



THRONES

In Psalm 45 we find the words, *"Your throne is for ever and ever"*. This quotation is repeated in Hebrews chapter 1. The words are significant declaring who our Lord Jesus is, describing Him 'as sat down' on the right hand of the 'majesty on high' having purged our sins. Jesus is the Son of God, is the brightness of the glory of God and the exact expression of His person. Having fulfilled His ministry on the earth as the Lamb of God He returns to heaven. Jesus work on earth is completed and therefore Jesus is able to take up His eternal heavenly ministry, this He does from the throne of heaven.

Isaiah, in chapter 9, tells of the child born and the son given. He is described as the Wonderful, the Counsellor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end. This government and peace being established on the throne of His father David and upon His kingdom for ever. Again, confirmation that Jesus' true place is on the throne in heaven is for ever.

In the book of the Revelation, chapter 5, John sees the Lamb in the middle of the throne having seven horns and seven eyes. In chapter 4, John has already seen God upon the throne, that throne being set in heaven. The one on the throne is described as Him who lives 'for ever and ever', so we have Almighty God on the throne. There is no suggestion of another throne, so we see the Lamb of God upon the throne of God. Jesus in His rightful place, having been declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead.

The summing up of the first seven chapters of the book of Hebrews is found in chapter 8 verse 1. *"We have such a High Priest who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heavens"*, and in chapter 12 we read of *"Jesus the 'author and finisher of our faith', who for the joy set before him endured the cross despising the shame, is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God"*.

In Psalm 110 we read *"The Lord said to my Lord sit at my right-hand until I make all your enemies your footstall"*. These verses are quoted again in Hebrews chapter one verse 12 and chapter 10, verses, 12 and 13. Psalm 110 tells us *that*, *"You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek"* (Melchizedek means King of Righteousness). Therefore, we have a king sitting on the throne at the right hand of God, who is also the priest of God, ever living to make intercession for us. He is the king of Righteousness and Kings sit on thrones and this wonderful king reigns in righteousness, everything He does is right with God.



All this fulfils the declaration in Psalm 103 *“The Lord has prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over all”*. The throne was prepared for Jesus and now He is seated there and His kingdom rules over all. Jesus' word to the His disciples was *“All power is given to me in heaven and earth go therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost”*.

Thrones are therefore very significant for our Lord Jesus and His Father and the intention of the whole trinity, is that Jesus Christ should be established on the throne of heaven in His eternal kingdom. Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2 names the one on the throne as Jesus. *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Hebrews chapter 2 verse 9 tells us, *“We see Jesus.....crowned with glory and honour”*, no throne is mentioned but Jesus' Kingship is stated, and kings sit on thrones.

All these words confirm the words spoken by Peter on the day of *Pentecost*, *“Let the house of Israel know for certain that the Jesus whom you crucified, God has made Lord and Christ.”* The disciples had just been filled with the Holy Spirit and the revelation to these servants of God was of Jesus' Lordship. Thrones are for kings and those who reign, so we have our Lord Jesus reigning, with all authority in heaven and earth, waiting for all His enemies to be made His footstool, in other words being brought under His total authority. Jesus truly is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *“The Lord God omnipotent (all powerful) reigns.”* Wonderful.

Paul, the apostle, had a very real understanding of the realm of the spirit. In Romans chapter 8 we have two lists of the things which cannot separate us from the love of God. The first list is of earthly things, tribulation, distress, famine, danger or the sword. The second list mentions principalities and powers, things present and things to come, life and death and so on. We live in such a secular world, more interested in earthly things, money, power, natural strength, reputation among men, that many Christians have lost sight of these heavenly realms. Paul was not ignorant, as in His ministry He was so aware of the things which he encountered which were set against his work and the church of God. Many modern-day Christians are rooted in the earthly things, operate in the carnal mind and are not spiritually minded and do not have in their thinking heavenly things. They rather think on earthly things. Many are too busy with the systems of this world within the church, social media and alike that the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit has been replaced and therefore knowledge of the spiritual realities has diminished. There is great concentration on the earthly buildings and fund raising and social gatherings rather than the church of Jesus Christ. For Christians the Lordship of the Lord Jesus is believed in theory, it is basic doctrine, of course it is, but knowing that



Lordship in life and the power of God is a but a distant hope. There is much to learn so let's learn.

