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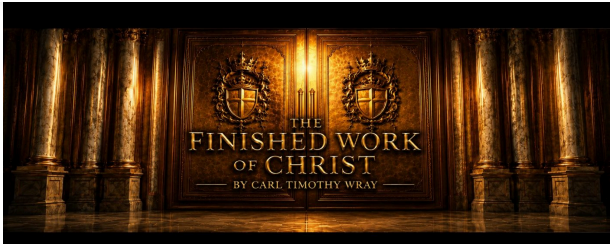
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BOOK OF REVELATION: REVELATION DECODED

Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse Study Guide for Modern Believers

Understand Revelation's Symbolism and Prophecy Without a Theology Degree

END TIMES Series — Book Two

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carl Timothy Wray

[Carl Timothy Wray](#) is a Christian author and Bible teacher whose ministry represents more than four decades of studying, teaching, and writing the Word of God. His work extends far beyond a single book or platform and reflects a lifetime devoted to biblical teaching and making those teachings accessible to readers and students.

His ministry and publishing work include:

- 40+ years devoted to studying and teaching the Word of God
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- More than 2 million views on his YouTube teaching channel
- 200+ books and teachings achieving #1 search positioning on Google, Bing, and Yahoo



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• Founder of Zion University

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Carl Timothy Wray's extensive library addresses major biblical themes including the Grace of God, the Finished Work of Christ, the Kingdom of God, the Book of Revelation, spiritual maturity, the sons of God, and God's eternal purpose.

His purpose remains straightforward: to search the Scriptures, teach what he sees, and make a substantial body of biblical teaching available to those who desire to go deeper in the Word of God.

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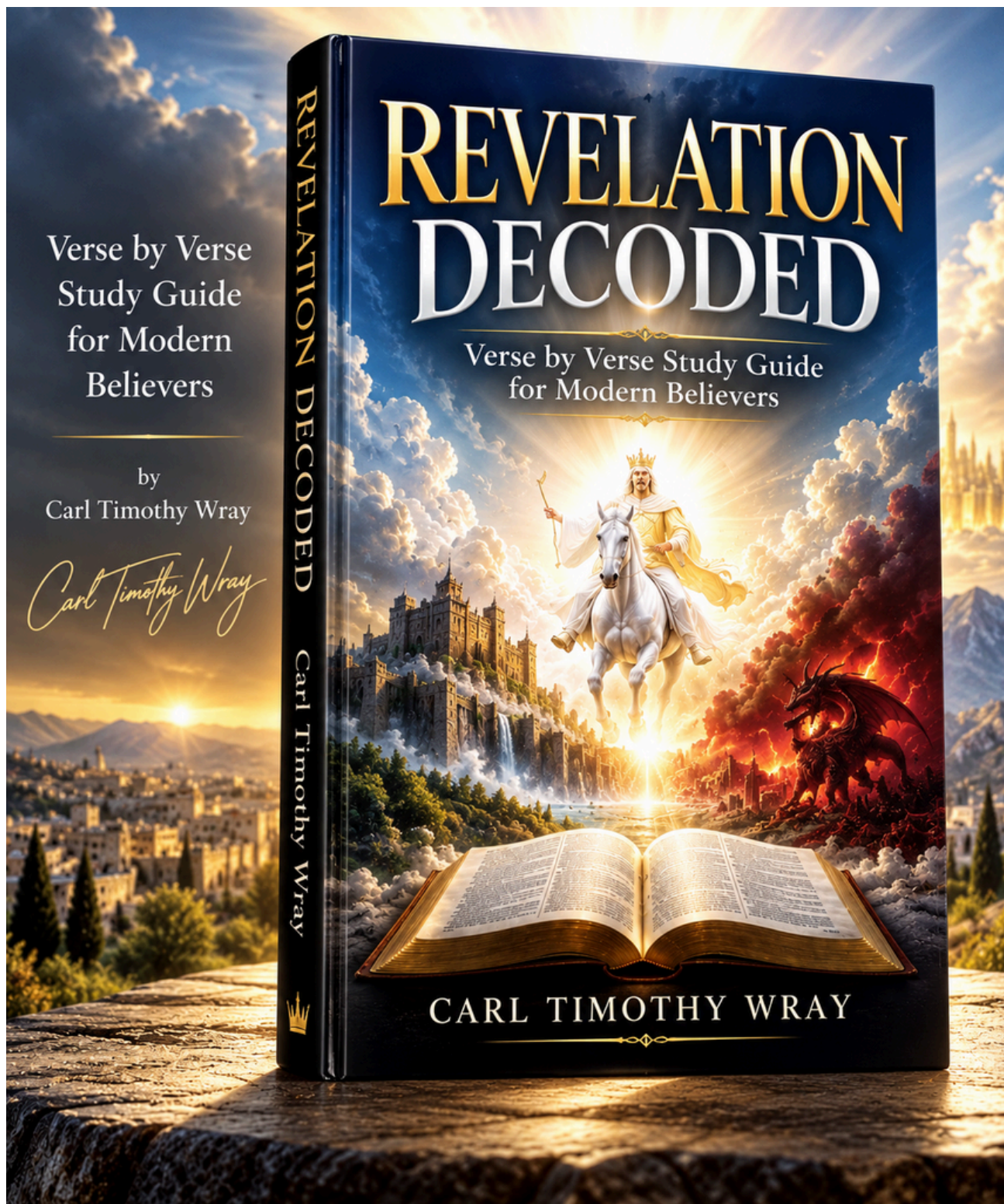
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INTRODUCTION



