Visions of the Throne and the Scroll
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The authority of God's word is denied. There's nothing to commend in this Church. Everything is swayed by popular opinion or the rights of the people. It is swayed by popular clamor and thinks it is perfect. The amen speaks in verse 14. The one who established all God's promises. He is the last word, the ultimate authority. The finality of all things. Christ is revealed here again in His moral attributes and not in His judicial character. He is fixed true, unchangeable, here is divine certainty. And He is the faithful and true witness because the Church in its closing period will be an untrue and unfaithful witness. All of God's witnesses in all the ages have failed Him at some time or other. But Christ never. Adam failed. Israel failed. And the Church in some ways is the worst failure because she is the repository of more truth and privilege. The Lord Jesus who speaks is the beginning of the creation of God. The first man had to be set aside Adam. For this Church glorifies man.

Christ is the head of the new creation. What does He have against this Church? Well it's neither cold nor hot. There's neither zeal for God nor actual repudiation of the Lord and His Word. Lukewarm water isn't animatic. Lukewarmness is a combining of hot and cold as we have today such as great humanitarian and cultural projects without the saving grace of the Gospel. It's neither cold. Nor hot. Neither dead. Nor alive. Being saved and then lost is not in view here. It speaks of the attitude of the professing groups in relation to Christ, they're totally indifferent. It is worse to be lukewarm than to be one who would banish all profession or deny Christ openly an active positive position. Even opposition such as Paul on the Damascus road could be better dealt with.
The threat is, "'I will spew thee out.'" Not the loss of salvation, but the removal from the place of testimony and witness. When the Philadelphia believer is going to be taken up to be with the Lord. The Laodicean Church will be left here on Earth, spewed out of the mouth of Christ. It will go through the tribulation period. That has not taken place yet. But when it does, it will be Christ who does the spewing and not any of His children. This office does not belong to us. That's not part of our work on Earth.

In verse 18, we have a threefold advice for the threefold need. There are poverty, nakedness, blindness. He tells them to buy gold tried in the fire. That will care for their poverty. Divine righteousness by faith. That's the white raiment, the practical righteousness to cover the nakedness. Eye salve is for spiritual discernment. A cure. For their blindness. They had no spiritual discernment because they'd never seen themselves as sinners.

And then in verse 19, He indicates a general truth found throughout the Scriptures. The reason for His rebuke and counsel is His love. If not for this, He would have left her alone long before this. The mask does not see but individuals may this grace is always open to individuals. And where is Christ? He is standing, hear at friend. He is standing at the heart's door knocking. A tragic picture, but a true one. Here is a group professing the name of Christ but He Himself is on the outside. Christ is knocking at the door of the Church. The Church of Laodicea for an individual to let Him in and sup with Him. It's spoken to the individual. Christ morally disowns this Church. Before He rejects it. For He is on the outside. Christ wants His place in the heart of the believer.
The overcomer will be with Him on His throne, we read. The sign of royal authority. Power. Glory and majesty. This is Kingdom participation. Christ has a throne. He is now on the Father's throne. Just as He sat down there Psalm 110:1. He would have us to sit with Him as here in the Revelation. We're gonna sit with Him. Overcoming ones by faith. He will have the overcomers to reign with Himself, the victorious Christ on His own blessed throne in glory. Mentioned in Matthew 25, you'll remember, in the honor the discourse. The deadening, stultifying effect of lukewarmness is manifest on all sides. Let's be zealous friend for our Christ and for the things of His word.

Friend, if you have never trusted the blessed Lord Jesus, the Savior from Glory, the Savior of sinners, trust Him now. Behold now is the accepted time. Behold now is the day of salvation. He stands. Believe it. He stands at your heart's door knocking to come in. Tell Him, come in.

In the fourth chapter, of the prophecy of the Book is the Revelation we have the vision of the throne. The vision of the sealed book is found in the fifth chapter that deals on, leads on, from this fourth chapter. Both chapters, in a sense, are joined together. Between chapters 3 and 4, the rapture of the Church, the catching away of the Church, mentioned in First Thessalonians 4:13 to 18. And, in First Corinthians 15 verses 50 to 58. I say between chapters 3 and 4, the rapture of the Church has taken place and is symbolized by what transpires with John in the first verse. He is told to come up higher to see the things which must come to pass here. After. After the church age. We are in the third division of the book, from chapter four to 22. If we do not put the rapture
right here friend, mark it, if we do not find the rapture at this place, I challenge you. There is no other suitable and defensible place in the Book of Revelation where we can put it.

