

Heaven: The Throne Room of the Universe

THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE

Revelation 4:2-3/Job 1-2

God wants us to orient every day of our lives to the truth that He is seated above each moment of our lives. Opening to Revelation 4 & 5 is much like remembering that the blazing stars of a cloudless night are always there, we just rarely see them. So, we must not let the rest of life distract us from the foundational truths that we must always remember as we open our hearts and minds to God's Word. Every moment of every day:

Heaven is **Real**. God is on **THE Throne**; and, we are **His servants**.

As we open to Revelation 4:2-3, we see not only The Throne central to Heaven, we also see: **The One Seated on The Throne**.

The One Seated On The Throne

Every moment of life is lived before the eyes of God, **Seated** on His Throne.

No event of our life is missed by the One **Seated** there.

That is the message of the next sentence in this letter.

Please stand with me, and listen with me to the voice of God from His Word, speaking through John, as we together read together from the slide:

Revelation 4:2-3 (NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and **One sat on the throne**. 3 And **He who sat there** was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Pray

The **Throne** is central to Heaven; but even more **The One Seated** on the Throne, is central to everything.

Every event in the world, every birth, death, disaster, war, social event, or secret meeting: unfolds before the eyes of That One **Seated on The Throne**.

Nothing is ever missed by the One **Seated** there.

That is the **viewfinder**, the **lens**, and the **frame** that God asks us to use: to understand all that happens in our life.

The very first time we see God explicitly showing us an event framed by The Throne is in I Kings 22:18-23. Please turn back there with me in your personal copy of God's Word.

As you turn there, we all should want to be:

Learning to Hear From the One Seated on the Throne

On the way to this passage in the book of I Kings, do you know where that particular book of the Bible even is?

The Bible is our digital device that connects us to the voice of God.

It is the TV set that broadcasts to us the programming streamed right from God in Heaven.

God's Words come on only this channel, talking us through our lives on Earth. How well do you know the Book you are holding?

Do you know your computer, or phone better?
Do you know your cable channel, programming guide better?
Do you know your financial statements better?

Those are very valid questions we should each silently answer. Our personal grasp of the Word often reveals just where the priorities are in our spiritual growth.

How hard is it today, to find things in your personal copy of God's Word?

The reason why so many people today treasure their electronic world is because they have forced themselves to understand how to use it. They have invested so much time capturing ideas, photos, events, words, and basically life: and then learn how to send it out to online pages.

Their computer or smart phone is their gateway to return to that investment: to view, to download, to upload, and to communicate with others.

In a similar way is what God's Word can become in your life. The more time you invest in your personal copy of God's Word, the more you know it, and the more precious it becomes in your life's scheduled times.

The book you hold in your hands contains the ONLY way to be able to personally hear the voice of God speaking into your heart and life. Now to I Kings 22 as we begin:

Learning From The One Seated on the Throne

I Kings 22:18-23 (NKJV) And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" ¹⁹ Then *Micaiah* said, "**Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.**

²⁰ And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. ²¹ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.'

²² The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' ²³ Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

This can be quite a strange sounding passage all by itself, detached from the rest of God's Word. But it is absolutely true and explanatory of what is going on before the Throne.

God's prophet named Micaiah, was allowed to see what happens 24/7 above us. God is watching over His Word. Everything God promised in the Bible: is going to happen. God is shaping the events of this world according to what is written in the Bible. God is actively involved in "watching over His Word to perform it" (Jer. 1:12, ESV).

Here is one amazing detail we learn from I Kings 22. The Universe is not out of control. God is in control. God sits enthroned and even the Devil and His demons have appointments, to show up and account for their actions.

Right after this Throne event, wicked King Ahab gets slain in battle, just like God's Word said he would: right down to the grisly detail of the blood in his chariot, lapped up by the dogs!

Now turn onward to an even more amazing passage. We get to look at the events of the Book of Job: explained by this frame, or viewfinder of The Throne.

As we look at Job's woes and troubles, understand that the events of our lives are carried out in front of the very same scene of God's power and worship before the Throne.

From Job 1-2, the lesson we will see is that we need to:

Trust the One Seated on the Throne

A quick synopsis of the 42 chapters of Job would be that: “*Each of us are part of something so much bigger than any of us could imagine*”. As believers we are allowed to see what can only be described as: **astounding**.

