partnership with Him, the redeemed who are partners. They are enthroned, robed, and crowned.

Number three, we see the beauty of God's power. We see the manifestation of thunder, lightning, and voices. Those voices are music and songs emanating out of the throne of God. The atmosphere is filled with power and light and energy and music and all kinds of voices; others places indicate it is music coming forth.

Number four, the beauty of God's presence. There are the seven fiery lamps. There are the four seraphim, the living creatures who are seraphim. **Seraphim** means **the burning ones**. There is the sea of glass like crystal. Chapter 15:2 tells us that the sea is mingled with flaming fire.

Here is one thing that I do with this picture in verse 4-7. When we pray, this is where we direct our mind—when we pray to our Father who art in heaven. When I come before the Father, I picture myself standing in the midst of that sea of glass mingled with flaming fire, talking to the Father with the emerald rainbow, the sardius and jasper stone colors coming out. I see twelve elders on one side, twelve on the other, not that it is that way. That is just how I picture it. Seven lamps burning before Him, and I come and say, "Father, would You bless this food we are about to partake right now and bless this meal and this fellowship time." **That** is where you are praying when you say, "Lord, bless this meal." You are seated in heavenly places. You are on that sea of glass before that throne when you worship, when you pray, when you bless somebody, when you lay hands on them and say, "Lord bless them." That is the scene where you are talking.

- B. In Revelation 4:8-11, we see the governmental leaders of heaven worship God and declare His transcendent beauty (v. 8). They glory or boast with delight in God as they honor and thank Him.

⁸The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne...¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down...and worship Him...and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:¹¹"You [Father] are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things..." (Rev. 4:8-11)

The next few verses after that we see the governmental leaders of heaven. We see the twenty-four elders, and we see the four living creatures. Again, my opinion is that they are seraphim. They are declaring—this is very significant—they are declaring God's beauty. They are saying, "Holy, holy, holy," which means, "Transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty, transcendent beauty." Verse 8, the four living creatures do not stop day or night. They go all day, all night. They cry, "Holy, holy, holy!" They are crying this to God the Father, to the Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come. Whenever these four living creatures worship and give honor and glory like this to God, verse 10, the twenty-four elders would be impacted by the power of God. When the four living creatures worship, their worship provokes worship. Every time the four living creatures would worship the beauty of God, the elders would, "Uhh," get hit by the power of God and fall on the ground.

Worship is a response to revelation. They are seeing these twelve facets of God's beauty, and there are many more facets than those twelve categories. As a response to that realm of beauty that we looked at, those four categories, three themes in each one, they cry, "Holy, holy, holy."

Not only is worship a response to revelation, worship provokes more worship. Because when worship happens, there is the presence of God that is manifest, and they are declaring God's beauty. They are saying, "Holy, holy, holy." That is a declaration of God's beauty. I will show you in just a moment why that is. When we declare the beauty of the Lord, power is released. That is what is happening in the heavenly scene. When the four living creatures declare beauty, power hits the elders. They fall down overwhelmed by the revelation.

- C. Their foundational hymn forever magnifies God's holiness (v. 8). There are 14 hymns in Revelation. To be holy means "to be totally separated from." God is separated from everything sinful; thus He is pure. God is also separated from everything created; thus He is transcendent or infinitely superior to all that exists. God's holiness points to His transcendent beauty.

Now we are going to look at the subject of holy, holy, holy. The foundational hymn in the book of Revelation, in my opinion, is this one. This is the one they sing night and day. A million years from now they will stay with this one song. There are fourteen different hymns in the book of Revelation. I believe those hymns will be sung through the ages. This one seems to have a place of prominence above all the other ones. That is, again, just an opinion.

*There are two different meanings of the word **holy**. Two different applications—let's put it that way—of the word **holy**. To be holy means to be separate from. When God tells you to be holy, He is saying, "Be separate from sin." That is one dimension of holy. When God is holy, He is separated from everything sinful. In other words, He is pure. That is not really what they are saying here. They are not saying, "Purity, purity, purity." They are not magnifying mostly His separation from sin, although that is included in what they are saying.*

There is a second application or being separate from, that He is not just separate from everything sinful, but He is also separate from everything created, good and bad. He is infinitely superior to everything created. He is wholly other than, He is separate from, He is infinitely superior. That is what they are saying. Infinitely superior means transcendent. Above everything that exists. They are not saying, "You are pure. You are pure. You are pure." They are saying, "You are separate from everything. You are infinitely superior. Your beauty is beyond anything any of us can understand or see." When they would say it, they would cover their eyes and the power of God would come over them. We find in Isaiah 6, the seraphim would cover their eyes when they declare the holiness of God. It is like they are overcome by the power of the transcendent beauty of God.