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UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF REVELATION

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”

— Revelation 1:1

There is perhaps no book in Scripture that has intimidated ordinary believers more than the Book of Revelation.

People open its pages and encounter candlesticks.

Stars.

Living creatures.

Elders.

A woman clothed with the sun.

A manchild caught up unto God.

Two witnesses.

Angels.

A river proceeding from a throne.

The tree of life.

The language can appear mysterious.

The images can appear strange.



And because generations of teachers have surrounded Revelation with complicated charts, theological systems, predictions, dates, and arguments, many sincere believers have concluded:

REVELATION MUST BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.

But perhaps we have made complicated what God intended to unveil.

The opening words do not say:

THE CONCEALMENT OF JESUS CHRIST.

They say:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

The Greek idea behind revelation is an unveiling.

Something covered is uncovered.

Something hidden comes into view.

Something previously unseen is revealed.

God did not give John this Revelation merely to create two thousand years of confusion.

He gave it to reveal.

And John tells us immediately how the message was communicated:



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and signified it.”

That word is tremendously important.

The Revelation was given in **signs**.

The symbols are not obstacles standing between the believer and truth.

They are part of the language through which the truth is **communicated**.

The question is:

HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THAT LANGUAGE?

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE

We do not have to invent meanings for Revelation's symbols.

We do not have to open the morning newspaper and search for something that resembles John's vision.

We do not have to make every new political leader into a beast.

We do not have to turn every international crisis into the fulfillment of a trumpet.

We do not have to force Scripture to fit the latest headline.

The Bible had already developed a tremendous symbolic vocabulary before John ever stood upon Patmos.

Stars appear throughout Scripture.



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have biblical meaning.

Olive trees have biblical meaning.

Women have symbolic meaning.

Mountains have meaning.

Rivers have meaning.

Trees have meaning.

Crowns have meaning.

Thrones have meaning.

John did not invent a completely new language.

He stood in the stream of Moses and the prophets.

Daniel.

Isaiah.

Ezekiel.

Zechariah.

Joel.

The Psalms.

Genesis.



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When Revelation shows us a symbol, one of the first questions we should ask is:

WHERE HAVE WE SEEN THIS BEFORE?

That question begins opening the book.

THE BIBLE IS ITS OWN DICTIONARY

Imagine trying to understand a language while refusing to use its own vocabulary.

That is what happens when we isolate Revelation from the rest of Scripture.

John sees **seven golden candlesticks**.

Do we guess what they mean?

No.

Revelation itself tells us:

“The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

— Revelation 1:20

There is our interpretation.

John sees **seven stars**.

Again, we do not have to speculate.

“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.”

— Revelation 1:20



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gins teaching us how to read it.

SYMBOL → SCRIPTURE → INTERPRETATION.

That principle becomes one of the great keys to Revelation.

Sometimes Revelation interprets its own symbol immediately.

Sometimes another passage in Scripture supplies the key.

Sometimes we must trace the image from Genesis through the prophets until its biblical meaning becomes clear.

But the principle remains:

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE.

THE SYMBOL IS NOT THE DESTINATION

There is another principle we must understand.

Identifying a symbol is only the beginning.

If John sees a candlestick and Revelation tells us the candlestick represents a church, we have discovered the identity of the symbol.

But we have not exhausted the revelation.

Why a **candlestick**?

Why light?

**EN**

Why does Jesus walk in the midst of them?

Why can a candlestick be removed?

What is God revealing about His people?

The symbol opens a doorway into a greater spiritual reality.

That is where Bible study becomes revelation.

We do not merely ask:

WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

We also ask:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING THROUGH IT?

