

REVELATION RESOLUTION

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Rev 4-5: On Thrones and Crowns

Jesus Gathers the Heavenly Host before Armageddon

Daily Devotional Guide/Notes: Feb 4, 2024

Recommended Texts: *Revelation*, by Leon Morris (Tyndale series)

The Big Picture of Rev 4-5: *don't lose sight of the forest*

Jesus is gathering the entire heavenly host to prep for the End:

Rev 5:11, "Then I looked, and I heard the sound of many angels surrounding the throne, the living creatures, and the elders. They numbered in the millions upon millions"

*John couldn't possibly count "millions upon millions" so the point is that there were *countless* people, angels, and living creatures

- all believers/saints who are already in heaven, as represented by the 24 elders

- all angels and heavenly "living creatures"

The "24 elders" are laying their "crowns" at the "feet" of Jesus, and the entire heavenly host is praising/worshipping God, in preparation for the "opening of the scroll and its seals"

*the opening of the scroll is the "Beginning of the End"

Included in this is MUCH Symbolism, Metaphor, and Numerology

- much of Revelation is NOT intended to be taken literally

3 Scriptures Describing the "Throne" of Christ

Rev 4 = the Throne of Christ *before the final Judgment*

The Majestic Throne = the throne of Judgment from Mt 25:31-32

The Great White Throne = the throne of Judgment from Rev 20:21

*could be different thrones, but probably are the same, understanding the "function" of Jesus on the Great White Throne is different from the "function" of the throne here before Armageddon begins

The Great White Throne of Rev 20:11, "Then I saw a great white throne and the one who is seated on it. Before his face both earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened... and all people were judged by what they had done."

The Majestic Throne of Mt 25:31-32, probably the same as The Great White Throne: "He will sit on his majestic throne.³² All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

Around the Throne of Rev 4:

7 Spirits of God = the FULLNESS of God (7 = completion)

4 Living Animals = "The most common interpretation is that the man is Matthew, the lion Mark, the ox Luke, and the eagle John, which together represent the full witness of the Evangelists/Gospel in the world"

24 Elders = represents ALL Disciples throughout all of time:

12 Tribes of Israel + 12 Apostles = All of God's Children

All the Angels (of heaven)

All the Living Creatures (of heaven)

Difficult to understand? Yes it is, and that's a good place to start.

Rev 4, "The Throne Room of Christ" ... before the final judgment

First: Have some humility, you don't know for sure

**and neither does anyone else*

**what we do know is Jesus will gather the entire heavenly host before Armageddon begins when the scroll is opened*

**don't be too literal, or you will miss the point*

Regarding heaven: 1 Cor 2:9, "God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven't crossed the mind of any human being."

1. The Throne of Jesus, much less heaven is beyond comprehension, such as the millions upon millions of angels. Who can envision that?
2. so, Jesus (and scripture) use figurative language, metaphors, etc to get across the concept, even though true knowing is beyond us
**like explaining a "transcendent view" of Alaska, but you've never been*
**like explaining an experience of 45 degree below zero temps, to someone who has always lived in the desert*

Our focus today is on "crowns" or rewards, starting w/Mt 6:33, "Build your treasures in heaven"

POINT: there IS HEAVEN + TREASURE in heaven; and, Jesus calls us a) to prepare for heaven; and, b) accumulate LOTS of treasure

- HOW do we build heavenly treasures?

b) through FAITHFULNESS: BELIEF + LOVE + OBEDIENCE

**understanding this is one point of ALL scripture, to teach:*

**what it is to believe in Jesus + to LOVE Him + to OBEY Him*

**all w/goal to be a "good steward of your life, which is a blessing in this life and preparation for meeting Him on His throne*

c) HOW to be a good steward? to be prepared for the day we stand before the Throne of Christ?

1 Cor 3:11-14, " No one can lay any other **foundation** besides... **Jesus Christ**.¹² So, whether someone **builds on top of the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, or hay,¹³ **each one's work** will be clearly shown. The day will make it clear, because it will be revealed with fire—the **fire will test the quality of each one's work**.¹⁴ If anyone's work survives, they'll get a **reward**."

Foundation = Believe in Jesus and LOVE Him

BUILD on it by OBEDIENCE = *and puts them into practice*

Mt 7:24, " Everybody who hears these words of mine ...