The Throne set in Heaven has been there, overshadowing all of human events since creation.

But, God is not just sitting there and watching us, like a game on TV.

God is always depicted as actively involved in the affairs of mankind: ruling and reigning, never out of touch, never out of control.

The Lord now shows us the scene around His Throne, during the life of Job (who lived most likely during the few hundred of years between Noah and Abraham).

This account was broadcast by God for us to see the big picture of the God we can trust. The One who is on that Throne: knows us and protects us; but also allows disastrous trials to help us get closer to Him.

The whole Book of Job is summed up from Job’s perspective in Job 42:5-6. Follow along as I read what Job learned from all those troubles:

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.
⁶ Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes.”

Job says I have heard all about you God. But now, after all these calamities, struggles, and losses: NOW I can really SEE You! That was the goal God had. He wanted Job to see that The One on the Throne was the God to TRUST.

As we walk through the events of Job 1-2 (NKJV), note that there is the:

Big Picture: The One Seated On The Throne Stays in Touch with Our Lives

Job 1:1-5 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil (*He knows our spiritual condition*). ² And **seven sons and three daughters** (*He knows our family*) were born to him. ³ Also, **his possessions were** (*He knows our finances*) seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a **very large household** (*He knows our responsibilities*), so that this man was the **greatest of all the people of the East** (*He knows our reputation*). ⁴ And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

Truth For us #1: God was tracking with everything going on in Job's life.

Big Picture: The One Seated On The Throne Regulates the Adversary Satan

Job 1:6-8 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Truth For us #2: God prompted the Devil's attack against Job.

Job 1:9-12 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Truth For us #3: Satan wants to make God's servants dishonor their King on The Throne. (Remember David's sin caused "the enemies" of the Lord to rejoice? That is what grieves our God, when we willfully sin against His grace offered to us in time of need. Job doesn't do that.)

Big Picture: The One Seated On The Throne Allowed Job to Lose His Property and Children

Job 1:13-19 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided *them* and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Truth For us #4: Satan can incite terrorists to rob and kill.

¹⁶ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Truth For us #5: Satan can send down fire from the sky.

¹⁷ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants

with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Truth For us #6: Satan can send tornadoes, and deadly weather.

Big Picture: The One Seated On The Throne Listens to the Cries of our Hearts

Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.²¹ And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Truth For us #7: God was magnified by the cries of Job's heart.

Big Picture: The One Seated On The Throne Allowed Job to Suffer Intensely Bad Times

Job 2:1-10 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.² And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life."⁷ ***So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.***⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Truth For us #8: Bad things can happen to good people in order for them to glorify God.

Every day we live before the eyes of The One ***Seated*** on The Throne.

Each event that takes place is not missed by the One **Seated** there.

That is the frame that God asks us to use: to look at all of life.

As we turn to the New Testament we find that Jesus opens His ministry with His longest message, and explains that we are to:

Pray to the One Seated on The Throne

In Matthew 6 Jesus said, "in this manner pray", and that "manner" starts with us looking up, and focusing upon God our Father: **Who sits on The Throne of Heaven, as our King.**

Last summer we briefly looked at the Lord's Prayer, but the truths contained in these about our relationship to God are much bigger than any of us often realize.

Starting in Matthew 6:9-13, note that Jesus asked us to always use that framework in our prayers. Remember? Listen again to His words about prayer. They are quite clear and simple. We just need to learn to do what He asks us to do, and follow this pattern:

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our **Father in heaven**,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ **Your kingdom come.**

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For **Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.** Amen.

That is one sentence in Greek, made up of 73 individual Greek words, rendered into 70 English words. Note the Frame God's Throne is to become around each of our prayers:

When we address: "**Our Father in heaven**": we are talking to the God on **The Throne.**

When we say to Him: "**Your kingdom come**": we are inviting the God on **The Throne** to rule over our life.

When we say to Him: "**Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever**": we are seeking for the God on **The Throne** to increase in our lives.

Kings have kingdoms. God is the King over all, and we are His subjects. kings,

Each time we pray, Jesus asks us to invite God's Rule over more and more of our daily lives.

Each time we pray, Jesus asks us to invite God to Rule each choice we make ("Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done").

That's why Jesus said, this is the way I want you to PRAY: so you orient your life toward The One Seated on the Throne!