THE REVELATION MUST BE SEEN FROM THE RIGHT REALM

John tells us something else that cannot be ignored:

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day...”

— Revelation 1:10

Later a door opens in heaven.

A voice speaks:

“Come up hither...”



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n 4:1

Then John says:

“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven...”

— Revelation 4:2

Notice the progression.

A DOOR OPENS.

COME UP HITHER.

IN THE SPIRIT.

BEHOLD, A THRONE.

John’s perspective matters.

Revelation cannot be understood properly if everything is viewed only from the turmoil of the earth.

From earth, we see chaos.

From the throne, we see government.

From earth, the beast appears powerful.

From the throne, the Lamb reigns.

From earth, Babylon appears great.

From heaven comes the declaration:



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BABYLON IS FALLEN.

Revelation continually calls the reader higher.

THIS BOOK IS NOT ABOUT FEAR

Many believers have been taught to approach Revelation almost entirely through fear.

Fear of the beast.

Fear of the mark.

Fear of tribulation.

Fear of judgment.

Fear of what might happen tomorrow.

But fear is not the center of this Revelation.

JESUS CHRIST IS.

The Lamb is there.

The throne is there.

The overcomers are there.

Zion is there.

The Bride is there.



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The river of life is there.

The tree of life is there.

And the final vision does not leave creation abandoned to darkness.

John hears:

“Behold, I make all things new.”

— Revelation 21:5

Revelation is not the story of darkness successfully defeating God’s purpose.

It is the unveiling of the triumph of the Lamb.

TEN MORE SYMBOLS — ONE REVELATION

In the first volume of this series, we established some of the major keys for understanding Revelation and examined many of its most recognizable symbols.

But Revelation is far too rich to exhaust in a single volume.

There are more doors to open.

In this volume we will examine:

THE SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS.

THE SEVEN STARS.

THE OPEN DOOR IN HEAVEN.



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LIVING CREATURES.

THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS.**THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.****THE MANCHILD CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD.****THE TWO WITNESSES.****THE ANGEL STANDING IN THE SUN.****THE RIVER AND THE TREE OF LIFE.**

We will trace these symbols through Scripture.

We will allow the Word of God to establish their vocabulary.

We will look beyond the natural image to the spiritual reality.

And through all of them, we will keep looking for the One whom Revelation was given to unveil.

Because if we understand every beast but fail to see Christ, we have missed the Revelation.

If we understand every number but fail to see the Lamb, we have missed the Revelation.

If we construct the perfect prophetic timeline but never behold the throne, we have missed the Revelation.

This book begins where Revelation begins.

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And it will end where Revelation ends.

JESUS CHRIST.

The Alpha.

The Omega.

The Beginning.

The End.

The Lamb.

The King of kings.

The Lord of lords.

The One seated upon the throne.

And the One who declares:

“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.”

Now let us open the symbols.

LET US DECODE THE REVELATION.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS

THE CHURCHES AS GOD’S LIGHT IN THE EARTH



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“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man...”

— Revelation 1:12–13

John hears a voice.

He turns.

And the first great symbolic vision that confronts him is not a dragon.

It is not a beast.

It is not Babylon.

It is not the mark.

It is not the judgment of the nations.

John turns and sees:

SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS.

And standing in the midst of those candlesticks is:

ONE LIKE UNTO THE SON OF MAN.

That order matters.

Before Revelation carries us into beasts, wars, judgments, trumpets, witnesses, Babylon, or New Jerusalem, John is shown something concerning **Christ and His**



The Son of Man is standing in the midst of the candlesticks.

If we are going to decode Revelation, this is one of the first pictures we must understand.

And thankfully, we do not have to guess what the candlesticks represent.

Revelation interprets the symbol for us.

“The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

— Revelation 1:20

There is our key.

THE CANDLESTICKS ARE THE CHURCHES.

But that answer opens another question.

Why did Christ reveal His churches to John as **candlesticks**?

Why not buildings?

Why not organizations?

Why not armies?

Why not institutions?

Why did Jesus choose the language of **light**?

Because the Church has been placed in the earth to bear witness to a Light that did



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e in itself.

THE CANDLESTICK DOES NOT CREATE THE LIGHT

A candlestick has no light of its own.

That principle is simple, but tremendous.

You can polish the candlestick.

Decorate it.

Make it larger.

Make it more impressive.

Put it in a beautiful building.

Surround it with religious activity.

But none of those things produce light.

The candlestick exists to **bear the light**.

Jesus said:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

— John 8:12

Christ is the Light.

The Church is the vessel through which that Light is displayed.



