

**I. THE THRONE OF GOD AND HEAVEN'S ENDORSEMENT OF JESUS TO RULE (REV. 4-5)**

A. *Progression of the book.* In part three of the Book of Revelation, Jesus takes John up to heaven, showing him the “things which must take place after this” (Rev. 4:1).

*<sup>1</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice...saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” <sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven (Rev. 4:1-2)*

B. *In Revelation 4:* John beholds the Heavenly Throne Room, the epicenter of the universe

1. Where he sees God's vast resources, sovereignty and eternity Rev. 4:9, 10; 5:13-14; 6:16; 7:10, 15; 10:6; 15:7).
2. Revelation 4 gives us the most detailed description of the Father's person and surroundings in Scripture. Many call this the “beauty realm of God.” (Ps. 50:2; 96:6, 9; 119:96)

C. *In Revelation 5:* John witnesses the glorious occasion when Jesus approaches the Father.

1. Where he sees Jesus take *the scroll* from the Father, revealing his authority, ability and resources as the rightful heir to bring the Father's dwelling to earth.
2. Revelation 5 gives us insight in the Father's plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over the entire earth. The primary theme in the book of Revelation is Jesus coming back as King to rule the nations.

D. *Finally,* John sees Jesus' *battle plan* to transition the earth under His rule for the the Father's arrival (Rev. 6-22), involving the chronological sequence of twenty-one judgments: *seven seals* (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1), *seven trumpets* (Rev. 8:1-9:21; 11:15-19) and *seven bowls* (Rev. 15:1-16:21) which will bring about the:

1. *Eradication of the mystery of iniquity* from the universe, including every being in agreement with it (Rev. 20:14-15; Mat. 13:41-42; 2 Thess. 2:7).
2. *Creation of one new man* comprised of both Jews and Gentiles from every tribe and tongue (Eph. 2:15; cf. Rev. 7:14; Isa. 66:23).
3. *Restoration of the created order* in preparation for the Father's permanent descent to the earth when His eternal state in heaven (Rev. 4) is manifest upon the New Earth (Eph. 1:10; Rev. 21-22).

E. What is important to note is that God shows us His vast majestic resources (Rev. 4) are committed to establishing His plan for Jesus (Rev. 5). We need to know that *Jesus' plan* to remove sin and evil, bring in the great harvest, guide, protect and mature the Church, preserve Israel and bring the Father to earth will not fail.

**II. THE FATHER'S THRONE ROOM: THE BEAUTY OF GOD (REV. 4)**

A. Revelation 4 gives us an interior view of the Holy of Holies where the Father dwells on His throne<sup>1</sup> at the height of the eternal celestial city, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 9, 22).

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

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<sup>1</sup> Heb. 8:2; 9:11; Rev. 3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 13:6; 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8; 16:1, 17; 21:3.

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

1. ***The beauty of God's Person***: as seen in sardius, jasper and an emerald rainbow (Rev. 4:3). Glorious light emanates from the Father (jasper) as He is seen in a glowing, red hue (sardius), encircling his throne by a rainbow saturated with shades of emerald.
  - a. *Jasper* speaks of His brilliant, clear and uncreated light shining forth from His very Being (Ps. 50:2; 96:6, 9; 119:96; 1 Tim. 6:16).
  - b. *Sardius* speaks of His burning desire and compassion for His people (Deut. 4:24; Zeph. 1:18; Jas. 4:5; Ex. 33:19; Psalm 145:8; Isa. 49:15; Lk. 15:20). His love is a fire that purifies and prepares His people (1 Cor. 3:13–15; Rev. 3:18).
  - c. *Emerald* shows that everything He does is motivated by mercy (Ps. 145:8–9; Isa. 55:7; Mic. 7:18; Eph. 2:4–5). It's His mercy that atoned for sin and will make all things new. In Moses' tabernacle on earth, the shadow of the heavenly temple, was the "mercy seat" where sin was atoned for and new life occurred (Ex. 25:17–22; 26:34; Lev. 16:15–16; Num. 7:89; Num. 17:8; Heb. 9:4–5). Under His leadership, the Father will make all things new (Rev. 21:5).
2. ***The beauty of God's Partners***: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned in the immediate presence of God surrounding His eternal Throne (Rev. 4:4). These are the highest governmental leaders of the redeemed in eternity. It is a testimony of God's transforming power to take the weak and broken of humanity and put them in such a significant position to rule creation with Him in deep partnership motivated by His beauty, released through faith-filled words of agreement. The fact the elders are enthroned tells us of the Father's astounding humility and kindness to share His power.
3. ***The beauty of God's Power***: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, and voices, including noises, sounds and music coming from His Throne (Rev. 4:5a). These reveal His emotions and thoughts to the saints, beautify the courtroom and charge the atmosphere around Him. At the end of each judgment series: 7 seals (Rev. 8:5), 7 trumpets (Rev. 11:19) and 7 bowls (Rev. 16:17-21), these manifestations of power break out before Him, fill His throne room and are released upon the earth.
4. ***The beauty of God's Presence (fire)***: on lamps, seraphim, and the redeemed saints (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2). The lamps speak of the Holy Spirit in his diversity revealing the Father in heaven (Rev. 1:4). The living creatures are "burning ones,"<sup>2</sup> encircling the Father, gazing upon Him and declaring His beauty. The sea of glass, mingled with fire, serves as a place of congregation before the Throne where redeemed saints in the glory of their resurrected bodies (Rev. 15:2; Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; Acts 2:3).