... and **puts them into practice** is like a wise builder

... who built a house **on a foundation of bedrock**

*FAITHFULNESS in ALL areas is key

- it is loving God, loving others, and yourself

REWARDS: Promised to those who prepare/build wisely

REWARDS = treasures in heaven

The "Treasure"/"reward" that Jesus is bringing to faithful disciples?

a. To begin, 1 Cor 2:9 says, "we can't even imagine them," beyond comprehension

b. definitely are NOT worldly, earthly treasures (gold/wealth is irrelevant)

c. definitely ARE spiritual treasures, related to God, spirituality, fruits of the Spirit, peace, love, joy, hope, no mourning, no tears, no pain, no suffering, yes perfection

d. in many scriptures, these treasures are called "CROWNS"

1) **2 Aspects of CROWNS, spiritual treasures:**

a. "Something of extreme value" given TO disciples BY Jesus

b. "Something of extreme value" given BY disciples TO Jesus

Spiritual treasures given TO disciples BY Jesus

*there are countless scriptures on this point, such as He will give sight to the blind, peace to the suffering, comfort to the broken-hearted, etc

*however, in the context of Rev 4, we are going to focus on *crowns*

***5-13+ Crowns (rewards) that Jesus gives to His Disciples:**

*how many crowns depends on how you categorize them

A. CROWN OF EVERLASTING LIFE (you will never die)

1. *For those who compete (for the sake of the gospel) in the game after strict training,* a crown of **everlasting life** (1 Corinthians 9:25)

2. *For those who delight the Lord by being humble,* a crown of **salvation** (Ps 149:4)

3. *For those who have persevered,* the crown of **life** (James 1:12)

4. *For those who have remained faithful unto death during trials and persecutions,* the crown of **life** (Revelation 2:10)

B. CROWN OF GLORY (you will eternally bear fruits of the Spirit)

*John 15:8, you "bring glory to God" by bearing fruits of the Spirit

5. *For those church elders who have been faithful as godly examples over their flock,* a crown of **unfading glory** (1 Peter 5:4)

6. *For those who esteem wisdom,* a crown of **splendor** (Proverbs 4:9)

7. *For the poor, brokenhearted, captives/prisoners, mourners who remain righteous,* a crown of **beauty** (Isaiah 61:3)

C. CROWN OF BLESSING (to always have God's favor upon you)

8. *For those who lead a righteous life,* a crown of **blessing** (Prov 10:6)

9. *For elders (heads of the 12 tribes of Israel and 12 Apostles) who are seated before the throne of God,* crowns of **gold** (Rev 4:4)

D. CROWN OF JOY (a joyful, optimistic countenance forever)

10. *For the ransomed of the Lord who walk in the way of holiness,* a crown of **everlasting joy** (Isaiah 35:10 and Isaiah 51:11)

11. *For those who act like a "brother" to other believers,* a crown of **joy** (Philip 4:1; 1 Thess 2:19)

E. CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (perfect holiness, to be "right" with God in everything for all time)

12. *For those who have "fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith," as well as for "all who have longed for His appearing,"* a crown of **righteousness** (2 Timothy 4:8)

F. CROWN OF VICTORY (final/ultimate win, with no possibility for future defeat)

13. *For running the race faithfully,* a crown of **victory** (2 Timothy 2:5)

Question: Some believe these crowns are for "privileged" disciples (who is greatest in the kingdom?), but not others. IE, some will have greater rewards than others in heaven. However, look through the list and ask, does it make sense to think Jesus would withhold ANY of these "crowns" from any faithful disciple? If yes, which ones? *perhaps "rewards" are receiving praise (well done) from Jesus Himself?

*POINT = these are SOME of the rewards faithful disciples can expect, however this list barely brushes the surface of what is to come

*Rev 21:4, "no more mourning, crying, or pain ... etc

More to the Point for our study of Rev. 4

CROWN also = Spiritual treasures given BY disciples TO Jesus

The Crown that Disciples Give to Jesus in Heaven:

Rev 4:10, In the throne room of heaven, John sees "24 elders" falling down before God in worship, **casting their crowns before Him**

- again, it is figurative, metaphorical language for a very important point that scripture emphasizes in a myriad of places

The point? Our application:

When the 24 Elders (who represent the fullness of ALL of God's people) "cast their crowns" or "present their crowns to Christ," WHAT DO THOSE CROWNS REPRESENT?