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That distinction must never be lost.

The Church is not the source.

CHRIST IS THE SOURCE.

The Church is not the Life.

CHRIST IS THE LIFE.

The Church is not the glory.

CHRIST IS THE GLORY.

The Church does not exist to call attention to itself.

It exists to bear witness to Him.

John the Baptist gives us the pattern.

Speaking of John, Scripture says:

“He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”

— John 1:8

There is the ministry of every true candlestick.

BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT.

When the vessel begins believing it is the source, religion has already begun replacing revelation.



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ALWAYS DESIRED A PEOPLE WHO BEAR HIS LIGHT

The imagery did not begin in Revelation.

Once again, Revelation sends us backward into Scripture.

God instructed Moses concerning the candlestick in the tabernacle:

“And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold...”

— Exodus 25:31

The candlestick stood in the holy place.

It was not outside in the outer court.

It belonged to the ministry of the sanctuary.

And it was made of:

PURE GOLD.

That is important.

Gold throughout Scripture is associated with that which is divine, precious, incorruptible, and glorious.

The candlestick was not made from common material.

God was establishing a pattern.

When John later sees seven **golden** candlesticks, the language is not accidental.

God is showing us something concerning a people whose purpose is to carry divine



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Not human wisdom.

Not religious tradition.

Not denominational pride.

Not the glory of man.

DIVINE LIGHT.

THE CANDLESTICK WAS BEATEN INTO SHAPE

There is another remarkable detail in Exodus.

“Of beaten work shall the candlestick be made...”

— Exodus 25:31

The candlestick was not assembled from disconnected pieces.

It was fashioned through beaten work.

One piece.

One work.

One vessel.

There is something here concerning the formation of a people through whom Christ can shine.



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Not merely gather people and call the gathering maturity.

He forms Christ within them.

Paul said:

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

— Galatians 4:19

There is the issue.

CHRIST FORMED IN YOU.

The purpose of God is not merely to put believers into meetings.

It is to form the nature of His Son within a people.

The pressure does not create Christ.

The trial does not manufacture divine life.

But pressure exposes what is there and becomes part of the process through which God brings His workmanship into manifestation.

Peter wrote concerning the trial of faith:

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire...”

— 1 Peter 1:7

Gold survives the fire.



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is not destroy what is genuine.

It reveals it.

And God is preparing a golden candlestick capable of bearing His light.

THE OIL FEEDS THE FLAME

A lamp without oil cannot continue burning.

This brings another tremendous biblical symbol into the picture.

Oil repeatedly speaks of the work and anointing of the Spirit.

Zechariah saw a vision involving a candlestick and olive trees.

“And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold...”

— Zechariah 4:2

Then comes the great declaration:

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

— Zechariah 4:6

There it is.

The candlestick cannot sustain divine light through human power.

Not by might.

Not by power.



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BUT BY MY SPIRIT.

The Church cannot manufacture the life of God through organization.

We cannot advertise our way into anointing.

We cannot educate our way into revelation.

We cannot organize our way into divine nature.

We cannot substitute religious machinery for the Spirit of God.

Programs may have a place.

Organization may serve a purpose.

Study is necessary.

Labor matters.

But none of those things can become the oil.

THE LIGHT REQUIRES THE SPIRIT.

When the oil disappears, men usually compensate by building a larger religious machine.

More activity.

More noise.

More promotion.



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mance.

But activity is not necessarily light.

The candlestick was designed for oil.

The Church was designed for the Spirit.

JESUS WALKS IN THE MIDST OF THE CANDLESTICKS

Now return to Revelation.

John does not merely see seven candlesticks.

He sees Someone among them.

“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man...”

— Revelation 1:13

Christ is not standing at a distance.

HE IS IN THE MIDST.

Then Revelation 2:1 describes Him as:

“He that walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.”

Think about that.

Jesus walks among His churches.

He sees



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He knows.

He examines.

He speaks.

Again and again in Revelation 2 and 3 He says:

"I KNOW THY WORKS."

Men may see the outward appearance.

Christ sees the inward condition.

Men may applaud success.

Christ knows whether there is life.

Men may measure crowds.

Christ measures faithfulness.

Men may count buildings.

Christ looks for love, truth, endurance, righteousness, overcoming, and obedience.

He walks among the candlesticks because:

THE CHURCH BELONGS TO HIM.

CHRIST DOES NOT SPEAK THE SAME WORD TO EVERY CHURCH



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of the remarkable features of Revelation 2 and 3.

There are seven churches.

One Christ.

One Spirit.

But the message to each church addresses its actual condition.

