

# A Heart in Harmony With the Throne of God

by Al Whittinghill

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*God wants to establish His throne room in our hearts, where He can be worshipped and adored, and where we can experience revival and the kingdom of heaven.*

**Duration:** 49:10

**Scripture:** Isaiah 57:15, Revelation 4:2, Revelation 15:1-3

**Topics:** "Throne Of God"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of worshiping God and recognizing His sovereignty. He highlights the difference between seeing God as the sovereign Lord in chapter four and as the suffering lamb in chapter five. The preacher explains that in chapter four, God's power and eternity are praised, but in chapter five, the praise intensifies because of the atonement and the shedding of Jesus' blood. The sermon also mentions the significance of the throne, the presence of the elders, and the imagery of lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

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## Transcript

My heart is still overflowing with the glory of what we shared together last night. It was a wonderful time, and it's a privilege for me to stand here this morning. I'm a little stunned by the supernatural synthesizing of all the words we've heard.

By the Lord, it seems that is a major theme coming together. I was especially stunned when I knew last night what the Lord had laid on my heart for this morning. And thank you for the privilege of fellowship with you this week.

It's been wonderful. My wife Mary Mallon and I have been touched by the Lord. We appreciate you very much.

You know, the story is told that Dr. Christian Bernard, the first person to ever do a heart transplant, after he was visiting that first person he ever took their heart out and put a new one in, he went to them after that surgery, and as he was talking to the patient, as he was able to finally talk, he said to that patient, Would you like to see your old heart? And the story is told, Hal, that the man said yes, and he went into the other room, the doctor, and brought out a big, gross laboratory bottle. And in that bottle was an old, tired, worn-out muscle. And as they looked at that together, they both got tears in their eyes because they realized it was the first time in human history, what a historic moment, that a man had ever really seen his

own heart.

And the man looked up in a profound moment and said to the doctor, he said, Doctor, I'm glad I don't have that old heart anymore. Well, it's maybe the first time in human history, but I'll tell you, when the Lord Jesus takes His Word and does heart surgery, many, many times it's easy for those who are His people to see their own heart. And you know what? It's a tired, worn-out thing, like an adamant stone.

But the Lord says, I'll have mercy on you. I will take out of you the old heart, and I will put within you a new heart, a heart that can know Me, a heart in which I'll write with My fiery finger the very words of life, the very laws of God, and you shall know Me from the least to the greatest of you. Well, the Lord's done some surgery this week, and as I've been thinking about how He would want to send us out of here, I wish you'd turn in your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 57.

Did you know that God had two throne rooms? Let me just read. Isaiah 57, verse 15. Some people say that there are two Isaiahs.

But I believe that the second part of Isaiah was so different. After he saw the Lord, after he saw the Lord high and lifted up, it changed his perspective to heavenly. It humbled his personality, and it gave him a holy purpose.

So that when he wrote these words directly from the heart of God to us, he's giving a revelation to us about that person who has a new heart. Listen to this, verse 15. For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is holy.

I dwell in the high and holy place with Him also that is of a contrite and a humble spirit to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. This mighty God that we've been glorying in all week dwells in the high and holy throne room with a particular sort of heart and that is a humble, contrite, broken heart. That's the one He will revive.

That's what's in heaven right now. He's dwelling there in the heavenly Jerusalem, the Zion above with humble, broken, contrite, revived people. But look at Isaiah 66, verse 1 and 2 and you'll see His other throne room.

He says what Stephen is quoting when he is stoned. Stephen is quoting this verse in Acts chapter 7, verse 49 and it so infuriates the people who are placing confidence in a physical temple that they stone him. He says these words, Thus says the Lord, again He's speaking, Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool.

Where is the house that you will build for me? And where is the place where I will rest? Where is the place that man could ever make for a habitation of God? And then He says, For all these things, meaning that men can build, My hands have made. And all those things have always been. But here it is.

But to this man will I look. Even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at my word. When he hears the word of God, he's moved on the inside.

He's stunned by what he sees. He's walking in fear of God. He respects the Lord.

And this is the person, God says, that I will establish my throne room in. You see, in the world system, when something is broken, you put it aside. Or you put it in the yard sale.

Or you might give it to the church. But in the kingdom of God, it's just the opposite. You see, He sets unbroken things aside.