We have the right to know a little bit about Heaven now because three went there and told us about it. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul, and the Apostle John. In the first verse of Revelation four, John is called to see that which will come to pass hereafter. After the things of the church age already indicated in chapters two and three. Now John is going to see things going on upon the Earth and it must be from the vantage point of high Heaven. He cannot be in the midst of the events nor will the Church be in the midst of these things either. After chapter three, notice this remarkable thing in the Book of the Revelation. After chapter three, we do not read the word church in the book of Revelation until chapter 22 verse 16. And how many times we saw that word used in chapter 1, chapter 2, chapter 3, but after chapter 3, no use of the word church in the Book of Revelation until Revelation 22:16. That is significant and telling. All during the time of the tribulation period indicated in the Book of the Revelation, you do not have the mention of the Church. Why? For the very good reason that the Church is not in the tribulation period. She is experiencing that wonderful blessing of Revelation 3:10, kept from out of the trial, not through it.

In verse two of chapter four, we see the throne in Heaven occupying the attention of John. First, as it will occupy the adoration first of all the redeemed. Now the throne is occupied by the Father and the Son as we read in Hebrews 1:3. "The One that sat upon the throne was to look upon like a jasper stone and sardius." The first is a various brilliant colors, jasper stone. The second, sardius, is a red color. Here it probably is speaking of sacrifice and glory. These stones were the
first and the last precious stones you will remember in the breastplate of the high priest. And there was a rainbow, we read, in Revelation four, speaking of God in covenant relation with nature, the promise God had made to Noah still kept. He does not forget His promises. God is absolutely uninterested in bypassing any of His promises. And then there was an emerald green rainbow, an emerald green.

From verse four on in this chapter, we read of the 24 elders. Now why 24? Well the number of courses in the Aaronic priesthood mentioned in Chronicles, the number was twenty four. The name elders means they're representative in character. I believe they speak of all the saints of the New Testament age. All these elders constitute the priesthood of the New Testament. They are seen and thrown with the Lord. Notice in the Old Testament Israel had a priesthood. In the New Testament, the Church is a priesthood. And the elders are crowned. Very significant. And the time of the crowning is the rapture. Second Timothy 4:8. Paul expected to get that crown at Christ's appearing. Nowhere in the Bible do we find Angel's crowned. Or others crowned. Any other creature, crowned. Of course, Deity is crowned. Christ will have crowns. Revelation 19 but no human beings, no angels, are crowned indiscriminately. Nowhere in the Bible then, Old or New Testament, are crowns offered to anybody as reward, with one exception, the Church.

How do we know these 24 elders are of a representative character? The office of elder is a representative one and you'll notice they are seen crowned, they have already had their works adjudicated as in Second Corinthians 5:1 to 10. And they have received their crowns. There is the soul winner's crown, the crown of the martyr. And so there are indicated several crowns in the New Testament for believers.
Now the Church cannot be on Earth during the tribulation period because, before any seal is broken, before any trumpet is blown, before any bowl of wrath is poured out, in these three series of seven judgments, seven seals seven trumpets, seven bowls, before any seal is broken, any trumpet blow, any bowl of wrath is poured out, the Church is already seated in Heaven. Crowned in her place of reward, far beyond the awful agony of Earth. Notice in verse five there's a judgment now pending, ready to break. The sea of glass reminds us of the Tabernacle in the brazen sea of Solomon's Temple. Holiness is now a fixed state. We read of the living creatures. They are seen in connection with God's manifested glory. They overshadow the mercy seat and they were on the veil also. They are instruments for the carrying out of God's judgment. They are the attributes of God and principles of His actions represented by angelic beings. They are full of eyes, omniscient perception is here. Perception of God in His judgment. The number four is the number of universality, representing the four points of the compass. Then we read of a lion that speaks of strength and power. A calf, endurance. A man, intelligence. An eagle, speed and execution of judgment.

Notice that Ezekiel one. Has these. And it's in relation to the four gospels, also the four different aspects in which our Lord is viewed. Four different pictures of Him not four biographies or even one biography but in the four gospels. After these areas, the kingly and the servant and the human and the divine. In verses 10 and 11, the question here and the worship here is centered on the fact of God's claim, as Creator, the blessed occupation of the redeemed in glory. Is not with their wonderful surroundings, marvelous as they will be, nor with their companions nor the reunion with loved ones, nor with the things of Earth nor with themselves and their rewards.
Their occupation, friends, will be with the Lord their God and their Creator. What is the fourth chapter of the Revelation trying to show us? It’s trying to show us that God who comes to judge the world has the power to do that and He has the right, the authority, the warrant to it because He is Creator. This is His first right to do what He is going to do throughout the rest of the Book of Revelation. It's a Creator right. His right by virtue of Creator-hood.

In the fifth chapter. We have a vision of the sealed book. A wonderful chapter indeed. Chapters four and five are really an introduction to, an explanatory of, the rest of the Book of Revelation. In this chapter we have proof again that the believers of this age will not be in the Tribulation. That trial takes place only, notice it, only after the sealed book has been opened. Before it is ever opened the redeemed are in Heaven worshiping Christ, singing His praises and crowned. This chapter carries on the scene of the last chapter. Now the vision of John is occupied with this wonderful book, written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. No one of the angelic host or the human race was able, not even the demons, to open the seals or to look upon it. It was in the hand of the Father. Completely filled and completely sealed. Exactly the same book you find in the tenth chapter of the Revelation.