To Ephesus:

“Thou hast left thy first love.”

— Revelation 2:4

To Smyrna:

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...”

— Revelation 2:10

To Pergamos:

“Thou holdest fast my name...”

— Revelation 2:13

To Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, Christ likewise speaks according to what He sees.

This reveals something important about divine government.

Christ does not merely speak generally.

HE SPEAKS PRECISELY.



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He knows where light is burning.

He knows where mixture has entered.

He knows where love has grown cold.

He knows where compromise is tolerated.

He knows where people appear alive but are spiritually asleep.

He knows where a little strength remains.

And He knows where religious wealth has produced spiritual blindness.

Nothing in the candlestick escapes the eyes of the One walking in its midst.

THE FIRST LOVE IS CONNECTED TO THE FIRST WORKS

The church at Ephesus had much that appeared commendable.

Jesus said:

"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience..."

— Revelation 2:2

They labored.

They endured.

They tested false apostles.

They hated evil.



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Yet Christ said:

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

— Revelation 2:4

This should awaken us.

A church can have works and lose love.

It can defend truth and lose tenderness.

It can expose error and lose intimacy.

It can continue functioning while something essential has diminished inwardly.

Jesus therefore says:

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...”

— Revelation 2:5

The answer was not merely:

WORK HARDER.

The answer began with:

REMEMBER.

REPENT.

RETURN.



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The candlestick must remain joined to the reality that gives its light meaning.

THE CANDLESTICK CAN BE REMOVED

Then Jesus gives Ephesus a warning:

“Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

— Revelation 2:5

Now we begin to understand why the symbol matters.

He does not say He will destroy Christ.

The Light cannot be destroyed.

He says the **candlestick** can be removed.

A religious institution may continue existing long after it has ceased functioning as a true bearer of divine light.

The name can remain.

The building can remain.

The organization can remain.

The traditions can remain.

The schedule can remain.

The machinery can continue.



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But the question is:

IS THE LIGHT STILL BURNING?

That is the issue Revelation places before us.

A candlestick does not justify its existence merely by existing.

It exists to bear light.

THE CHURCH IS NOT CALLED TO REFLECT THE DARKNESS

Jesus told His disciples:

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.”

— Matthew 5:14

Notice what He did not say.

He did not say:

You are called to become experts in darkness.

He said:

YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

The answer to darkness is not endless fascination with darkness.

It is light.

John wrote:



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“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

— John 1:5

Light does not negotiate with darkness.

Light does not become darkness to defeat darkness.

Light shines.

This is particularly important when studying Revelation.

A person can become so occupied with dragons, beasts, antichrists, judgments, conspiracies, wars, and destruction that the entire book becomes a study of darkness.

But John began by seeing Christ among:

GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS.

Revelation begins turning our attention toward the Light.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXPOSING DARKNESS AND MAGNIFYING IT

Scripture exposes darkness.

Truth reveals error.

Light makes hidden things manifest.

Paul wrote:



“But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”

— Ephesians 5:13

The light exposes.

But exposure is not the final purpose.

God does not reveal darkness so His people will spend their lives staring at it.

He exposes darkness so that light may govern.

The Church's testimony cannot become:

LOOK HOW DARK EVERYTHING IS.

Its testimony must ultimately become:

ARISE, SHINE; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME.

Isaiah declared:

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.”

— Isaiah 60:1

Then he acknowledges darkness:

“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people...”

— Isaiah 60:2



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does not get the final word.

The verse continues:

“But the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.”

There is God’s answer.

Darkness covers.

BUT THE LORD ARISES.

Gross darkness appears.

BUT GLORY IS SEEN.

That is candlestick ministry.

SEVEN CANDLESTICKS — COMPLETENESS OF TESTIMONY

Why seven?

Revelation repeatedly uses the number seven.

Seven churches.

Seven spirits.

Seven stars.

Seven seals.



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ets.

Seven vials.

Seven appears throughout Scripture in connection with completeness and divine fullness.

The seven churches were real assemblies in Asia.

But the repeated use of seven also gives the vision a completeness extending beyond one local congregation.

The message becomes larger.

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

— Revelation 2:7

Notice:

Not merely what the Spirit said to Ephesus.

What the Spirit says:

UNTO THE CHURCHES.

Every believer with an ear is invited to hear.

The candlestick vision therefore reaches beyond ancient Asia Minor.

Christ is still walking among His people.

The Spirit is still speaking.



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overcome remains.

EVERY CHURCH HEARS THE CALL TO OVERCOME

At the conclusion of each message comes a promise.

“To him that overcometh...”