I said a whole lot in that last three minutes there, but we have to move on. This chapter, chapter 4, is so important, so important.

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

- A. Revelation 5 describes Jesus' destiny on the earth as a Man. He is fully God and fully man. Because of His obedience to death, God highly exalted Him in heaven and on earth (Phil. 2:10). His exaltation is manifest *in part* on earth now, and *in fullness* in the Millennium.

⁹*...God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*
¹⁰*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth...*
(Phil. 2:9-10)

Let's go on to the drama. There is a drama that is happening in heaven that is going to be played out on the earth. It is a drama related to the man Jesus. When I say the man Jesus, I am not in any way diminishing His deity. He is forever God. He is the uncreated God like the Father and the Spirit. One God in three persons.

The remarkable thing is who He is as a man and the role that He will play in the eternal future. There is this drama in Revelation 5 that is played out on the earth throughout the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial

Kingdom is the 1000-year reign on the earth that we find in Revelation 20. There is a literal thousand-year reign where Jesus as the son of David, as a Jewish king, will rule on the earth for 1000 years starting with the Second Coming. Then the new heavens and the new earth, and He rules forever on the earth after that as that same king as well.

All the resources, the power, and the majesty of Revelation 4, all the Father's glory, are backing up the Father's promise to the Son in chapter 5. He is saying, "What I am telling you in chapter 5 cannot go wrong because all the resource and power of chapter 4 that is behind it is guaranteeing it." God the Father promised in Philippians 2:10, "that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow." Every knee in heaven. More specifically every knee on earth. Every knee on earth will bow one day. Every single knee on this earth. Not just down in hell or up in heaven. They will bow too. On the earth and even under the earth one passage says. It says, "At the name of Jesus." Jesus is His human name. That is the name He received when He was conceived in the womb of Mary. To this human son of David every knee in heaven will bow, all the angels, and every knee on the earth will bow, those that fill the earth even through the Millennial reign. They will bow their knee to a king who is ruling in Jerusalem.

This exaltation is already happening in part right now. Right now on the earth there are about a billion believers around the earth is what they say who are bowing their knee to Jesus right now. It is happening in part right now, but it is going to happen in fullness in the Millennium. Millennium means a thousand. In the 1000-year reign, it will happen in fullness. Every human being who lives on the earth, who has a natural, physical body during the Millennium, will bow their knee and worship Jesus. Every single one. That is what Revelation 5 is about. It is talking about this grand drama that is going to happen on the earth one day.

- B. Daniel prophesied that Israel's messiah would receive the leadership of the earth forever. David wrote of the Father's promise to give the leadership of the nations to Jesus (Ps. 2:8). This promise is fulfilled in the eyes of the nations *in part* in this age and *in fullness* in the Millennium.

¹³ *...the Son of Man [Jesus] coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]...¹⁴ Then to Him was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... (Dan. 7:13-14)*

⁸ *I [the Father] will give you [Jesus] the nations for your inheritance... (Ps. 2:8)*

Daniel saw this in the Old Testament about 500 B.C. Daniel prophesied the Messiah of Israel would receive the leadership of the earth forever. Daniel saw a man that would give leadership to the whole earth. Not just Israel, the whole earth. That was quite a remarkable thing. The idea that the Messiah would rule Israel was not new, but Daniel saw that the son of man, who is the son of David as well, is going to rule the whole earth. Not just Israel, but the whole earth. He would rule the whole earth forever and forever and forever.

It is the famous son of man prophecy that Jesus makes reference to many times in the Gospels. Every time He calls Himself the son of man, it is a reference to this prophecy. He called Himself the son of man some eighty-five times in the Gospels. That is the title that He used more than any other title. He said, in essence, "I like the Daniel 7 one. I like the Daniel 7 title. I like that role." There is only one son of man passage concerning the Messiah of Israel. That is Daniel 7. Jesus is always looking back to that one.

About 1000 B.C., some 500 years before Daniel, David also prophesied that the Father would give the nations to His Son. To the son of David, to the Messiah, to Jesus. The Father has promised Jesus would inherit all the nations, which means He would be the King over all the nations in a real, physical, literal sense.

