

## A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING THE WORLD SITUATION AND THE LORD'S RECOVERY, Week 8

### Seeing a Vision of the Throne of God, the Scriptural Scene behind the World Situation, and Christ as the Center of God's Administration

Scripture Reading: Dan. 4:17, 26, 34-37; 7:9-10; 10:4-21; Rev. 1:4-5; 4:5; 5:6

- Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that **the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills** and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Daniel 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after **you have come to know that the heavens do rule.**
- Daniel 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; **For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation;**
- Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But **He does according to His will** in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Daniel 4:36 At that time reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me.
- Daniel 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because **all His works are truth and His ways justice,** and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.
- Daniel 7:9 I watched Until thrones were set, And the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was like white snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool; **His throne was flames of fire, Its wheels, burning fire.**
- Daniel 7:10 I watched then because of the sound of the great things that the horn was speaking; I watched until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
- Daniel 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,
- Daniel 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
- Daniel 10:6 **His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.**
- Daniel 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, **a great dread fell on them,** and they fled to hide themselves.
- Daniel 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.
- Daniel 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.
- Daniel 10:10 And at that moment a hand touched me and sent me trembling on my knees and the palms of my hands.
- Daniel 10:11 And he said to me, **Daniel, man of preciousness,** understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
- Daniel 10:12 And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
- Daniel 10:13 But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days;** but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.
- Daniel 10:14 Thus I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, yet the vision pertains to something many days from now.
- Daniel 10:15 And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face to the ground and was dumb.
- Daniel 10:16 And at that moment one who resembled the sons of men touched my lips; and I opened my mouth and spoke, and I said to him who stood before me, Sir, because of the vision my anguish has turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.
- Daniel 10:17 For how can such a servant of my lord speak with such as my lord? For as for me, just now there is no strength in me, nor has there been breath left in me.
- Daniel 10:18 Then the one who was in appearance like a man touched me again and strengthened me;
- Daniel 10:19 And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.
- Daniel 10:20 Then he said, Do you know why I have come to you? And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia; so I go forth, and the prince of Javan is now about to come.
- Daniel 10:21 However I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who holds strongly with me against these ones except Michael your prince.
- Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from **Him who is and who was and who is coming,** and from the **seven Spirits who are before His throne,**
- Revelation 1:5 **And from Jesus Christ,** the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the **Ruler of the kings of the earth.** To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
- Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were **seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;**
- Revelation 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having **seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God** sent forth into gall the earth.

## Day 1

**I. We need to see a **spiritual vision** of the throne of God as the center of **God's administration** throughout the universe—Rev. 4:2; 5:1; Ezek. 1:26:**

- A. As the **sovereign One**, God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy— Rev. 4:11; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 9:19-24.
- B. **God on the throne** is behind the scene ruling over everyone and everything— Isa. 6:1; 1 Kings 22:19:
  - 1. Everything concerning the world situation is decided on the throne.
  - 2. Nothing can happen **outside** the rule of God's throne—Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6.
- C. The book of Revelation is a book of **God's administration**, unveiling the throne of God for the divine administration—4:2; 5:1; 6:16; 7:9; 8:3; 21:5:
  - 1. The throne in Revelation 4 and 5 is the **throne of divine authority**.
  - 2. Apparently, the throne is invisible and is not realized by man; actually, the throne is **behind the scene** ruling over everyone and everything.
- D. The book of Daniel shows that **all** the kings and kingdoms of the world are **under** God's administration—7:9-10; 2:34-35:
  - 1. All human government from Nimrod to Antichrist **has been** and **will continue** to be under the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens—7:9-12.
  - 2. God caused Nebuchadnezzar to know that he was nothing and that the mighty God, the Ruler over the kingdom of men, the One who gives the kingdom to whomever He wills, is everything—4:34-37.
  - 3. The **entire** world situation is **under** the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens—v. 26.

## Day 2

- E. The **ruling of the heavens** by the God of the heavens over all human government on earth matches the **eternal economy of God** for Christ to terminate the old creation for the germination of the new creation and to smash and crush the aggregate of human government and establish the eternal kingdom of God— 2:37, 44; 4:17; Rev. 11:15.

**CHRIST BECOMING THE CENTRALITY AND UNIVERSALITY OF GOD'S ELECT THROUGH THEIR ENVIRONMENT**

The book of Daniel also reveals that it is through their environment that Christ becomes the **centrality and universality** of God's elect. Through the nations as the environment, in the coming days God will eventually make Christ the centrality and universality of Israel. The principle is the same with us today. In this present age of mystery, which is not revealed in Daniel, God is using the **environment** to make Christ the centrality and universality to us.