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<sup>2</sup> Revelation 4 counts four creatures and describes them "living" (τέσσαρα ζῶα) while in Isaiah 6 they are called "burning ones" (שרפים) transliterated as *seraphim*). Ezekiel 1 refers to *cherubim*, a different class of creatures with different features and purposes in heaven.

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C. *When we pray, we should understand this is this place where we appear.* We come before Him in the Spirit (John 17:24; John 4:21-24; Eph. 2:4-6; Heb. 12:22–24; 4:16). This is our eternal home, where we belong.

***<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant... (Heb. 12:22–24)***

D. 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. *The same pattern* was established in King David's day set-up through paid singers and musicians in the Tabernacle of David and on God's heart for the Church today—*Beauty driven worship!*

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

1. Holy means to be separated, pure from everything sinful. Their foundational hymn forever magnifies God's holiness (v. 8).
2. Holy also means "transcendent," completely separate from everything created. He is infinitely superior to everything in creation, beyond anything we can comprehend and understand. When seeing His transcendent beauty, the elders fall on their faces and the living creatures cover their eyes. They are overwhelmed with ecstasy as they gaze so they fall down and temporarily remove their gaze.

## **III. THE DILEMMA OF HUMAN RULE - CALLED BUT UNQUALIFIED (REV. 5)**

A. **PROBLEM:** What human being is *worthy* (deserving), *capable*, *qualified* by the Father to transition the planet to His rule? Who has the power to remove Satan, the power, righteousness and humility to confront the wicked kings of the earth, kill them, cleanse the earth, bring in great harvest, mature Church, guard and protect Israel and lead humanity under the Father's rule as King, etc...?

***<sup>1</sup>I saw in the right hand of Him [the Father] who sat on the throne a scroll...sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>I saw a strong angel proclaiming... "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>4</sup>So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (Rev. 5:1–4)***

1. The scroll is both *the title deed* to the earth and *the battle plan* for how God will transition the earth under His rule.
2. The problem is that without someone taking the scroll, sin and evil will continue on earth and the Father and His beauty will never come.

B. When Adam sinned, God did not rescind His original plan and calling for humankind to rule the earth with Him in intimate partnership (Psalm 8:3–8; 115:16; Mt. 6:10; Rom. 11:29). God gave eternal stewardship of the earth to Adam who served as a representative of the human race (Gen. 1:28).

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- C. When Adam's fell, he forfeited his authority to Satan who then possessed the influence over nations and the created order through fallen humanity ensnared in sin (Gen. 3; Lk. 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:4).
- D. However, God sent His son, *the second Adam*, sinless and fully obedient to His will who paid for humanity with his perfect life. After the Father raised Him, Jesus sat at His right hand, in the place of power and favor, having now all authority in heaven and earth.
- E. As *the last Adam* (Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 15:45) Jesus will fulfill God's original intention for man to be created in His image, rule creation in intimate partnership and take global dominion of the works of His hands with the redeemed, His partner, "the last Eve" in a new heavens and earth (Gen. 2:21-24; John 19:34; 1 Cor. 15:45; Eph. 5:30-32; Gen 2:8-10; Isa. 65:1; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 36:35; Rev. 22:1-5).

### **IV. JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD WHO WILL RULE THE EARTH**

***<sup>5</sup> But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." <sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (Rev. 5:5-7)***

- A. Jesus is revealed as both *a Lion* and *a Lamb* (Rev. 5:5-6). He is the rightful Jewish King from the line of David (2 Samuel 7:10-13; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14; 2 Chronicles 6:16.; Psalm 89; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1) but also the meek, gentle and righteous One who removes sin. He is both fierce and tender.
- B. As the Lamb, *the same love* that moved Him to pay for humanity's sin at the cross is what motivates Him to remove all sin, wickedness and injustice from the earth in the judgments written in the scroll (Isa. 53:7; Mt. 5:5; 11:29; Jn. 1:29; Rev. 5:6; 6:1, 12, 15-16; 14:10). Because *there is no contradiction in Him*, He is equally as meek and gentle when paying for sin as when He removes it. The Lamb's work that started at the cross in the covering of sin will be finished at His return in removing sin!