The book must have involved a matter of great significance and importance for the apostle John so to weep when no one was found to open it. But he's told not to weep, Christ to the tribe of Judah was able to open it. But why of the tribe of Judah? That's the designation with regard to Israel and His relationship to them, showing that Israel will be involved in this period. What is this little book? Many and various of the answers. Only one view will fit the whole interpretation of the Book of Revelation. This book is the title deed of the Earth. It is Christ, not only by
creation but by redemption as well. He is the kinsman redeemer claiming sustaining His right of redemption. This is the great day of redemption entered upon. You have an illustration of this that we have here and the Revelation, in the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 32:1 when Jeremiah buys from his relative the rights of the land and the deed is sealed. That's what we have right here. And Christ bought the right to the earth at Calvary when He died on that cross for us. Now He is going to enter into it.

Adam had the right to the dominion of the Earth. God gave it to him, in that first chapter of Genesis when God created him out of nothing. But Adam lost it in his sin by listening to Satan. Satan as it were had a mortgage on the Earth. And that's why he offered it to Christ in Matthew four at the time of the temptation. Christ won it back from Satan at the cross, which was the price of redemption. He has redeemed it since Calvary, but He has not actually possessed it thus far. Here we see Him at last, thank God, in infinite power beginning to recover the alienated inheritance. Recovered in reality to put down any opposition and to rule over all. He's right now, in His attitude of expectancy, waiting the time of investiture. When John looked, he saw the lion as the Lamb slain. The lion IS the lamb, He will always bear, thank God, the marks of His suffering and death in His glorified, resurrected body. He overcomes as a lamb and ALL His own can overcome through His blood. Revelation 12, verse 11.

The horns indicate He has all power, the eyes speak of wisdom and intelligence. Notice the lamb’s three qualifications given here. He was sacrificed for our sins. He has all power to overcome every foe. And thirdly all wisdom and intelligence are His to oversee and foresee and provide. We read on that He came and He took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat
upon the throne, that is Christ comes, the Lion of the tribe of Judah and takes that little book out of the hand of God the father who's seated upon that throne. That act represents and includes all that the Revelation, the Book of the Revelation, will yet unfold. It's for the, it's that for which creation, the world of humanity and the Church especially, it’s that for which they've all been waiting for all the centuries; the prayers of all saints, of all ages will be answered and gloriously fulfilled. It is the saints holding up to Christ their own prayers, those of one another and of all the saints.

Now from verse nine to 13 of chapter five, we have three circles or spheres of praise. The redeemed in Heaven are the closest to the throne and from them praise goes out in ever-widening, ever-enlarging circles. Thank the Lord, they'll sing a new song. It’s the old, old story, the story of redeeming grace the story we've sung so long. Many think of the reign of the saints on Earth as a fantasy or a fiction, some imagination. They say it's carnal and Jewish. But the saints in Heaven don't look at it that way, do they? Look at verse eleven and notice the multitude in Heaven. Recall, if you will, the popular notion, conception, that there will be in Heaven just a few decrepit, old-fashioned folk, just the preachers or the ladies' aid societies, some from the missionary society and those who didn't care to get any pleasure out of life down here anyhow.

No, don't you believe that. That's a figment of somebody's imagination or it is a fabrication from Satan himself. There will be an unnumbered host and remember it will include all those who've died in infancy too. The Angels do not say that they've been redeemed, they've been preserved they're not saved. Beloved, as we contemplate this scene a perfect worship in Heaven. Are you sure? Are you certain that you're going to be there? There were a group in Scotland years ago
that were known as the dead certs, C-E-R-T-S, dead certs. And they said the reason they were
called that was because they were dead certain they were going to Heaven. Are you sure that
you're going to be there? Will it mean glory for you? It can. If you have trusted Christ with your
eternal welfare, that will be your portion.

Do trust Him now. The all-important word is now. Our young folk tell us that they belong to the
now-generation. That splendid because that's the basis time wise for this redeeming message of
God's grace in Christ. He, the Lord Jesus, will save anyone because, behold, now is accepted
time. Behold now is the day of salvation. He's still saying, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and
are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Father in Heaven, make this so important a message. Vital to our hearts. We've been given
through thy marvelous grace a picture, a look into the window as it were, of Heaven. And we're
to see and do see what goes on there: worship. Oh! How marvelous a thing it is to be
worshipping the living God. What service that is, what glory that brings to thee. What an activity
in which to be engaged. That our hearts are burdened for some in homes where others are saved,
but some of them are unsaved. So many on the field of the world, the mission fields that have
never heard Christ for the first time. Lord, may we see that the Gospel gets out. To the least and
the last and the lost. In the fastest possible time. Do that our Father. And we will give thee the
praise in the worthy name of the Lamb that was slain. Who bought us unto Himself by His own
precious blood. Worthy is the Lamb. In whose name we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.