Again.

And again.

And again.

The Revelation is not written merely to inform spectators.

It calls forth:

OVERCOMERS.

The candlestick is not merely a theological concept.

It is a people being addressed by Christ.

Corrected by Christ.

Encouraged by Christ.

Purified by Christ.

And called to overcome by Christ.

This is where Revelation becomes personal.



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We can spend years trying to identify every prophetic event and never hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

But Jesus repeatedly says:

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR.

The great question is not merely:

Do I understand the symbol?

The greater question is:

Can I hear the Spirit?

THE LIGHT IS CHRIST MANIFESTED THROUGH A PEOPLE

Paul gives us another tremendous statement:

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts...”

— 2 Corinthians 4:6

Where has God shined?

IN OUR HEARTS.

And why?

“...to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus



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There is the mystery of the candlestick.

God shines inwardly.

Then what He has revealed inwardly becomes testimony outwardly.

This is how the kingdom works.

Inside.

Then outside.

Life.

Then manifestation.

Christ formed within.

Then Christ revealed through.

The Church cannot give the world what it does not possess inwardly.

Religion can imitate form.

But only Life produces Life.

WE ARE EARTHEN VESSELS CARRYING HEAVENLY TREASURE

Paul immediately continues:



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...re this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power
may be of God, and not of us.”

— 2 Corinthians 4:7

There it is again.

The vessel is not the treasure.

The candlestick is not the Light.

THE TREASURE IS CHRIST.

And the excellency of the power belongs:

TO GOD.

This destroys religious boasting.

If light shines through us, we cannot claim to have manufactured it.

If revelation comes, it came from Him.

If Life flows, He is the Life.

If glory appears, it is His glory.

The candlestick can never say:

LOOK AT ME.

Its entire purpose is to make the Light visible.



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N CANDLESTICK REVEALS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS CHURCH

Now the symbol becomes clear.

John turns.

He sees seven golden candlesticks.

Revelation tells us:

THEY ARE THE CHURCHES.

They are golden because God is revealing something of divine character.

They are candlesticks because they exist to bear light.

They require oil because the testimony cannot be sustained apart from the Spirit.

Christ walks among them because they belong to Him.

He examines them because He governs His Church.

He corrects them because He desires pure testimony.

He calls them to overcome because His purpose is not merely attendance.

His purpose is:

MANIFESTATION.

Christ in a people.

Light in darkness.



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Life overcoming death.

Truth overcoming deception.

Love overcoming hatred.

The Lamb's nature overcoming the beastly nature of fallen man.

THE QUESTION IS NOT HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THE CANDLESTICK

Here is where the symbol searches us.

We can become occupied with the vessel.

How large is it?

How famous?

How wealthy?

How old?

How successful?

How impressive?

How many people attend?

How much influence does it possess?

But heaven asks another question:



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ING THE LIGHT?

A small candlestick filled with oil is more useful in darkness than an enormous golden monument with no flame.

God is not impressed by what does not manifest His Son.

The purpose of the candlestick is not the glorification of the candlestick.

The purpose is:

THE LIGHT.

And the Light is:

JESUS CHRIST.

FROM THE CANDLESTICK TO THE CITY

Revelation begins with candlesticks.

But watch where the book eventually takes us.

John finally sees New Jerusalem.

And concerning that city he writes:

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

— Revelation 21:23

There is the journey.



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We begin with candlesticks bearing light.

We end with a city filled with glory.

And who remains the Light?

THE LAMB.

The symbol has never been about glorifying religious institutions.

From beginning to end, Revelation is unveiling:

JESUS CHRIST.

He walks among the candlesticks.

He trims the lamps.

He speaks to the churches.

He calls forth the overcomer.

And ultimately His glory fills the city.

THE FIRST SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with a simple question:

What are the seven golden candlesticks?

Revelation answered:



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CHURCHES.

But now we see more.

The candlestick reveals:

A PEOPLE CREATED TO BEAR DIVINE LIGHT.

A PEOPLE DEPENDENT UPON THE SPIRIT.

A PEOPLE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF CHRIST.

A PEOPLE CALLED TO OVERCOME.

A PEOPLE THROUGH WHOM THE LIFE AND GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST ARE MADE VISIBLE.

That is more than identifying a symbol.

That is seeing what the symbol reveals.

And standing in the middle of the entire vision is One like unto the Son of Man.

The candlesticks surround Him.

But they do not replace Him.

The churches belong to Him.

But they are not the center.

CHRIST IS THE CENTER.



EN

on shows us something else associated with those churches.

Seven objects held securely in Christ's own right hand.