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

- A. John saw a scroll in the Father's hand. Many see this scroll as representing the **title deed** of the earth and Jesus' **action plan** (Rev. 6-19) to bring in the harvest of all nations and to prepare the Church as a Bride to partner with Him in ruling the earth (Rev. 19:7-20:6) as He cleanses the earth of evil and replaces its governments so as to fill the earth with God's glory (Rev. 20-22).

¹I saw in the right hand of Him [the Father] who sat on the throne a scroll...sealed with seven seals. ²I saw a strong angel proclaiming... "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"...⁵One of the elders said, "...the Lion of the tribe of Judah...has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals"...⁶in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God...⁷He took the scroll out of the right hand of Him...on the throne. (Rev. 5:1-7)

Jesus takes the scroll from the hand. Let's look at this drama in heaven that is going to be played out on the earth one day. He says in chapter 5:1, "I saw in the right hand of Him"—that is the Father—"a scroll." The scroll had seven seals." Just think of a scroll, and it has seven seals wrapped around it like a cylinder scroll.

"I saw a strong angel." This angel asked the question of the hour, "What human being is worthy to open the scroll and to loose the seals?" which means to break all the seven seals off. We find out next week in Revelation 6, the next chapter, breaking the seals off looses the judgment of God into the end times. The angel says, "What man is powerful enough? What man is deserving enough? What man is smart enough? What man is close enough to God to be able to take the scroll and to break the seals? Who can administrate the end time judgments that are going to transition the planet to the age to come? What man can do that?" There is no man who has that much power, that much wisdom, who is that close to God, who is that deserving of that kind of honor and preeminence, so it seems to John.

Verse 5, one of the twenty-four elders speaks up. He says, "There is a man. He is a Jewish man from the tribe of Judah." When you see "tribe of Judah," say "Jewish King." That is what it is talking about. Jesus will be Jewish forever. Not just during thirty-three years on the earth. The kings of the earth, some of the kings of the earth are going to have the shock of their life when they stand before the Judge of all the earth and He is a Jewish man. They are going to say, "Oh no, nobody told us the King of the earth was Jewish." There is going to be a great reversal of a lot of the hatred against Israel that has happened by the kings of the earth through history.

He is a lion. He is a Jewish lion. He has prevailed. He prevailed over death. He prevailed over Satan. He paid the price for sin. He prevailed in all those dimensions. He is worthy to open the scroll. Remember, to open that scroll means to release the judgments related to that scroll.

In the midst of the elders stood a lamb. Is He a lion or is He a lamb? Which is He? He has seven horns, and He has seven eyes. These are the seven spirits of God, which is the one Holy Spirit in seven manifestations. There are not seven different Holy Spirits. This is a reference to the prophecy of Isaiah 11 where the seven manifestations of the Holy Spirit through the Messiah are laid out. The spirit of wisdom, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of the fear of the Lord, the spirit of power, the spirit of might, etc.

In verse 7, this Jewish man walked up to the Father and took the scroll out of the Father's hand. I tell you, beloved, nobody walks up to the Father and takes the title deed out of the Father's hand. Nobody does. That is intense right there. It is Jesus, so it is okay, but I think, "A man took the scroll out of the right hand of God. Oh, it is Jesus. It works. Oh my goodness. This is so intense."

John saw a scroll in the Father's hand, the title deed of the earth. This is a common view. There is nowhere that it says this explicitly. It is a common view. I have read it in many commentaries, from the early church fathers

through church history to modern-day scholars, that the scroll represents the title deed of the earth. There are several reasons for that, but we do not have time to go into that right now. The scroll represents the title deed of the earth. That is the point of what is happening. It is the King being commissioned and taking His rightful place to rule the earth. That is the point of the drama.

There is more to the scroll than the title deed. It is also His action plan. Inside of the scroll is the action plan to bring in the great harvest. How many of you know there is going to be a great harvest of the nations? I believe over a billion souls are coming in. There is a man with a plan. His name is Jesus. He is going to affect that plan and cause the outworking of it.

He is going to prepare the church in purity. When I look at the church in the earth right now, I think, "We got a ways to go."

Jesus could answer, "Yeah, but I have a plan. It is in the scroll. I am going to unfold the scroll." Which means, "I am going to walk out the plan, every step of it." It will involve releasing the judgments of God in the earth and the glory of God. He has a very detailed plan that He is going to walk out. The church will be purified, and the nations will have a great harvest.