We are not simple. On the one hand, we, the believers in Christ, are **God's elect**; on the other hand, we are parts of the old creation, including such negative things as the beasts described in Daniel 7. As God's elect, we need Christ to be wrought into us as our centrality and universality. However, the old creation in us is sometimes a beast and at other times a Nebuchadnezzar or an Antichrist seeking to defeat, capture, possess, and utilize God's elect. Since we are complicated in this way, we also need to be a Daniel and open our windows toward Jerusalem and pray that Christ will come in to cut off, to terminate, everything in us that is natural and part of the old creation.

Christ becomes our centrality and universality by His appearing in two aspects. First, He has come to terminate us as the old creation and then to germinate us as the new creation. Second, He will come to clear away all the beasts. Depending on our culture and nationality, we all have our **own** beasts. Those from one part of the world have one kind of beast, and those from another part have a different kind of beast. We need Christ to receive the kingdom from God and come to **crush** all the beasts and then to become a great mountain that comprises us and that fills the whole earth to be the kingdom of God. By **terminating** and **germinating** us and by **crushing** all the beasts in us, Christ is wrought into our being to become our centrality and universality.

*(Life-Study of Daniel, chapter 12, section 3)*

## Day 3

**II. Chapter 10 of the book of Daniel presents a **vision** of the **spiritual scene** behind the **world situations**:**

- A. In the spiritual world Christ is the preeminent One; therefore, in chapter 10 He is mention first—vv. 4-9:
  - 1. The excellent Christ, the centrality and universality of God's move, appeared to Daniel as a man for his **appreciation, consolation, encouragement, expectation, and stabilization**.
  - 2. The Christ whom Daniel saw is **precious, valuable, complete, and perfect**:
    - a. As Jehovah becoming a **man**, He is the **centrality and universality** of God's move to carry out His economy.
    - b. As the **Priest**, He is taking **care** of us, and as the **King**, He is **ruling** over us—v. 5.
    - c. Christ appeared to Daniel in His preciousness and dignity, in His **Brightness** for **shining** over the people, and in His **enlightening sight** for **searching** and **judging**—v. 6a-c.
    - d. Christ appeared in the gleam of His work and move and in His **strong speaking** for judging people—v. 6d-e.

## Day 4

- B. The spiritual scene in Daniel 10 includes both good and evil spirits that are engaged in an **invisible spiritual war**—vv. 12-13, 20-21:
1. While Daniel was praying (vv. 2-3), a spiritual struggle is taking place, a struggle not seen with human eyes.
  2. It is crucial for us to see that behind the scene a **spiritual struggle** is taking place, a struggle not seen with human eyes.
- C. As the struggles are taking place between the human governments, God is **behind the scene** managing the world situation—7:10.

## Day 5

III. Christ is the **center** of God's administration according to God's eternal economy—Rev. 5:6; 22:1:

- A. Christ in His ascension has been **enthroned** to execute God's administration, His governmental operation—Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21; 22:1; 5:6:
1. The One sitting on the throne is not only God but also man; He is the **God-man**, the man-God, the mingling of God and man—Acts 7:56.
  2. After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Him the **Lord of all the universe**—2:34-36; Phil. 2:5-11.
- B. The enthroned Christ, the heavenly Administrator in God's universal government, is the worthy **Lion-Lamb**, the **overcoming Redeemer**—Rev. 5:1-14:
1. As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy, Satan; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer—vv. 5-6.
  2. Because Christ has solved the problems of the rebellion of Satan and the fall of man, He is **worthy** to open the scroll of God's economy—vv. 1-7.
  3. The Lamb, the Redeemer, the One slain on the cross for our sins, is now on the throne, **carrying out God's administration over the entire universe**.
  4. We need to realize that the Lord of the universe is a man, the **God-man**, the man-God—Ezek. 1:26.

**Enthroned for God's Administration**

Another matter related to the objective aspect of Christ's ascension is that He has been **enthroned for God's administration**. Concerning this, Hebrews 12:2 says that Christ is now "seated at the right hand of the throne of God." From this verse we may have the impression that next to the throne of God, at His right hand, is another throne. However, in the book of Revelation we see that it is only **one throne** of both God and Christ. In Revelation 3:21 the Lord says that He sat down with His Father on His throne. Furthermore, Revelation 22:1 speaks of "a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Revelation 22:3 goes on to say of the holy city, New Jerusalem, that the "throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it." Revelation 22:1 and 3 do not speak of thrones—one for God and another for the Lamb—but of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Hence, it is one throne for both God and the Lamb.