***...He [Jesus] was led as a lamb to the slaughter.. He opened not His mouth [meek, willing]. (Isa. 53:7)***

***<sup>29</sup>..."Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)***

***<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne [Father] and from the wrath of the Lamb! (Rev. 6:15-16)***

- C. Jesus is *qualified*. He is the only one born sinless, fully submitted to the Father's will and in complete unity with the Holy Spirit (Ps. 40:6-8; Heb. 10:5-7). He is the one from the line of David.
- D. Jesus is *capable*. He has proven His faithfulness to the Father in all matters and will be able to execute perfectly the Father's battle plan (Rev. 6-22). He has *the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form* (Col. 1:19; 2:3, 9), *anointed beyond measure by the Holy Spirit* (Isa. 11:2; Jn. 3:34; Rev. 3:1; 5:6) and *given the full resources of heaven* (Rev. 5:12).
- E. Jesus is *confirmed*. For many rulers, ultimate power corrupts. Jesus has been tested in every way and shown righteous (Heb. 4:5; Mat. 26). No one has demonstrated such humility by forsaking their rights as Jesus did and no one else will be as exalted as Jesus in the coming age (2 Cor. 8:9; Phil 2:5-11)!

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F. What man could walk up to the Father! Both David and Daniel saw this moment as the Father endorsed Jesus to rule the earth *as a man*. David saw Him receiving all the nations as King of all earthly kings. Daniel saw Him receiving the allegiance of all peoples to serve Him and His agenda. Today Jesus has received the earth as a possession in part but will receive them in fullness during the millennial age (Acts 2:33–36).

*13...the Son of Man [Jesus] coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]...<sup>14</sup>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)*

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

## **V. JESUS EXALTATION AS MAN**

A. Because of Jesus obedience to the Father in all things and the degree to which He humbled Himself, He is greatly exalted. In the Millennium He will be the most exalted man. It is the purpose of the Father to display His pleasure with Jesus by exalting Him in every way for all to see as He rules on earth. (Phil 2:5–11)

B. 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)*

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

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

D. 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). At the moment of taking the scroll, He receives 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.

E. **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. 2:2–4; 62:2). The Father wants His power demonstrated through Jesus to draw the nations to Him. Most of the kings of the earth ignore and even resisting Him and getting away with it, but there's a Day when all the power of government will manifest His leadership and will.

*<sup>11</sup>Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*

F. **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; 66:12). Today governments enforce taxes to get the revenue needed fund their agenda; in the future, Jesus will receive national, voluntary free-will offerings! (Haggai 2:6–9)

*<sup>5</sup>...The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>...All those from Sheba [Modern Yemen] shall come; They shall bring gold and incense... <sup>9</sup>...And the ships of Tarshish [Spain] will come first...their silver and their gold with them... <sup>11</sup> Therefore your gates shall be open continually...That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles... (Isa. 60:5-13)*

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G. **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 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. One greater than Solomon will have a universal throne (Mat. 12:42; Psalm 72:1-4). His policies will bring justice to the poor and needy (Isa. 11:1-5). He will teach the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle (Mat. 5:17-19) and it will saturate every level of society. By His judgments, He will solve difficult ethnic, social, political situations (Isa. 2:2-4).

***<sup>4</sup> But with righteousness He shall judge [rule] the poor, and decide with equity... (Isa. 11:4)***

H. **Strength** (physical/emotional): As a resurrected man, anointed by the Spirit beyond measure, Jesus will possess all emotional and physical strength, never tiring or being overwhelmed with difficult issues (1 Cor. 15:52-53; Psalm 110:3b; SS 5:11; Isa. 9:7; Zech. 8:2; Psalm 69:9; 119:139; John 2:17). The nations will love Jesus with all their strength, which includes 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 natural resources on the millennial earth will be submitted to Him.

***<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' (Mk. 12:30)***

I. **Glorify** (spiritual): Jesus will minister in the fullness of the supernatural realm of God's glory (Isa. 11:10; 24:23; 33:17; Zech. 6:13; Jer. 3:17; Mat. 19:28; 25:31) with angels visibly going to and fro on errands from His decrees (John 1:51), seraphim encircling His millennial throne praising Him (Isa. 6:1-3), demonstrated by fire, smoke and shaking (Isa. 6:4; 4:5; 33:14) as the "gate of heaven" will be open over Jerusalem and the Spirit poured out in Israel in the greatest measure yet (Gen. 28:10-22; Isa. 32:1; Joel 2:28-32). All these supernatural signs will compel the peoples' in the millennium to worship Him as The Father's visible glory will endorse Jesus' rightful rule to reign (Isa. 4:5; 33:14; 60:2-3; Psalm 2:10-11; 48:4-7).

***<sup>23</sup> Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)***

***<sup>51</sup> ...I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51)***

***<sup>2</sup>...And His glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isa. 60:2-3)***

J. **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; Hag. 2:7).

***<sup>7</sup> I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. (Hag. 2:7)***

K. **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.