Not only that, He is going to cleanse the earth of all evil. When He is done, Satan will be in prison, the kings of the earth will be killed, and all the governments will be replaced in one day. That is in your Bible. All the governments will be replaced in one day. That is in the plan. This is so beyond our imagination. No man could imagine such thoughts as all of these things. Jesus is going to cleanse the earth of evil, throw Satan in prison, replace all the governments, purify the church, bring in the great harvest, and rule the earth. That is what the scroll represents, all of those things.

- B. **Open the scroll:** Jesus will open the scroll and loose or break the seven seals (v. 2, 5). This includes releasing the judgments that are described in Revelation (Rev. 6-19).
- C. **Taking the scroll:** by taking the scroll, He accepted responsibility to cleanse and rule earth.

When Jesus takes the scroll in verse 7, He is accepting responsibility. He is accepting responsibility not only to cleanse the earth, but also to rule it. When He took that scroll, it was like He and the Father were saying, "Okay Jesus, You are committed. It is not just to rule. You are going to have to cleanse the earth and confront all evil and injustice," which is what the book of Revelation is—the action plan, the battle plan. He is going to confront the wicked kings of the earth face-to-face and deal with them, kill them, and remove them. He is really going to do this. There is no contradiction in that with love, because all of His judgments are to remove everything that hinders love.

- D. **Who is worthy:** Jesus is the only man who was found worthy or deserving and capable to take the scroll from the Father. No other man is able to solve the problems of the nations.

They cry out, "Who is worthy? What man is worthy?" Of course we know the lion and the lamb is the man, but the idea is that Jesus is the only man worthy. Instead of the word **worthy**, you could think He is the only one **deserving** and **capable**. He deserves it, but more than that, He actually can do it. He has enough wisdom, power. He has the insight.

Can you imagine how complicated it is to transition a nation? We have seen a few examples in the last generation of a nation where the government is toppled and there is an overthrow of a government, quite a few examples of them. The repairing of a nation under a new government takes years and years. The water system does not work, the infrastructure does not work, the economic system does not work, and the banking systems do not work. All those. One nation takes decades to repair. This one man has the power and wisdom to do it in

all 232 nations simultaneously. As a man He is going to do this. You would think, “Do You really want to take that scroll?” I mean this is a huge job. Of course He does because He is capable. Not just deserving. He is capable. He is able. Another word would be **able**.

- E. **Lion and lamb:** Jesus has the fierceness and fearlessness of a lion (v. 5) and the tenderness and humility of a lamb (v. 6). He will forever be a Jewish man from the tribe of Judah (v. 5).

It says He is both the Lion and the Lamb. Jesus has the fierceness and the fearlessness of a lion. He will confront the most difficult powers and social dilemmas, and He will confront them without any hesitation, fear, or second-guessing. He is fierce. He is unmovable. You cannot manipulate this man. He will not back down from anything. The task is daunting: to replace all the governments of the earth, drive evil off the planet, purify the church, bring in the harvest, rule in righteousness and fill the earth with love. That is a daunting task for a man. Well, He is fierce. He is fearless.

Not only that, He is tender and humble like a lamb. There is no contradiction between the Lion and the Lamb. As I mentioned, He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He will be Jewish forever. There is never a day you will not have the ethnicity you have now. A billion years from now, whatever you are now, you will be that then. That is part of our heritage and inheritance. It is beautiful to God. All the nations are an expression of the beauty and glory of God, a facet of His glory.

- F. **Seven horns and eyes:** Jesus is described as a Lamb with seven horns, or all power, and seven eyes, or all wisdom. Because He possesses all power and wisdom, He is qualified to open the scroll.

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

The Lion was associated with the fact that He is Jewish. The Lamb—His humility and tenderness—is associated with the fact that He has seven horns and seven eyes. This man has all power—seven horns—and He has the full wisdom of God—seven eyes. He has all the wisdom of God. The Isaiah 11:1-5, the full seven manifestations of the Spirit that was prophesied to rest on this Jewish Messiah is what is implied by this passage here. He has tenderness. He is fierce. He has all power. He has all power, seven horns and all wisdom. It will take that to accomplish this daunting task.