Paul writes in Colossians chapter 1, *"For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities and powers all things were created by Him and for Him"*. This confirms the previous reference in Psalm 103, *"The Lord has prepared His throne in the heavens"*, and in John's gospel that all things were made by the Word of God, and nothing was made that was not made by Him.

Therefore, we have four spiritual realities, thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, all different and invisible, at least to the human eye. Revelation chapter 1 verse 5 tells us that He, Our Lord Jesus is the Prince of the Kings of the earth so He will ultimately and finally, reign over them all. Jesus is aware of these spiritual principalities. He one tells the churches on Revelation chapter 2, for example, that He knows where satan's seat is. A real understand of why there were challenges for that church.

We need to note here from Isaiah 14, another throne. This is the throne of lucifer, son of the morning, satan, the devil, beelzebub, the fallen arch angel of God, he has many names and guises in the Bible, and we read of his throne in verse 10 of Isaiah 14. It is not clear why satan had a throne, perhaps a place of authority given to him in the heavens or perhaps and more likely his own ambition to have a throne and reign over all. Whatever, we are told he is cast down into hell, he is cut down and the desire from his heart to ascend into heaven, to exalt his throne above the stars of God, to be like the most High God, has come to nothing. Perhaps this archangel was given a place to serve God and to be for God and for the Son of God, but his attempt to usurp that authority has failed. The person on the throne, the one true throne is heaven, is the Lord Jesus Christ and there is not and never will be a throne on which satan sits.

The spiritual warfare in which we are told we all are engaged (Ephesians chapter 6) tell us we wrestle against principalities and powers with the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high (heavenly) places). There is no mention of thrones. The rulers are of the darkness of this world and the word in the Greek language means exactly that. The word is 'Kosmokrator': showing the lordship is limited to this world. (The Word Kosmokrator comes from two words, Kosmos is the cosmos, means the universe or this world and Krator is from Kratos, 'strength', The prince of the power of the air, we are told is the spirit who works in the children of disobedience. but of course, they are on the earth. This is said of the serpent in Genesis chapter 3, *"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and dust shalt you eat all the days of your life"*. The serpent of course represents satan. Job chapter 1



has this response from satan to what he had been doing, *“And the Lord said unto Satan, from where have you come? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.”* All the actions are involving this world; therefore, we see that which we wrestle against is not against thrones and dominions but those powers and principalities in which satan operates in the kingdom of this world.

In Acts chapter 2, the revelation to the apostles and that which they preached on the day of Pentecost for everyone to hear, but summed up in Peter’s message, was that Jesus is Lord and Christ. Peter quotes psalm 110, *“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit you on my right hand, until I make your foes your footstool.* Peter then states, Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

The victory over satan was ultimately in the cross of our Lord Jesus, but when Jesus sent out the seventy during His time on the earth, when they returned excited at all that had taken place, saying *“Even the devils are subject to us”*, Jesus says “I saw satan as lightning fall from heaven”. He, satan, had long had sway among God's people Israel, because of their sin, but Jesus the great apostle comes to bring freedom. Jesus Himself read *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me etc.”* The ministry of the gospel, the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, taught by our Lord Jesus brings deliverance and healing to many. The gospel is the weapon of warfare mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds and many came into the freedom God had always wanted for His people in the promised land, but for which they never believed Him, at least until Jesus came fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 61. Jesus sees satan as lightening fall from heaven, Our Lord knew what had happened, He saw the change in kingdoms.

From the moment Jesus returned to heaven, the throne belonged to Him. It was made by Him; it was prepared for Him and now He is sat upon the throne. On the earth, a body had been prepared for Him, for His life and ultimately for His offering to God as the Lamb taking away the sins of the world. In the same way a throne had been prepared for Him in heaven, for the man Christ Jesus, who we now find seated on the throne. “The Lamb of God who was slain for us is crowned with glory and honour”.