THE SEVEN STARS.

The candlesticks stand around Him.

THE STARS ARE HELD IN HIS HAND.

And that opens the door to our next symbol.

CHAPTER TWO

THE SEVEN STARS IN HIS RIGHT HAND

MESSENGERS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF CHRIST

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand... The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches."

— Revelation 1:20

The first chapter of Revelation gives us two symbols standing side by side.

SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS.

And:

SEVEN STARS.

We have already allowed Revelation to interpret the first symbol.

The candlesticks are the seven churches.



EN

Now Jesus interprets the second:

THE SEVEN STARS ARE THE ANGELS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

Again, Revelation is teaching us how to read Revelation.

We do not begin with imagination.

We begin with what Scripture says.

But identifying the stars is only the beginning.

The deeper question is:

WHY STARS?

Why does Christ use a heavenly symbol to describe these messengers?

Why are there seven?

And perhaps most importantly:

WHY ARE THEY IN HIS RIGHT HAND?

That final detail opens an extraordinary revelation concerning ministry, authority, responsibility, government, and the relationship between Christ and those through whom He speaks to His Church.

The stars are not floating independently through heaven.

They are not governing themselves.

They are not shining according to their own authority.



EN

John sees them:

IN THE RIGHT HAND OF JESUS CHRIST.

Before we understand the messenger, we must understand the Hand that holds him.

THE RIGHT HAND SPEAKS OF POWER AND AUTHORITY

The language of the right hand appears throughout Scripture.

The psalmist declared:

“Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.”

— Exodus 15:6

David wrote:

“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

— Psalm 110:1

And the New Testament repeatedly speaks of Christ exalted to the right hand of God.

The right hand is language of:

POWER.

AUTHORITY.

GOVERNMENT.



EN

STRENGTH.

RULE.

So when John sees seven stars in Christ's right hand, he is not merely being shown seven messengers.

He is being shown:

MESSENGERS UNDER DIVINE GOVERNMENT.

They belong to Christ.

Their authority comes from Christ.

Their message must come from Christ.

Their position exists because of Christ.

They are held by Christ.

That changes our entire understanding of ministry.

THE MESSENGER IS NOT THE SOURCE OF THE MESSAGE

This principle must be established immediately.

A messenger does not create the message.

He carries it.

An ambassador does not invent the policy of the kingdom that sent him.



He represents the king.

Paul wrote:

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us...”

— 2 Corinthians 5:20

Notice the language.

FOR CHRIST.

The messenger stands on behalf of Another.

John the Baptist understood this.

When people began focusing attention upon him, John said:

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

— John 3:30

That is the spirit of true ministry.

HE MUST INCREASE.

The moment the messenger becomes more important than the One who sent him, something has become distorted.

The star exists to point beyond itself.

The preacher exists to reveal Christ.

The teacher exists to open the Scriptures.



EN

The prophet exists to communicate what God is saying.

The apostle exists as one sent.

The shepherd exists to care for sheep that belong to Another Shepherd.

Jesus said to Peter:

“Feed my sheep.”

— John 21:16

He did not say:

Feed your sheep.

They belonged to Christ.

And every true messenger must remember:

THE PEOPLE BELONG TO CHRIST.

STARS BELONG TO THE HEAVENLY REALM

Why does Revelation call these messengers stars?

Stars belong to the heavens.

They shine from above.

This gives us another piece of Revelation’s symbolic language.

Paul wrote:



“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

— Colossians 3:2

True ministry cannot originate merely from the earthly mind.

It must carry something from another realm.

Jesus said:

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

— John 3:6

Flesh can produce religious speech.

Human intelligence can produce lectures.

Natural ability can produce impressive communication.

Education can produce information.

But revelation comes from above.

James wrote:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...”

— James 1:17

The star speaks of something heavenly shining into an earthly realm.

A true messenger should bring light from above into the condition of the Church

DANIEL CONNECTS STARS WITH THOSE WHO TURN MANY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

The language of stars as people did not begin with John.

Daniel wrote:

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

— Daniel 12:3

There is a tremendous connection.

Those who turn many to righteousness:

SHINE AS THE STARS.

What causes the shining?

Not celebrity.

Not fame.

Not popularity.

Not human applause.

RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The star is connected with a life and ministry that directs people toward God's order.



EN

of divine ministry is not to gather admirers around the minister.

It is to turn people:

TOWARD GOD.

When ministry continually produces dependence upon the personality of the messenger, something is wrong.

True ministry makes Christ larger.

True ministry causes the hearer to see Him more clearly.

True ministry does not say:

YOU CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT ME.