And it's the precious broken things that He uses to confound the wise and show the world His great glory through vessels of clay. Just channels who are weak and who let Him establish His throne in their heart. God has two throne rooms.

One in the highest heaven and one in the lowest of hearts. It's like those royal kings in England, as an illustration. They used to have a magnificent throne room in the capital city of their kingdom.

And it filled those who came into it with great awe. But when the king wanted to go out among his kingdom, he would leave that throne room and go out with a smaller throne. Ivory, perhaps with gold inlays.

And he would set up a tent to meet his magistrates and landowners. And when he met with them, he sat on that throne. And you know what? When he sat on that portable, mobile, humble throne, it had all the authority that the big throne had because he was on it.

That's what our Lord Jesus did. He emptied Himself. The fullness of the Godhead bodily came and was tabernacled.

Veiled in flesh, the Godhead seen. Hail, incarnate deity. God in the flesh, Emmanuel.

He was tabernacled among us. And occasionally during His ministry, you'd see Him pick up the corner of that veil. And when they did, He was transfigured before them.

And all the glory of Heaven's Holy of Holies showed out and they were stunned because they didn't know who this really was in that earth suit that was really a man, but yet God in the flesh. And you know, He was crucified. His blood was shed for me, for you.

Buried, raised, ascended, enthroned by the Father. And so now as He sends His Holy Spirit back into the world, we say, come into our hearts, Lord Jesus. But He doesn't just come as some ambiguous spirit.

He comes to enthrone Himself. In your throne room. To the broken, to the humble, to the contrite, to those who come and who know they need the cross and they know that they're a sinner that has no hope apart from the precious blood of Jesus.

They open up. They tear the veil of their flesh and into their inner man, that esoteric man, that spirit man, comes the risen, radiant Lord Jesus Christ and is enthroned. And the Father's throne room finds a place in us.

You see, it's the secret place of your life. You have an outer core. You have a body.

You have a soul that's like a holy place. You have volition and intellect and the aspects of your soul. But in the inner man, the spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord.

In that secret place of the Most High, He wants to live. The Bible says you're not your own. You're bought with a price.

You have the Holy Spirit in you if you're a Christian. And it's of God's doing. He's placed Him in there, in the hidden man of the heart.

You're an ambassador. You have the word of a king. And in your heart, He wants to be enthroned in majesty and in power.

And He wants to establish His Lordship as it says in Romans 14, 8 and 9. To this end, Christ was crucified and buried and revived that He might be the Lord of the dead and the living. He wants to establish Thy kingdom come on this earth and Thy will be done on earth as it is being done in heaven. Because forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in the heavens.

But we have the privilege of settling it on earth. It's an awesome thing. When He comes, Romans 5, 17, we can reign in life.

Not we reign, but Him reign in us. We reign in life by the Lord Jesus, the same King. He wants Christ in me to be the hulk of glory.

And this is what He wants to do. And we've got to come to an inner agreement with this throne room with that throne room. If you want to know what's supposed to be in your heart, if you want to know the attitude and the atmosphere and what's supposed to fill your heart, then you need to look at what's going on in the throne room of God.

Whatever wouldn't fit there mustn't fit here. Whatever's going on there has got to fit here. And that's the great key, isn't it? Of being a true vessel of revival.

You know what revival is? It's when God gets so sick and tired of being misrepresented by the church that's known by His name that He decides to show up in person and clear up the discrepancy. It's when He expands His throne room and His glory comes. And it's really... You think of any aspect of revival and that is when His throne room is felt and known.

We sensed it last night. The royal majesty of His holy presence. It was stunning.

I was surprised, actually, that we could stay on our feet. Because those who see Him best and know Him most dearly and clearly are on their faces. Jesus said, The kingdom of heaven is within you.

Luke 17, 20. And then He said, The kingdom of heaven cometh not with observation. That means that it doesn't just come as you just make lists and methods of how to do this.

And you come and you hear seminars. It comes by revelation. It comes not by observation.

It comes as God unveils Himself to the eyes of your heart. And you see Him high and lifted up. You see Him, as the old song says, beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee, Lord.

It's when you've heard something. Heard something beyond the human ear. I hath not seen, e'er hath not heard, but God's prepared good things and He shows them to us by His Spirit.

