

The Man on the Throne

The Bible mentions a number of people to whom the heavens were opened. One of them was our dear brother, **Stephen**... Acts tells us that Stephen was full of faith, grace, and power. He did many mighty works of power, and clearly his speaking was quite prevailing. [N]o one could withstand “the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.” Stephen was forced to stand before the religious court and to say something, which he did at length. We are told that his face was like the face of an angel. Toward the end of his lengthy testimony, he said, *“I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God”* (7:56). He saw the Son of Man—the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Jesus—in the heavens in a position of authority at the right hand of God. This is **the One** whom Stephen saw. The Son of Man was standing, and He was looking at Stephen. When the Lord Jesus looked at Stephen, what did He see? He saw Stephen calling on the Lord. As they were stoning Stephen, Stephen called upon the Lord and said, *“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”* In addition, as the stones were being hurled at him, he said, *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”*. Who else prayed in this way? The Lord Jesus did. As He was being crucified, He prayed, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing...Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit”*. **Stephen saw the ascended, enthroned Jesus, and the ascended, enthroned Jesus saw a reproduction of Himself on the earth.** Saul of Tarsus also saw this reproduction of Jesus.

This brief account of Stephen’s testimony at the end of his life helps set the direction for this message concerning what we need to see and what we need to be willing to become. We need to begin to see or continue to see, depending on our situation, that **there is** a man on the throne. We also need to see that God does not want to be on the throne alone; He wants to bring many more men to the throne.

The first crystal in this message that we need to see and trace through the Word is that **there is a man on the throne**. Ezekiel 1:26 reveals that the One on the throne has the appearance of a man. It is not hard for us to grasp **the concept** that God is sovereign and that God is on the throne, but it takes **a vision** to realize that at this very moment there is a man on the throne. When **the Lord** spoke from heaven to Saul of Tarsus, He referred to Himself as **Jesus** the Nazarene. Jesus **the man** the Lord of the universe. This is the first revelation that we need to see increasingly. Then we also need to realize that God’s intention is to have **more than one man** on the throne of administration... Together with the firstborn Son, these ones will begin reigning even now, and by their reigning they will deal with the fundamental problem in the universe—the rebellion of Satan and humankind—and will bring in the kingdom.

[T]he burden is along these two lines—there is **a man on the throne**, and **God desires to bring us to the throne** as well. We cannot be satisfied with merely understanding the concepts; we need the heavens to be opened to us so that we can see in our spirit that there is a man on the throne. This man is the Lord of the universe. Then we need to realize that God’s desire from the beginning, from when He created us in His image to express and represent Him, has been to bring us to the throne according to His economy.

Through His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the Lord Jesus **was brought** to the throne. We know from Philippians 2 that although the Lord was equal with God, He did not grasp this. Instead, He laid aside the glorious expression of His deity, emptied Himself, became a man, humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, the death of the cross. At the age of thirty-three and a half, He could say, *“I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me”* (John 6:38). He was a man absolutely under God’s authority, and because He was under God’s authority, God’s authority flowed out through Him. The enemy tried to tempt Him to step out of His standing as a man and to function like God. Satan said to Him, *“If You are the Son of God, speak that these stones may become loaves of bread.”* (Matt. 4:3). But the Lord stood in **the position of a man**. He

answered, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God'"*.

The Lord seemed to say, "I am here as a man, the man created to express God and to deal with you." The Roman centurion also recognized that the Lord was a man under authority. The centurion wanted the Lord to heal his servant, but he felt that he was not worthy for the Lord to enter into his house. Therefore, he told the Lord, "But speak a word, and let my servant be healed. For **I also am a man** set under authority" (Luke 7:7-8). The centurion seemed to say to the Lord, "You are under authority, and because of this, You are able to **represent authority**. Therefore, You can simply speak one sentence, and it will heal the one who is precious to me."

The Lord was obedient His whole life. He never did anything out from Himself (John 5:19), He did not seek His own will (v. 30), He did not seek His own glory (7:18), He did not speak His own word (14:10, 24), and His teaching was not His own (7:16). He did not express Himself; He expressed the Father. He was also obedient unto death (Phil. 2:8). Second Corinthians 13:4 tells us that He was crucified out of weakness. This means that He did not exercise the attribute of omnipotence. He presented Himself when He was arrested. He said to those who came to arrest Him, "This is your hour and the authority of darkness" (Luke 22:53). Because Jesus was obedient unto death—thereby fulfilling God's will, accomplishing the work of redemption, destroying the devil, and releasing the divine life—God resurrected Him from the dead, **raised Him to the throne**, and gave Him the name which is above every name—the name of Jesus. Today Jesus is Lord, and the time is coming when every knee will bow, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue that ever lived will openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Today we need to see the man Jesus who has returned to the Godhead with humanity...

In practice, to reign in life is to be under the ruling of the divine life. We need to learn to be under the **ruling of the divine life**. Those who are under the **ruling of the divine life** are like the king in Proverbs 21:1: *"The king's heart is like streams of water in the hand of Jehovah; / He turns it wherever He wishes."* If we are under the ruling of the divine life, our heart will be in the hand of Jehovah; He will rule our heart and be able to turn it wherever He wills. If we allow Him to align our heart with His heart, we will sense a river flowing. Those who are under the Lord's rule also recognize and submit to the order of authority in the Body. This is not an organizational matter. Many faithful leading brothers and elders know that in the Body there is a higher representation of authority than what they possess. However, some self-appointed leading ones do not recognize this. This is a serious matter.

The story of Joseph is an excellent example of learning to **reign** by being under the ruling of the divine life. By the time Joseph reached the throne over Egypt in Genesis 41, his entire inner being was **under the rulership of the Spirit**. Thus, when he saw his brothers, he controlled his emotions. Although Joseph was full of feeling concerning them, he dealt with them wisely and soberly. He had authority, but he did not do anything for himself; he denied himself. He even said to his brothers, *"Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life"*. Those who are **not under God's authority cannot recognize God's sovereignty**. Instead, they **find fault** with the human channels of authority. After their father died, Joseph's brothers feared that he would seek revenge. However, Joseph was grieved that they would think this and spoke to them, saying, *"Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good, to do as it is this day, to preserve alive a numerous people"* (vv. 19-20)... Through this ministry, may the Lord increase our seeing of the man on the throne. May He also increase our faith to see that we are on our way to the throne. (*Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word: Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1), 207-231*)