V. JESUS IS WORTHY (REV. 5)

- A. The highest governmental council around God's throne consists of the living creatures (angelic) and the elders (human). They fell awestruck before the worthy Man and boldly proclaimed their agreement with the Father's decree to make Jesus the supreme leader of the whole earth forever!

⁸When He [Jesus] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals [release end times judgments]; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood [proved Your leadership and love] out of every tribe and tongue...¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:8-10)

We see the highest governmental counsel around the throne of God. They are interacting with the Lamb. They are responding to Him and making declarations in light of the fact that He took the scroll. The man, the son of David, the son of man took the scroll. He accepted the responsibility. The plan is on. Nothing can stop it. The Rev. 4 majesty is backing up this man. The governmental council—that means the twenty-four elders, the four living creatures, probably other different parts of the angelic hosts—there is this interaction that we have a little snapshot into. We do not have time to go into this interaction right now, but there are many implications to

this interaction. Their interaction is in light of the fact that in verse 7 the man took the scroll. He said, “I am going to accept the commission. I am going to walk it out in fullness.”

*It says here that, “When Jesus had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four creatures fell down”—they are overwhelmed—“each of them had a harp and a bowl.” Notice that the bowl is the prayers of the saints and when this plan is activated, catch the word **full**. The bowls of prayer in heaven will be full. Meaning the prayer movement in the generation the Lord returns is going to escalate to a whole new level, and all the saints around the earth will be engaged in the prayer movement. The bowl will be full before this plan is activated in that final three-and-a-half year drama on the earth.*

Verse 9, “They sang a new song. They said, ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, to open its seals, because You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood. You have made us kings and priests to our God, and we shall reign on the earth.’” When they say in verse 9, “You are worthy,” these twenty-four elders and the four living creatures are declaring to the Father, “We agree with your choice of this man. We are saying, as the governmental council, that man is the right choice. There is no disagreement. We boldly stand with Him.” Even in this age we boldly stand with the decree of the government of heaven. Though it is a very unpopular decree on the earth. If you tell people Jesus is coming back, they like it as long as He is just coming back and it does not mean anything else besides He is coming back. Their idea is that He will capture us and take us away and everybody will be fine.

No. He is coming back to confront every government on the earth, to kill all the leaders and transition the whole earth. It is like if you agree with that plan, these elders agree with it and they are bold about it, but we get a little squeamish about it. It is politically incorrect to the highest degree imaginable for Him to do this, to loose those seals and to bring the wicked governments of the earth, to break them and to transition all of them, to remove all the governmental leaders who are on the earth at the time when He marches into Jerusalem. I mean all those kings of the earth.

It is one thing for the elders to say, “You are worthy to do it.” If we say it, talk about politically incorrect. The church will get mad at you. As long as Jesus comes and does not trouble anybody, and we go far away, everybody will like that message, but that is not the message of the Second Coming. He is coming to confront everything that hinders love, to take over everything, and to remove all impurity from the earth. That is what He is coming to do. That is intense. We are excited, but, boy, it is going to be an intense moment, the process, the plan that is in that scroll.

1. **Sang a new song:** a prophetic song indicating the changing of season in God’s purpose. On earth there will be more and more expressions of this prophetic song released through prophetic singers as we get closer to the Lord’s return.

They sang a new song. There is a new prophetic song that indicates the changing of the season in God’s purpose. When there is a new song, it does not just mean a newly recorded song or they just wrote the song, “Hey I got a new song. I wrote it today.” That is not what it means. A new song does not just mean a freshly written one. When the new song is released, it comes from the throne of God, and it is declaring a new season for the earth. God is, by the Holy Spirit, releasing more and more singers who are touching the edges and the fringes of that song. You can hear the sound. You can hear the lyrics are touching the great drama of the Bridegroom, King, and Judge about to come to the earth to remove everything that hinders love and fill the earth with righteousness and all that is related to it.

2. **You were slain:** when Jesus had all the glory, He laid it down for love and became poor for our sakes in becoming a man and taking our judgment so that we might become rich.

⁹*You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)*

B. **You are worthy:** Jesus being worthy to be the supreme leader of the earth has three dimensions.

1. **Jesus deserves it:** He is worthy or deserving of the authority to be the supreme leader of the earth because He is our redeemer and creator. He has proven Himself by making every choice for love and righteousness.

Number one dimension of being worthy—Jesus deserves the role. He is deserving of the authority to be the supreme leader of the earth. He deserves it. He deserves it because He is the Redeemer. He is the Creator. He deserves it because He is so loving, He is so gifted, and He is so able.