He wants in your heart the same atmosphere, the same attitude, the same adoration, the same attention that you see, the same authority that you see around the throne room of God. This is His will for your life. You see, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, saith the Lord.

And so are my thoughts higher than your thoughts. We must have an elevated perspective. We must come into His holiest of all through prayer and through the Word and through fellowship with other believers and have our hearts tuned to see and know who He is and to live in the harmony of that atmosphere.

My perspective must be changed. There must be a reality shift in me. It's the upward call of God.

I've got to be like Paul who says, we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. The things that you see are temporary. The things you don't see, they're eternal.

And that's what He wants to enthrone in you, brother and sister. And when that happens, then that's when the conforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ... It's the secret of the saints of old. They lived in the throne room of God.

Elijah could walk into the king and say, The Lord before whom I stand, as the Lord liveth, I will say what the Lord speaks to me. He lived in the throne room that you cannot see. That's what the early church did.

They were drunk with the majesty of the presence of the throne room of God. They lived in His presence. It says in Psalm 77, Thy way, O Lord, is in Thy presence.

It's walking in the presence. In Thy presence is fullness of joy. This is not something we struggle to attain.

This is something that is a pure gift of grace that we are seated in the heavenlies. That's where your home is. That's where you are if you're a Christian.

You're living in the heavenlies and you're seated with Christ by faith on the light side of the cross. But you never forsake the cross because it's to the broken and the contrite and those who take up the cross that the light shines through. There's no searchlight so bright as the one that shines from the top of Mount Calvary.

He wants to shine that through your heart. There's a revelation, you see, that God wants to give. When Paul saw Jesus high and lifted up, he fell off his high horse and fell in the dirt and said, Who are you, Lord? Because such was too great for him.

And Jesus said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. He changed his perspective and he gave him a new center of everything. Flesh and blood cannot reveal it to you.

But my Father, which is in heaven, that's what He wants us to see. Have you seen beyond your church activities? Have you seen it this week? Have you seen that you have the privilege of living without ceasing in the throne room of God and that He is saying, Come unto me and come boldly by the blood of Jesus to the throne of grace. It's a throne, though.

Come to the throne of grace and there you'll find that your needs are totally in me. Matt, everything that I am, you're a joint heir and all the wonderful truth we heard last night about how you're a spiritual millionaire. But you see, you've got to have a new heart to appreciate it.

And you've got to guard that heart because who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord? Who will stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who guards his heart and doesn't take liberties with the holy things of God as he's pressured by the power of the world. I have been so moved lately as I've been studying about the harp. I've always kind of taken it lightly that there were harps in

heaven.

And I said, we're not going to sit around all day and play harps like you hear the world talking about. But then as I was reading in the book of Revelation, studying that throne room, I saw above the sound of all of the praise and the adoration and above all the glory of it in Revelation 14 and 15, it says in those first verses as that man, as John is caught up, and he says, I looked and lo, a lamb stood on the Mount Zion and with Him 144,000 having His Father's name on their foreheads. Revelation 14.1 And I heard the voice from heaven as the voice of many waters.

How loud is it? And the voice of thunders. And I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne of God.

Amazing. In the Old Testament, they'd have sometimes a thousand harps. And they'd be harping.

You read about harps in the Old Testament, how that was so identified with worship. How they had songs of mourning, songs of praise, dancing with harps, praying with harps. The whole psalms were written to be sung on the harp because the harp is a picture of the human heart.

You ever heard anybody say, Boy, that struck a chord in my heart. Oh, you strummed the strings of my heart. Well, it's an instrument of praise.

That's why it says that we're to be singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. He's given me a new song. And there's an instrument of praise in here, in the inner sanctuary, that's supposed to match up with what I'm reading here.

Revelation 15, verse 1. I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mingled with fire. And them who'd gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, they were standing on this crystal sea having the harps of God.

And they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb about deliverance, about coming out. Those who see Him most clearly in the universe. And you'll see it back in chapter 5. They're singing about the atonement.

They're singing about the cross. It's the only thing you see. Nowhere else, nowhere else do we know the activity of the saints in heaven and those redeemed ones who've washed in the blood.

But even the heavens, He's washed in His blood. So, you see, harps are an amazing thing. It's interesting that the new harps they're making in Israel, they said for years that the voice of the harper would cease in Israel.