Rev 4:10-11, "the twenty-four elders fall before the one seated on the throne. They worship the one who lives forever and always. They **lay down their crowns before the throne** and say, ¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory...

What brings God glory?

John 15:8, "My Father is glorified when you produce FRUIT

... fruits of the Spirit glorify God

... worldly wealth/gold is irrelevant/meaningless to God

... FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT then = a blessing to YOU

- are a blessing to GOD

- are a GIFT from God to YOU

- are a GIFT from YOU to GOD

... very similar concept to the idea here of "CROWNS"

Therefore: Remembering, 24 Elders represent ALL Christians

These Elders are *already purified in heaven*

... then, back to 1 Cor 3

THE CROWNS OF THE ELDERS (who represent ALL of God's family for all time)

= culmination of *your* "precious stones, gold, silver" from 1 Cor 3, set in a

crown, and given to Jesus when we come before His Heavenly Throne

- *a bit of speculation here, but backed by scripture: When you "lay your crown at the feet of Jesus, and it is FILLED with heavenly treasure from the faithfulness of your life that have glorified God, what do you think will be Jesus' response?*

- *He tells us in Mt 25, "Well done, my good and faithful servant"*

- it is the culmination of all of your "treasures in heaven" that, rather than given to you by Jesus, they are given BY you TO Jesus

*and on that day, you will want nothing more, than to have a

"Beautiful crown" set with heavenly precious stones, gold and silver, to present to the Lord who is seated on His heavenly Throne, who calls you by NAME, to come before Him and present the "crown" that represents the entirety of your life's faithfulness (or not)

Hopefully the "take away" is obvious:

- be prepared for the Day when you appear before the Throne of Christ

- build your treasures in heaven, by being FAITHFUL on earth

- faithful = you LOVE Jesus, and you DO what He Says

Takeaway? What does the "Crown you are going to give Jesus" look like today? Even more, are you daily working to improve the "Value" of your heavenly crown, for when you will appear before the Throne of Christ?

Items of Note:

Ash Wed Service, Feb 14, 6:30 pm- Save the date and join us Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30pm for our Ash Wednesday service.

Lent Adult Bible Study begins Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 6:30 pm - Few things matter more than our view of Christ. "Who Jesus is" shapes priorities, values, beliefs and ultimately eternity. Paul's letter to the church in Colossae lays out the person of Christ, why He is supreme above all others, and how we should respond to His greatness..

For more information, email shawn@lifepointfellowship.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

HABIT 1 of Faithful Discipleship: Have a daily devotional. How? 3 Steps:

I. Work through the 5 Prayer Forms

1 - Begin w/Centering Prayer

- Mt 11:28-30, Name and Release your burdens/distractions to Christ

- Psalm 46:10, Consciously seek to clear your mind and "Be Still"

2 - Intentionally Glorify (worship) the Lord

- involves your participation by glorifying God, adoration, praise and worship

- Name the "Good" within you (the specific "fruit" you are experiencing today, like peace, or love, or joy, or hope, faithfulness, goodness, etc.)

- Name the "Good" around you (Gen 1:31, "And God saw that it was good.")

a. What do you see that God has made that is good today in the creation?

- Participate: Lift Up the "Good in You" with the "Good In Creation" in worship

3 - Confess Your Sins

a. What have you done that is wrong? (From works to 7 Deadly sins)

b. What have you left undone that would have been right?

4 - Give Thanks to God for your Blessings (name them)

5 - Make Your Requests to God

a. for other people who are on your heart

- include your church leadership and family

- include people you know who need to accept Christ/get right with Him

b. Make requests to God for yourself

2. Time of Listening to God through His Words

Read through the daily scripture passages, with the goal to "hear from God" on any point you feel relates to you. Stop and reflect on those truths.

Feb 5 - Mon - Rev 4 **Feb 6 Tues** - Rev 5 **Feb 7 Wed** - 1 Cor 2-3

Feb 8 Thur - Mt 25 **Feb 9 Fri** - Rev 20 **Feb 10 Sat** - Mt 6

3. Closing Prayer + The Lord's Prayer