In what way are both God and Christ sitting on the one throne? Chapter twenty-one of Revelation is helpful in this matter. Verse 23 says, "The *city has no need of the sun nor of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb*." Here we see that the Lamb, Christ, as the lamp shines with God as the light to illumine the city with the glory of God, the expression of the divine light. Christ, the Lamb, is the lamp, and God is the light within the lamp. Because the light is in the lamp, the light cannot be separated from the lamp. We can see from this how both God and Christ are sitting on one throne. Just as the light is in the lamp, so God is in Christ. Since God is in Christ sitting on the throne, **both** God and Christ sit on one throne in the heavens.

The fact that God in Christ is sitting on the throne means that God administers the entire universe from within Christ and through Christ, just as the light shines from within the lamp and through the lamp. From this we can see that Christ is enthroned with God. God is on the throne, and this very God is in the enthroned Man-Savior. As we consider this we see that the enthronement of the Man-Savior involves the Divine Trinity.

Christ has been enthroned in His ascension. His ascension was for His enthronement. The Man-Savior, as the ascended One, has been crowned with glory and honor and has been **enthroned for God's administration**.

(Life-Study of Luke, chapter 76, section 2)

## Day 6

- C. In His ascension and enthronement Christ is the **Ruler of the kings of the earth**—Rev. 1:5:
1. For Christ to be the Ruler of the kings means that He is **far above** the earthly rulers—Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9-11.
  2. The earthly rulers are not the real rulers; Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, is the **real Ruler**—Rev. 19:16.
  3. Christ carries out God's administration as the Ruler of the kings of the earth by the **seven Spirits of God** burning before the throne of God—1:4; 4:5; 5:6:
    - a. **All** the world rulers are **under** the flaming of the seven Spirits—1:5.
    - b. The world situation and international affairs are **under** the flame of the burning of the seven lamps of fire, the seven Spirits of God—4:5.
    - c. We need to realize that the seven Spirits of God are **burning** before the throne not only concerning the churches but also concerning the world situation for the churches—1:4-5, 11; 22:16.

**THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST****Holding the Seven Stars in His Right Hand**

In the epistle to the church in Ephesus we see the all-inclusive Christ as the One who **holds the seven stars** in His right hand (2:1). The brothers who are taking the lead in the churches as the messengers (Gk. angels—1:20) are held in this One's hand. This One is the **holder** of all the church leaders. However, some of the so-called church leaders may not be held by Him. He holds only those whom He recognizes. To be held by Him, we must be recognized by Him first. We must realize that the leading ones in the churches in the Lord's recovery are held in His hand. Revelation 2:1 also tells us that He walks in the midst of the lampstands. This is a wonderful scene! While the Lord is sitting at the right hand of God as our High Priest interceding for us, the churches (Heb. 7:25), He is holding the messengers of the churches and walking in the midst of the churches to **care** for them. This One who holds the leaders in His hand and who walks in the midst of the churches is the all-inclusive, excellent, marvelous, mysterious, and wonderful One.

Although we have been experiencing and enjoying One who is so rich, we did not have much realization that this One was so **all-inclusive, excellent, marvelous, mysterious, and wonderful**. This is why the book of Revelation is needed to unveil such a One to us. We need to realize that this One is the Spirit, the Father, the Son, Christ, Jesus, the Son of Man, the Son of God, the High Priest, and many other items. Many readers of the book of Revelation consider this as a "strange" book because of items such as the beast coming out of the sea, the scarlet beast having seven heads and ten horns, and the seven seals, seven bowls, and seven trumpets. When we come to the book of Revelation, however, we need to primarily care for this wonderful One who is **holding all the church leaders in His right hand** and who is walking in the midst of all the churches.

A number of times some of the saints came to me and told me that it seemed to them that I never became disappointed or discouraged. They wanted to know why this was the case. The reason for this is that by His mercy I have seen this marvelous One, and I have seen that I am in His hands. To see this strengthens me to the uttermost. I enjoy and experience the all-inclusive, excellent, marvelous, mysterious, and wonderful One. This is why the opening word in Revelation 2 says, "These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands" (v. 1). To listen to this One's words you have to see who this One is.

*(God's New Testament Economy, Chapter 22, section 1)*