And they hung their harps on the willow and Israel went into captivity. And they said, but when we come home, they would always say this, just before Messiah comes, you will hear the sound of the harp in the land again. And today they're making harps in Israel.

And they have 22 strings, some of them. You say, why? Because they're 22 Hebrew letters. And it says in Samuel, they can prophesy even with the harp.

Worship and praise and singing to the Lord Jesus in your heart. You're making melody. Singing.

There's something more to music and worship than meets the eye. Oh, it's deep. Oh, it's awesome.

And it's powerful as the kingdom of heaven is within us. You see, I'm told. So, I start on this search of finding out about harps and pianos.

And I've been asking musicians. I asked Patricia some things. I heard this.

I don't know about music, but I heard this. That if you take a harp, and the C notes, by the way, are painted red. Isn't that something? And if you were to strike a C note on this chord of a harp and put a silent harp beside it, very soon, it's that word for tremble in Isaiah.

Those strings, just the C notes, would begin to vibrate. They call it sympathetic vibrations. It would begin to tremble because of that picking up of that harmonic.

That harmonic that would come and fill up that note. And soon, that first harp would pick up the vibrations of that second harp. And there'd be a resonance like a vibration.

You see, if your heart is silent... Brother, yesterday, a brother stood and he said he had no song in his heart. Well, brother, if you have no song in your heart, hold your heart up next to what's going on in heaven. You read about what's going on there.

You see, to this man would I look, the one who trembles at my word. The one who trembles. And you see, when you hear his word, how do you tune your heart to sing his praise? Come thou fount of every blessing.

He saw it. He saw it. Tune my heart to sing thy praise.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, they speak to me about your grace. Lord, your praise. Take my heart, seal it for thy courts above.

How do you tune your heart? Well, only three ways that I can see. An open Bible in the presence of God. Beyond the sacred page where he speaks the living word, the rhema of God.

As you're in the Scriptures and your heart is lifted, you're brought into a growing agreement with the mind of God. Renewed in the spirit of your mind. And sanctified by the renewal, not removal, of your mind.

And as you learn his thoughts and the mind of Christ finds through the very word of God, and you hide that living word in your heart, your heart is tuned to agree with God. Agreeing with God in a daily deepening basis is simply a deepening... Maybe I'm wrong, brother. Correct me later.

A deepening daily repentance. Turning from my old ways of thinking. My old and exchanged mind, as we heard.

Where it's the mind of Christ instead of the mind of this world and the flesh. And all that I've ever had. And the other way to tune it is prayer.

Time alone with God. Not just reading the word and having heaven open, but hearing His voice. At the voice of the Lord may all the world tremble.

And those who tremble at my word, who hear that holy resonance of the living God opening to us, the Holy Spirit taking the things of Christ and showing them to us. And as I am in prayer, being still, holding my

heart next to that throne room of God, and knowing Him, my heart begins to tremble. And I'm changed.

And the third thing. Other godly saints. And I fellowship with them, as we heard last night.

I need you and you need me. And God will take that something of who He is and show that in your heart and in your mind as you see that blending of heavenly will and sharing of heart and sympathy and an honest communication and a meeting together at the throne of God and the power of His presence released in your life corporately. The secret strength of all those saints and the secret strength of the saints that you love and know is they have a life in the throne room of God.

How about you? Have you this week heard something from the other side, what you call? It's not just us ascending into the hill of the Lord. It's His throne room, in a sense, descending to the humble and contrite heart and enthroning Himself in His majesty so that as you go forth as Miss Christensen prayed, that you can see the radiance of His light. The Lamb is the light.

Thereof, a body, a person, incorporate all as they have their reality shifted. Well, you see, the Lord wants us to humble ourselves. He wants us to become a habitation of God for His Holy Spirit.

A dwelling place for who He is. To live and move and have His being. I will dwell in them.

I will walk in them. Not heaven later, but a foretaste now. As more and more every day, the veil, I come to the Lord with an unveiled face, beholding as in the Word of God the very face of the Lord Jesus.

And as I worship Him, I am being changed even by the Spirit of God into that same image that I behold in the mirror of the Word as I see Him in His light. I have light. F.B. Meyer was once, as an old man studying, and he said to a younger preacher, he said, when I was young, I used to talk about spiritual gifts and I would see them on shelves.