2. **Jesus is capable:** He is able to open the seals or administrate God's judgments and rule the earth forever. He is able to drive evil off the earth and then reorganize and rule all the governments. No other man has the ability (wisdom, humility, and power) to lead all the resources of all the nations in a way that sustains love and righteousness forever. It is not amazing that God rules the earth, but that He gave all the authority to one Man.

The second dimension is not only that He deserves it, but also that He is capable. He has an amazing giftedness. He is able to open the scroll or to administrate the judgments of God. He is able to break the seven seals that are the release of God's judgments. The content of the scroll is the whole action plan to establish His kingdom on the earth in every sphere of society. It is the whole plan. He is able to administrate the judgment of God. That is what they are saying.

Do you know how complicated it is to administrate the judgment of God in perfect righteousness with humility? Even when a good king exercises judgment, I am assuming either they overdo it or they underdo it. The judgment is too severe; the judgment is too lax. The judgment is too early; the judgment is too late. To administrate judgment in precision where love, humility, and righteousness result from it, that is serious capability. They are saying, "He is capable. He is able to do this."

3. **Jesus is worth it:** He is worthy of our wholehearted love—our continual praise of His beauty, our confident trust in His leadership and sacrificial obedience to His will. As we see the worthiness of Jesus, we count all things loss in our pursuit to love Him (Phil. 3:8).

⁸*I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ... (Phil. 3:8)*

He is worth it. He is worth our wholehearted love. He is worth our continual praise about His beauty. He is worth our trusting His leadership. It is worth it to obey Him even sacrificially. He is worth it.

4. The devil seeks to stir up self-pity in us by telling us that we are getting a bad deal from God and that it is no longer worth the trouble to seek God with diligence. The devil tempts us to "give up (seeking God) and give in (to sin) because it is too hard."

The enemy comes along and tries to stir us up to self-pity, telling us, "It is not worth it anymore. You are getting a bad deal." He is worth it. If I had to do it over again, I would do it over again. I would just do it with greater zeal, with greater commitment.

I have heard Christians over the years. I have been a pastor for about forty years. They say, "Well, this is not worth it anymore. I cannot go on."

I reply, "Like what are your options? There is no ceasefire. It is the devil or God. There is not an in-between zone. What are you going to do?"

"I do not know. I have not thought it through that far. I just know I cannot go on anymore. I do not know if it is worth it anymore." If you mean worth it to get a following, to get a ministry where people appreciate you, then I agree. It is not worth the effort because nobody is appreciating you the way you want them to. That is not what it is about. He is worth it. Trusting His leadership. Obeying His leadership. He is worth it. Praising Him for His beauty.

C. Father's promised to make Jesus preeminent in all things.

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

The Father declared that He would make Jesus preeminent in everything. Preeminent in every single thing. We are going to look at that now in verse 12 of Revelation 5. We are going to look at the preeminence of Jesus.

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

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

Jesus' inheritance includes having the full authority over the seven spheres of life identified here. We talk a lot about the seven spheres of society. This is not exactly the same as that. It is the same general truth, but everybody has a different list of seven. This is heaven's list of seven right here. These are seven spheres of leadership over the earth. Here is what these twenty-four elders and the four living creatures are singing in the new song. At least the elders are, the redeemed are. They are declaring in verse 12 that this Jewish man is worth it. Worth what? He is able. He is deserving. To receive what? Seven things. Power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. This is a huge declaration. These are seven manifestations of His leadership, number one, and they are seven manifestations of the response of the people in the earth in the Millennium. It is not reserved until then. We are responding to Him even now. There is a day where all the nations are going to respond to Him according to these seven different declarations.

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

As God Jesus has all power, but as a Jewish man raised from the dead, at the resurrection, at the right hand of the Father, the Father gave Him all power in heaven and earth right that minute. But it is more than that. It is more than having all power in heaven and earth. The Father wants the power to be **demonstrated** on the earth for all to see and all to respond to it, to cooperate with it. It is not just an invisible power that He has, while the nations still disobey Him. It is a power that will be openly displayed over all the nations of the earth. There is coming a time, at the Second Coming, at the start of the Millennial Kingdom. Those are synonymous. The Second Coming is when He comes back to the earth. The Millennial Kingdom is when He rules for 1000 years. Those happen at the same time. When He comes He rules for 1000 years. That is what happens.

