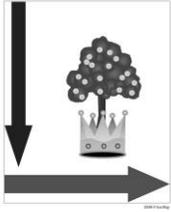


## Week Fifty-two: The King Upon His Throne - Revelation 4:1-11; 5:1-14



### Overview

The story begins in Genesis 1-3 with the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the entrance of sin and man's subsequent enslavement to sin, the serpent's dominion, the earth's cursing, and the death of an innocent animal to cover man's nakedness.

Unbelief and disobedience permeate the hearts of Adam and Eve's descendants; only a remnant believes God's promises of redemption, walks in faith, and looks forward to the day that the Redeemer will come and save them from their sins. John the Baptist's announcement when he first sees Jesus, "Behold The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29), captures Jesus life, death, and resurrection.

The story concludes in the Revelation of Jesus Christ with the Tree of Life, the removal of sin's presence, the destruction of the serpent, the Lamb of God who was slain and who sits enthroned in heaven worshiped by the angels and the redeemed, and the new heavens and new earth.

God has always given just enough information to stir up faith in the hearts of those hear and respond to His story. The prophet Isaiah expresses his absolute faith in the promises revealed throughout His story: "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'" (46:9-10).

The promises that God has already made and fulfilled throughout His story guarantee the fulfillment of the revelations that John received on the island of Patmos. This lesson focuses on the One who sits on heaven's throne and orchestrates salvation for those who believe and judgment for those who refuse to bow to His majesty.

### Lesson Objective:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will understand the centrality of God's sovereign rule in human history and understand that life, as we know it, will end before the eternal throne of the Eternal God.

### Key Truths

*Since the Fall humanity has resisted the reign of God over their lives, yet every man will one day bow in recognition of His sovereign rule.*

*Jesus is the God-man whose first coming in humility will be eclipsed by the glory of His second coming in majesty.*

*Jesus the Redeemer takes the center stage of heaven as the object of heaven's worship, fully revealed as the great I AM.*

## Lesson Outline

John the Apostle receives a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the consummation of the ages. He sees Jesus the Lamb reigning on the throne of God. He sees the final seven years of human history. He sees the final battle and the 1000-year reign of Christ. He sees the outpouring of God's wrath on Satan, sinners and this world. He sees the white throne of judgment. He sees the New Heavens and the New Earth.

He sees the glory of the New Jerusalem, with its River of Life, the Tree of Life, and the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. A blessing is promised to the one who "reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near" (Rev. 1:3).

The throne of God is mentioned more than 40 times in the Book of Revelation (1:4; 3:21; 4:1-11; 5:1-14; 6:16; 7:9-17; 8:3; 12:5; 14:3-5; 16:7; 19:4-16; 20:11; 21:5; 22:1-3). It is impossible to teach the Revelation of Jesus Christ in one lesson; this lesson focuses on the throne scene in chapters 4-5. John sees that behind human history sits a king upon a throne. Man may think that he can live independently of God, but one day he will answer to the Eternal King who reigns in heaven and from heaven.

### 1. The majesty of the throne (4:1-11)

John begins using the word "like" to describe the unparalleled majesty he sees in the throne room of heaven (4:1). No words exist in any language that can adequately describe the Eternal God nor that heavenly scene.

The throne scene that John sees includes:

- The One sitting on the throne (4:3, 5)
- The twenty-four elders clothed in white robes with crowns of gold on thrones gathered around the throne (4:4)
- The Spirit and His manifestation in lightnings, thunder, voices, and fire (4:5)
- The living creatures in the midst of the throne and around the throne (4:6-7)
- The activity of heaven - worship of the One upon the throne (4:8-11)

### 2. The Lamb upon the throne - Revelation 5:1-14

The scene in this chapter moves John to tears as he sees a sealed scroll in the right hand of Him who sits on the throne, but no one who is worthy to open and read it. One of the elders calms him and describes the one worthy of opening the scroll: "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals" (5:5).

John then sees the Lamb take the scroll out of the hand of Him who sits on the throne. The taking of the scroll provokes a fresh outbreak of worship, with three songs that focus on the Lamb's death and the redemption of humanity.

- **The first song, sung by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders:**

"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals;

For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.” (5:9-10)

This song celebrates the redemption of humanity through the sacrificial death of the Lamb and the restoration of man’s dominion upon the earth. Jesus’ worth is extolled and His redemption is declared.

- **The second song, sung by the living creatures, the elders, and an innumerable host of angels:** “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing” (5:12)

This song uses seven nouns, which denote perfection, to describe the Lamb’s worth. He does not receive these attributes because He lacks them; rather, He receives this wealth because He deserves it from all creation.

- **The third song, sung by every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth:**

“Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever and ever” (5:13)

This song celebrates the eternity of the Lamb and the eternal nature of His redemption of man. Kari Jobe’s “Revelation Song” moves believers to weeping, kneeling, clapping, singing, and even silence, as the curtains of heaven seemingly part for mere seconds. Imagine what it will be like when we see what John sees and what the host of heaven experiences as they see the Lamb upon the throne

### **3. The expulsion from before the throne - Revelation 20:11-15; 22:3**

Throughout the Bible all humanity is divided into two groups: (1) men and women of faith and (2) men and women of unbelief and rebellion. One final separation will occur, and that before the great white throne of judgment. All the unrighteous and unredeemed dead will rise to face the One who sits on the great white throne. That judgment will be final; all those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life will be cast away from His presence for all eternity. No attorney will defend them. No excuse will clear them. No bribe will get them off. No last minute appeal will free them. They will only experience expulsion.

This throne is the ultimate reality of the universe; one day every person will stand before the throne—either the judgment seat of Christ, or the great white throne. On that day nothing else will matter. Believers should live every day in the light of that Day, because on that Day they will not want to be ashamed. Lost people should be exposed to that Day, because on that Day they will not want to be expelled.

Chapter 22 describes the final scene that John sees. He sees the righteous serving the Lamb, “and there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him” (22:3). The curse that Adam and Eve received will be removed, and God’s servants—all the redeemed—will spend eternity in purposeful, joyful, sinless service before the One whom they love. Sin’s penalty was paid at the cross, sin’s power was broken at the resurrection, and sin’s presence will be removed on that day. Oh glorious day

**Application** - What does this lesson teach us about God? Man? Sin? Redemption? *Believers must not only know how the story begins, but they must live in light of the story’s ending.*

*Christ-centered, redemption-celebrating songs are merely minute previews of heaven’s worship.*

*Those who resist God’s reign over their lives and refuse to acknowledge their need of redemption by His Son will be cast into the lake of fire, while those who recognize their need and trust in Jesus Christ will be welcome before His throne for all eternity.*

## **Summary**

*God speaks* about future events so that people will know that He is God and to warn His people to live intentionally.

*God acts* throughout human history to reveal His sovereignty in human affairs, His desire to save those who come to Him by faith, and His longsuffering with man, in the hope that some will respond to the gospel message.

*God reveals* that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and that nothing and no one (sinner or serpent) will restrain His hand.

## **Discussion Questions**

In Revelation 4, the angels sing the same song they sang in Isaiah’s day (Is. 6:3). What is the significance of the “new song” they sing when the Lamb is unveiled? Why is the throne central to Revelation? What does the throne teach us about God?

If the great white throne of judgment is final, what must we do to ensure that our loved ones and friends are ready for that day? Does any other day matter as much as that day?