And I thought as I grew that I could reach up and get the best gifts. Because they were surely on the shelves for the ones who've grown. But he says, the more I walk with the Lord Jesus in His presence, I realize that it's not the highest shelves that have the best gifts.

It's on the lowest shelves. You have to go down. I must decrease that He might increase.

And you see, it's the old precious cross. His cross. Taken.

Not just a cross. The cross. No longer I, but Christ.

Owning that. The cross revealed to me. A sinner is pardoned.

The cross revealed in me. A saint is purified. The cross revealed through me.

A Savior is proclaimed to a world that has no answers except for the one that He's put in your heart as a stewardship. But you have to have the throne room of the Lamb there. I want to finish by taking you to that throne room in Revelation 4 because I believe the Lord wants to raise our perspective to His.

I believe that He wants us to sing and make melody in our hearts. You see, too many of us live in the wilderness of the logical. We live in just the dull regions of the explainable.

We want to explain everything. And we've lost that great wonder and astonishment and the awe that I think is really the fear of the Lord because we sense who He is. In the holiness of His presence.

Words like astonishment and wonder and amazement and admiration and fascination. Do these describe our worship? It's because we've lost touch with the throne room of God. Lord, tune our hearts by time in Your Word alone.

As you take the Scriptures and open them, the burning heart will begin to burn as you take the things and show to us the Lord Jesus Christ. Father, as You open to us and give us a listening heart as we pray and as You open up, how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out. When was the last time you were totally amazed alone in the presence of God? You didn't have any words.

All you could do was just be in awe. Has it happened to you recently? We're supposed to live there. We're supposed to live in that holy presence.

And we all, we all, prone to wonder, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love. But here's my heart, O God.

Take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above. We've come to the Mount Zion to an innumerable company of those who've been washed and sealed and it's the blood of sprinkling.

And we come boldly to the throne room and that's where we live today. And out of that emanating of that throne room, the King that's there sitting on the throne in our heart, even though it's a humble and a mobile little tent that you're in right now, in you is His throne room. And what is in His really permanent throne room, it says in Revelation, thrones and throne.

And soon in the end you don't see those thrones because they're all absorbed back into His. And that's what's going to happen to you. But until that day, we need to get a vision, a revelation like Isaiah of the Lord Jesus high and lifted up.

I want to take you to Revelation 4. I need to hurry here, but I want to just say that John the Beloved, he knew Jesus as well as anybody on this earth. He saw miracles. He walked with Him.

He knew so much of what we think we know on a tangible level. But when he was on Patmos and he was praying in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, he heard a voice. And as he looked around, he saw Him who's the High Priest of the throne room of the kingdom of heaven.

And he wilted. He became as a dead man as he saw Him whose eyes were as a flame of fire, whose voice was like the many waters, whose hair was white like wool, whose face was brighter than the noonday sun. He who laid His ear on His chest at the Last Supper.

He could have heard His natural heartbeat in His chest. But when he saw Jesus as He is today, with the glory He's had with His Father since before the foundation of the world, He fell at His feet as a dead man. And the Lord Jesus in grace, fear not! I am He that was dead.

I am alive forevermore. I want to show you something. And so in Revelation chapter 1, he shows himself to John.

It's the revelation, singular, of the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole book. The consummation.

And you see in those first three chapters, he's revealing himself where he loves to live. In his churches. The candlestick is the presence of God.

The candlesticks being like the Word of God. That golden table of bread being the fellowship of the saints and the prayer altar. Those three things that teach me about the throne room of God.

And so, as he wants me to learn to live in his throne room, he says to John, come up here, and in chapter 4, he says, verse 1, After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven. And that's what you have opened before you. At any time, from any place, we have access.

The veil when the Lord Jesus was crucified was torn from the top to the bottom. Right down the middle. They say it took 3,000 priests to hang that veil.

That's how heavy that veil was in the temple. But God tore it. Saying the way into the holiest is now open because the blood of the one prophesied has been shed.

And whosoever will may come to me. And it says, After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was as it was of a trumpet talking with me.

Which said, come up here. And I will show you things which must be. Immediately, I was in the Spirit.

In chapter 4, you see him seeing something. In chapter 5, you see him seeing something. And it's something so astonishing that it just blows him away.

These chapters are put here for a purpose because in chapter 6, you see those judgments begin to fall. And if you were looking at the judgments, your heart would wilt. You'd wonder what's going on.