At the time of the Second Coming or the Millennial Kingdom, He will receive the full obedience of all of His people. The whole planet. Everyone who is still on the planet, everyone will give Him power. In what sense do men or women give God power? The kings of the earth will offer their national resources to submit to His

disposal. They will say, “All the wealth, all the governmental power of ours, we are submitting it to You.” In that sense He is receiving power from men. He is receiving the benefit of all of their labors. They are saying, “We are submitting it all to You.” Let’s take just a moment on each one of these.

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

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

First, He receives all the power. That is political, I believe. Again, there are different ways you could take these words, so maybe somebody else will interpret them a slightly different way. One way or the other, the truths all come out the same. Meaning, all these spheres of life will be under Jesus fully, openly. Openly is the key word, in all the nations in the Millennium. He will receive all the political power. He will be the King over all the kings. Right now He is, but most of the kings are ignoring Him, and they are allowed to ignore Him right now in the sense of they are establishing evil laws and practices and “getting away with it.” There is a payday—there is a day coming where all of the governmental power will be directly under His direct authority. All the power of government will manifest His leadership and His will. That is what it is talking about. Wow!

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

When He comes back to the earth in the Millennium, all the money and all the natural resources of the earth will be openly seen as under His leadership. All the leaders of all the nations will joyfully submit the wealth of their nations to fulfill His leadership plan. Right now, one nation negotiates with another nation to try to get more money out of them. They say, “Hey, let’s make an oil deal...or a water rights deal...or I will sell you grain if you sell us oil.” They make deals to exchange their national wealth. All of the national wealth and natural resources of every nation will be directly and openly under His leadership and at the disposal to do His will. In that sense He receives the riches. How does the richest Man receive riches? He receives the obedience. They walk out His will with their national treasures.

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

Jesus has all the wisdom. He will use His wisdom to bring every sphere of life to the fullness of the Father’s plan. He will bring every sphere of life. He will have leadership over all the intellectual property. All the wisdom and even the new leaders, the new laws, the new policies of all the nations will be submitted to His wisdom. He will receive the fruit of all the wisdom of all the labor of all the nations.

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

Jesus will receive the strength—physical and emotional strength—of all the nations. He will receive the fruit of the strength of all the nations. The nations will love Jesus with all of their strength or all their resources. Their strength is related to their resources. That includes they will use their time, their energy, their money, their

influence to do the will of God and to honor Him and His will. They will gladly offer the fruit of their physical strength. They will gladly offer the fruit of the labor of all of the people of their society to do His will and to honor what He wants and to glorify Him. He will receive all the glory.

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

Jesus will minister in the fullness of the supernatural realm of God's glory. Not only will He release the glory of God through His leadership, He will move in power. Can you imagine when Jesus has all the kings of the earth meet? They gather together—there are about 230 nations on the earth right now according to some designations. Imagine 200 kings of the earth come to gather. Jesus says, "Come Holy Spirit," and they all get knocked over by the power of God. Jesus will release the power of the Spirit in His elders' meetings. That ought to be something.

Say there is a technology problem. I am talking about on the Millennial earth. Jesus will have a word of knowledge. He will say, "Hey, I have the glory of God. I have seen the answer to this situation." Not only that, but the nations of the earth will operate in the power of God too. There will be a lot of fruit and benefits that will be reaped by them operating in the power of God. That will be submitted to Jesus too.

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

All the honor will be given to Him. He will be the most praised, adored, respected, listened-to man in all the earth. All the nations will honor Him. They will obey Him, respect Him, and listen to Him. They will imitate what He wants, His leadership style. In the realm of honor there is the dimension of praise and worship. They honor the Lord and they praise Him too. That is related to this as well.

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

Finally, He will receive blessing. In what sense does He receive blessing? They will all fully cooperate with His leadership. Meaning, He will give the national policy, the global plan, or the plan for a region of the earth. They will affirm His plan and fully cooperate. They will bless every plan, every desire, and every policy.

Now a president presents a plan or a law, and he is resisted by his government. They veto it, filibuster it, stop it, and hinder it. All the nations will bless everything Jesus wants to do. He will receive their blessing, their full cooperation, in everything He wants. Catch this. He will have the mightiest, largest, most loyal, productive, unified, joyful workforce in human history. All the nations will be blessing Him, not resisting Him. That is the Man Jesus. That is the Man that we love. Amen. Worthy is the Lamb.