In Revelation chapter 22, we have probably the vision of this age. The new heaven and the new earth have arrived in chapter 21, New Jerusalem the bride of Christ, the Lamb's wife is seen. Death satan, hell and so on are cast into the lake of eternal fire along with those not in the Lamb’s book of life, the old has gone. In Revelation 21, the cry from the one on the throne is “Behold I make all things new”, and the new creation is set before us for those who are in Christ a new creation. The book of the Revelation is written to the churches as to the way forward, so, at least, I believe. we have the time of the gospel



declared in chapter 22. A river along which are trees with leaves for the healing of the nations. We read “Let him that is thirsty come”; Jesus on the earth said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come unto me”. It is the same invitation, the invitation of the gospel and is open to all and will remain so until all God’s people are gathered in, and then Jesus will return.

John in the vision sees a river flowing from under the throne of God and the Lamb. The river is the river of life and is clean and pure, the tree of life is there. That tree to which access was denied after the fall of Adam is now made available because of the river of God. In Revelation chapter 5, Jesus as the Lamb has the seven eyes which is the Seven Spirits of God, the Holy Ghost, sent forth into all the earth. Jesus as Lord and Christ having received the promise of the Father has poured out the Holy Spirit and this river from the throne must represent the Holy Spirit. *“In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh”*, we read in Joel chapter 2. The river has the throne of God and the Lamb in the middle of it. When the Spirit of God therefore comes into the heart of a believer, He brings the throne, the authority, the eternal reigning of Almighty God into that heart and life. The authority changes so the prince of the power of the earth, the spirit who works in the children of disobedience can no longer do so in that person. *“If the Son shall make you free you will be free indeed”*. The book of the Revelation 22 tells us that *“His servants shall serve Him, and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads”*.

Jesus’ servants’ no longer serve the god of this world but are free to serve Him. We can read all these supportive scriptures. *“All those who receive grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one Christ Jesus”*. *“As sin has reigned unto death even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”*. *“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world”*. *“Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Our Lord Jesus Christ”*. This newness of life, living unto God, is all because Jesus is now on the throne of heaven, and His authority comes in the river of life which flows from that throne.

Yes, there are principalities and powers. Principalities comes from the Greek word Arche, to be first. Their overriding work is to follow the enemy of men’s souls in wanting to be first, where Jesus should be first. They want to be controlling and dominating and yet do this by working within the children of disobedience when they fulfil the desires, (the wishes), of the flesh and mind. The control operates as the desires of the flesh and the mind are fulfilled in a person and yet this is always against the will of God. Yes, it is pleasurable, or seems so for a while, and yet the end of those things is spiritual death. Those who are controlled in this way have no idea what is going on and how their lives are subject to such spiritual powers. We read in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, *“The mystery of iniquity does work”*. A mystery is something not seen, it is there but hidden



and so sin is working in those people, and they are unaware and ignorant of what is happening. They do not see that they are subject to the principalities and powers, and which is contrary to the will of God and indeed they are opposing Him. Only the gospel can bring freedom as the word of God speaks into the heart and brings light and understanding. The light of God comes into the darkness and overcomes the rulers of the darkness of this world. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, shines into each heart and they believe on the Lord Jesus and are saved.

There are many principalities, from nations, religions, tradition, culture, morality. Capitalism, Communism, science, the belief in evolution for example, all of which are against the principles of the Bible and put the ways of human beings before the ways of God. Also, many principalities and the authorities which go with them bring control from the outside compelling obedience to the wrongdoing. People are forced into actions and lifestyles within the culture and tradition and belief of the society in which they live, often it seems as totally normal. It has been part of the behaviour within their culture for many years and there is no idea that they are acting according to the rulers of the darkness of this world through their social customs. They are in darkness and ignorance as they do not see the mystery of sin working in them. 'Lords of the darkness' brings in things which make spiritual darkness over nations and peoples, families and individuals to keep out the light of God. They deceive simple hearts into involvement with the kingdom of darkness with the enemy of their souls, bringing the effect of spiritual wickedness into human lives. These troubles range from physical sickness, mental health issues in adults and the children, broken marriages, depression and lack of purpose in individuals to wars and killings on a global scale. John tells us that the whole world lies in wickedness or in the wicked one. And so, we understand these all come from the one who has come to steal, kill and to destroy and he is the spirit which works in the children who disobey God. Governments seem powerless to change things, even if they want to, many enjoy the power and privileges office holds, but in reality, they are caught up in the spiritual darkness of this world.