But God put these two chapters here, I believe, like an anchor of the soul. To say there's never a panic in the throne room of God. Tune your heart to these awesome things.

And there's two things that John sees. And here they are. You see him see in that first chapter 4, he says, verse 2, Immediately, I was in the Spirit.

And behold, a throne was set in heaven. And one sat upon the throne. Did you know that the book of Revelation mentions the word throne 46 times more than any other book in the whole Bible? The throne.

Did you know that the second most repeated word in the book of Revelation is the word lamb and it's 28 times more than any other book in all the New Testament? And did you know that the third most common word is the word worship, which is 24 times? And you put those three together and the stress of the book is worship the lamb on the throne. That's what's happening in the presence of deity. That's what's happening in the hearts and minds of those who have the most intelligent view of Him in all the universe.

And John is caught up and he sees, behold, a throne. And one sat upon this throne. It was like to look upon Him like Jasper and Sardine.

And there was a rainbow round about the throne in sight like an emerald. We see that the one who sits on this throne is a covenant-keeping God. This is the one that suggests Genesis 9 with the covenant rainbow of Noah that I am the God who never breaks His word.

Heaven and earth will pass away. But my promises are sure. And round about this throne were four and twenty elders sitting clothed in white garments.

And they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of this throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices what an awesome sight it is. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven spirits of God.

And before the throne was a sea of glass like unto crystal. And in the midst of the throne and round about the throne were four living creatures full of eyes. Before and behind.

And the first beast was like a lion. And the second like a calf. And the third had a face as a man.

And the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And these four living creatures each had six wings round about him. And they were full of eyes within.

And they rest not day or night. Here's the atmosphere of heaven. And they were crying like Isaiah heard, Holy, holy, holy, thrice holy, Lord God Almighty which was and is and is to come.

And when those beasts gave glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the throne who lives forever and ever, the four and twenty elders fall down seven times in the book of Revelation. It's God's number. They fall down.

When they see Him on their throne, when they see Him on His throne, they fall off their throne. And when you see Him on His throne, and when I see Him, I will slither off of my throne and allow Him in everything to have the preeminence. And the four living creatures, they fall down before Him that sat on the throne.

And they worship Him who lives forever and ever. And they throw their crowns like celestial frisbees before the throne of God. And they're saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power for You have created all things and for Thy pleasure.

It's not my pleasure. It's not how much pleasure you're getting or how much pleasure your wife is getting or how much pleasure your kids are getting from your life, but how much pleasure is God getting. Have you seen it, that the way He gets pleasure is that you let Him enthrone His very majesty in your life.

That's why they're created. And so you see in chapter 4, sovereign God, Creator, and you learn there's a throne there. And in a simple picture, you see, what is sin? Sin is simply being away from that throne.

The one who made you has a right to reign in your life. And if you're away from that throne, independent, out of touch, it's sin. Doesn't matter how good man calls it, it's sin.

They've all gone their own way. And repentance in its simplest essence is coming back to that throne. Tears without coming back to the throne is just presumption.

But it's coming back to this throne of God. And falling and saying, Thou art a covenant-keeping God. I was made for Your pleasure.

I was made for Your glory. Enthroned Yourself. That's the holiness of God.

And we see in this chapter 4, God praised as Creator. Sovereign Lord. But then, he sees something else in chapter 5. And the praise even eclipses that of 4. And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and without on the backside sealed with seven seals.

If you know your Bible, you'll know that's the Redeemer's scroll. The Goel's scroll. The Kinsman Redeemer.

It's the consummative book that God will redeem the earth and bring in everlasting righteousness. Not seven seals like this, but a scroll, sealed, written on both sides. Written some more and sealed, and consecutive seals that you'll see opened in a moment.

And only one person who has the redeeming right can open this. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy? Who's the Kinsman Redeemer? Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof? It's a challenge to the universe. And no man in heaven, in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, and look at this, even to look at it.

And in case you didn't get it, it says it again. I wept much, John says, because he loved the Lord. And he wanted everlasting righteousness to come in the kingdom, to come in power.

He says, Because no man was found worthy, I wept much to open and read the book, or even to look at it. And, thank God, one of the elders says to me, says John, Weep not! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, suggests strength and permanence. He has overcome to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof.