Jesus came to give us life and that more abundantly and that comes in the life which flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. We read in the book of the Revelation, as we have seen, of the river which flows and has the throne of God and the Lamb in the middle of the river. Wherever it flows and reaches it brings the authority of God and overthrows the authority of all the principalities and powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness. The river brings freedom as Jesus is on the throne and from Him comes the authority to forgive and remove sin, Jesus also sends the Holy Spirit to change lives and translate them from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God.



This brings freedom to serve God and not the 'god of this world'. We are told, in the same passage, *"His servants shall serve Him"*, they can serve the living God. This confirms these words from the Book of Hebrews chapter 9 verse 14 *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*. As we have seen, our Lord Jesus offering himself through the eternal spirit without sin enabled God the Father to raise Him from the dead and seat Him at Father's right hand. We have the throne of God and the Lamb from where the river of life flows bringing eternal life to all who will believe on Jesus Christ and call Him Lord. Now we understand why Jesus is on the throne; it had always been the plan of the whole Godhead and He will reign for ever. His kingdom will come, and His will be done on earth as in heaven. He shall reign for ever and ever. Jesus Christ has sat down on the throne which was prepared for Him.

All the principalities and powers, all the rulers of the darkness will have their day as will the spiritual wickedness in high places. They work, in this world, through the rulers of the spiritual darkness of this world trying to throw off the authority of God. We read this in psalm 2, *"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us"*. The word rage means a tumult and uprising and a plotting or conspiracy. Imagine means to hold in the mind something which may be liked but probably not obtainable. So, there is 'rising up' together of the kings and maybe the kingdoms of this world, wanting to throw off all control of Almighty God. They set themselves against and they oppose the authority of God. They want to take authority, and the English word is to usurp, to take over that to which you are not entitled. That is what the world does through the work of the god of this world. He has no place in heaven, no throne and works on the earth through humans, the mystery of sin working, to cast off the authority of God and oppose God and His anointed one, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 2 continues *"He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me. You are my Son; this day have I begotten you"*

God laughs at them. His answer, and we have quoted this verse before. *"You are my son, this day have I begotten you"*, God has raised Jesus from the dead and has set HIS KING on His holy Hill. In other words, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. It was always God's solution and Jesus shall reign for ever and ever. The anointed one who was opposed now has all power and authority and soon to return. Jesus we are told upholds all things by the word of His power, all things were made by Him, so it is impossible to



throw of His control, everything would fall apart. That is why God laughs at those who try to remove His authority.

The request for the Lord Jesus is *“Ask of me and I will give you the heathen (really the nations) for your inheritance”*. Jesus asked and has received His inheritance, we are His people, His church, and all His people are from every tribe, language, people and nation, every saved soul a testimony of His Lordship and Jesus’ position on the throne. *“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end”*. Wonderful.

Jesus on the throne. He can never be removed, He must reign. Psalm 2 tells us to *“Kiss the Son”*, in other words submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and come under His authority. *“Blessed is the man who trusts in Him”*. Trust means to shelter, here we are safe in the arms of Jesus. Whatever rages on the earth we are eternally safe in the arms of our Lord Jesus.

Jesus is on the throne the king there and reigning. Jesus made Lord and Christ. Truly King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is our privilege as sons of God, the redeemed, to serve Him and look for His coming when He will come in power and majesty, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We read these wonderful words in Revelation chapter 3, *“To him that overcomes I will grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”*. What a promise and an encouragement to all who love the Lord Jesus and wait for His coming that if we overcome in this world, by His grace, we shall sit with Him in His throne, reigning with Him and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