These are the majestic qualities of Messiah. And so he turns to look at this One who's overcome. And what does he see? Here's the second thing he sees.

It astonishes him. It's that term of astonishment. Behold! And behold, and lo, in the midst of the throne, and of the living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb, as it had been slain.

This Lamb is the suffering Lamb, with the marks of death. It's the standing Lamb. But this Lamb has seven horns.

That's all power, in the language of Scripture. And He has seven eyes. That's omniscience, in the language of Scripture.

And seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. That's omnipresence, in the language of Scripture. And this is a unique word for Lamb.

It's the word that means gentle Lamb. Whereas in other places you see Lamb, it's more middle-aged Lamb, grown, mature. But this is a gentle baby Lamb.

A frolicking Lamb. When I was in Australia, we stopped at a car stop one day, and all these Lambs were going across, out in the outback. Little tiny little animals, cutest things you've ever seen.

And the driver said, watch this. These little tiny Lambs. And they got out of the car, and they went, whistle.

And they all had, they have long ears, that hang down to their knees. And their ears all went, up like this. And they kind of hopped.

They were the cutest things you've ever seen. Harmless. If you ever put them with your children, they would absolutely love them.

It's the picture here. On the throne, is a gentle, tender, compassionate, one, who's a Lamb. But this is all powerful Lamb.

Even in that amazing togetherness. And He came, and He took the book, out of the right hand of Him who sat upon the throne. I'll take that.

That's mine. It belongs to me. I am the one who's to open the book, He's saying.

And when He had taken the book, oh, even eclipsing the praise of the last chapter, it says the four living creatures, and the four and twenty elders, they fell down in the presence of the Lamb, having every one of them, harps, every one of them, harps, and golden vials, which are the prayers of the saints at the cove. The prayers of the saints at your church. The prayers of the saints in the prayer closet.

Vials, kept up. Are not all my tears written in your book, Lord? Are they not in your bottle? Don't you keep these things? A book of remembrance of those who call upon the Lord, and who fear His name. The prayers of the saints.

And they sung a new song. Those with harps in their heart, and singing, they sing this song, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof, because you were slain. You have redeemed us to God by your blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, and you've made us to our God, kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth.

We shall reign on the earth. That's present. This is going on right now, friends.

This is the eternal present. You can't talk in terms of time when you start talking about this. When you get to heaven, you're going to find out that you've been there as long as Paul.

Now, I don't understand that. I admit to you. There's no time there.

Correct me if I'm wrong, brother. And I beheld, listen to this, I beheld and heard the voice of many angels round about the throne, and the beasts, and the elders, and the living. And the number of them was ten.

Ron, the word is myriad, more than a thousand. Ten myriads, times ten myriads, and myriads of myriads. And they were saying with a loud voice, listen to the heart that's in harmony with heaven.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. That's the throne room's heartbeat. The praise to the Lamb of God.

Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and all that are in the sea, and all that's in them, heard I say, blessing, and honor, and glory, and power. Be unto Him who sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

And the four living creatures said, Amen! And I want to know why we're so quiet. I'm telling you, last night, we should have all been on our faces. Sometimes when you read these verses, saints ought to get up and stand in the pews and swing their coats over their head going, Yahoo! Or something.

Even, just say something. And the four and twenty elders fall down and worship Him who lives forever and ever. Behold the throne! Holy, sovereign God! All-powerful Creator! Even if He was a terrible God, you'd be smart to be on His side.

Because He's God. But you see, you see in chapter 4, the power, and the eternity, and the sovereignty of the throne of God. You see Him as the sovereign Lord.

But in chapter 5, you behold something that changes what that means to you. You behold the throne. And whereas in chapter 4, the praise is there for the sovereign Lord, the praise eclipses that in chapter 5. Why is that? Because as Creator, in chapter 4, all He had to do was speak.

But in chapter 5, He had to shed His blood. He's the suffering Lamb. And they're praising Him around the throne at this moment, for the Lamb of God.

And the big lesson is this. You see, if I say, are you walking with the Lord? You'd say, yes I am. But you see, in chapter 4, you see the dominion of the throne.

The power of the throne. And what it means, and I come back to Him. But in chapter 5, you see the person who's on the throne.

We've just had a change of presidents. Same executive power, basically. But who is exercising that? That makes all the difference as to how it's exercised.

Things change. And so it is with this picture. The power, the throne room, chapter 4, the Almighty Sovereign God.

But when you see who's on that throne, it is the Lamb of God who's on that throne. And who is on that throne makes all the difference to me when I come to that throne and try to be right. It is the Lamb that wants to reign on the throne of my heart this morning as you go home.

Behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Fear not, little flock. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

When you're saved, your names are written in the Lamb's book of life. If you go down here to the courthouse, you won't find any dogs or cats in the human birth records. It's humans.

And so who do you find in the Lamb's book of life? Lambs. Who are the Lamb's wives? The people who know Him. Well, of course, He marries them after their kind.

Lambs. I send you forth as lambs. See, that's the picture that God has chosen to relate what He's like to us.

He's as a Lamb on the throne. And so when I come back to the throne, friend, I just want to say this final thing. When you come to the throne, and you say, Lord, establish my heart in harmony with Your throne.

Let me tell you, if you're going to be in harmony with the throne of God, you're going to have to be in harmony with the Lamb of God. You know, if I think there's some lion on the throne, then when I come to the throne, I can be in fellowship with that throne while everybody that crosses me, I go, because that's what God is like. Thou thoughtest I was altogether such a one as you.

He says somebody made reference to that. If I think there's some CEO type that puts down people and pushes them down and makes some corporate kind of relationship on the whole world, then that's what I can be like. But when I see there's a lamb, how can two walk together except they be agreed? Come unto Me if you're weary, if you're broken, if you're contrite, and you're heavy laden, you come to Me and I'll give

you rest and take My yoke upon you.

I always thought that was a big bull. I mean, the figure of a yoke, a big strong bull. But He says, I am meek and lowly in heart.

That's a lamb talking. And His yoke is not the yoke you see when you think in your mind like this. It's the cross.

Take My yoke upon you. And that's where you'll find rest. As you lose your own life, you'll find His enthroned.

But if you don't lose your own life, if you don't lose your own reign, if you don't lose your own throne room, and you try to occupy it and just let Him fill in your, decorate your walls, you will miss the zoe, the life of God, the Lamb of God. You see, our theology must become doxology. And the way to that is neology.

Time alone with God. In the Word of God. As He quickens this, He will open the Scriptures and your hearts will burn.

And if your heart is set on fire, if your bones have radium from heaven, that radiance of the throne room we heard prayed about, if that is in your bones, the bones is where your blood is made. You'll have hot blood. And it will course throughout your whole being and affect everybody else.

The Lamb is to reign on the throne of my heart. So I want to ask you, are you in harmony with the throne room of God? Are you? Is there a Lamb on the throne in your heart? I never forget the time a man came to me and said, there's not a Lamb on my heart. All kinds of other things, but not the Lamb.

If you're walking with Jesus, like He wants you to walk with Him, there'll be a Lamb on the throne. And He'll send you like He was sent. The same way.

Not just in the same activity, but the same character. This is our passion. To live in His throne room.

And to let that great throne room fill up this throne room. So that as we go, we're a walking worship service. And our hearts are singing and making melody and rejoicing with the anthems of those who are there now.

Well, I want to pray with you. Father, we pray today that You will open our eyes. The eyes of our heart.

That we might know what is the hope of Your calling. That we might see from Your Word, by Your Spirit, what is the exceeding riches of Your inheritance in us as Your people. Your throne room inside.

Your power, Your glory, Your character, Your majesty, Your authority, all that You are. Released through the channel of our being. And that we might see the exceeding greatness of Your power because You're alive forevermore and You're in Your people.

Lord, show us this morning that the way up is the way down. And if we're feeling high and dry, it must be because we're high. Oh God, give us the grace to obey and humble ourselves.

And day by day, to take up Your cross and follow You. But may it not be just the glib duty of a person who has the resolve of just separateness. But may it be the inward burning of the fire of God on the altar of our heart as we fall in amazed submission before the living Lamb of God, the throne of eternity.

May we join our hearts in with that eternal praise meeting. May we live in that atmosphere. May that atmosphere invade us.

Lord, we've been praying for revival. We know that's when You invade. You invade us with Your presence.

I pray this morning that we make that circle of chalk and say, send revival in that throne room, that Your throne in that circle, that Your throne room will be established and what's inside that circle.

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