It says:

BEHOLD THE LAMB.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE MORNING STAR

Before any messenger becomes impressed with being called a star, Revelation settles the issue.

Jesus declares:

“I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”

— Revelation 22:16

There is the supreme Star.



EN

JESUS CHRIST.

Every other light is derivative.

Every true ministry shines because it has received from Him.

Every true revelation points toward Him.

Every true messenger is subordinate to Him.

The stars in Revelation 1 are in His hand.

And by Revelation 22, Jesus Himself declares:

I AM THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.

The book begins and ends with Christ.

SEVEN STARS — A COMPLETE MINISTRY UNDER ONE HEAD

Again we encounter the number seven.

Seven candlesticks.

Seven stars.

The churches are seven.

The messengers are seven.

The picture carries the language of completeness.



EN

only:

ONE RIGHT HAND.

Many messengers.

One government.

Many churches.

One Head.

Many members.

One Christ.

Paul wrote:

“And he is the head of the body, the church...”

— Colossians 1:18

This is one of the greatest truths the Church can recover.

CHRIST IS THE HEAD.

Not a denomination.

Not an organization.

Not a council.

Not a preacher.



EN

tle.

Not a prophet.

Not a bishop.

Not a personality.

CHRIST.

Ministry becomes healthy when every gift understands where the Head is.

THE HAND AND THE BODY REVEAL DIVINE ORDER

Paul uses the human body to describe the Church.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members... so also is Christ.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:12

Then he explains that every member has a function.

The eye cannot say to the hand:

“I have no need of thee.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:21

There is diversity.

But diversity does not mean independence.

The hand belongs to the body.



EN

longs under the Head.

So Revelation gives us a beautiful picture.

The stars are:

IN HIS HAND.

They function from within His government.

A messenger disconnected from the Head may still speak.

He may still gather people.

He may still build something.

But divine ministry must remain connected to Christ.

THERE IS SAFETY IN HIS HAND

The right hand is not merely a symbol of authority.

It is also a place of security.

Jesus said concerning His sheep:

“Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

— John 10:28

Think about that language alongside Revelation.

The stars are in His hand.



EN

There is authority there.

But there is also keeping.

A true servant of God does not have to manufacture his own security.

He does not have to manipulate people to protect his position.

He does not have to destroy another messenger to preserve his ministry.

He does not have to fight for a throne God never gave him.

If Christ holds you:

LET CHRIST HOLD YOU.

There is tremendous rest in that.

WHEN MEN TRY TO HOLD THEIR OWN MINISTRIES

Much religious corruption begins when a messenger stops trusting the hand of Christ and begins trying to preserve himself.

Then fear enters.

Competition enters.

Jealousy enters.

Control enters.

Territory enters.



EN

Possession enters.

The messenger begins saying:

MY CHURCH.

MY PEOPLE.

MY PLATFORM.

MY MINISTRY.

MY FOLLOWING.

But the stars belong in:

HIS HAND.

Paul understood this principle.

Some believers at Corinth were saying:

“I am of Paul; and I of Apollos...”

— 1 Corinthians 3:4

Paul answered:

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed...”

— 1 Corinthians 3:5

That will bring ministry back into order.

Who is Paul?



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A minister.

Who is Apollos?

A minister.

Then Paul says:

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

— 1 Corinthians 3:6

Who gets the glory?

GOD.

ONE PLANTS — ANOTHER WATERS — GOD GIVES THE INCREASE

This destroys the spirit of competition.

Paul plants.

Apollos waters.

They do not have the same assignment.

But both serve the same purpose.

And neither can produce Life.

GOD GIVES THE INCREASE.

That is why Paul continues:



EN

“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

— 1 Corinthians 3:7

That does not mean ministry is worthless.

It means ministry knows its Source.

The messenger matters.

But he is not God.

The gift matters.

But it is not the Giver.

The star shines.

But Christ holds the star.

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH IS ADDRESSED TO THE ANGEL

Now notice something fascinating in Revelation 2 and 3.

Each message begins:

“Unto the angel of the church... write...”

The message is directed through the angel associated with the church.



EN

responsibility.

The messenger cannot say:

WHAT HAPPENS AMONG THE PEOPLE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

Christ addresses conditions in the churches through those entrusted with responsibility.

Ephesus has lost first love.

Pergamos has mixture.

Thyatira tolerates corruption.

Sardis has a name that it lives but is dead.

Philadelphia has a little strength and keeps His Word.

Laodicea is lukewarm.

And Christ speaks.

The star is not merely honored.

THE STAR IS ACCOUNTABLE.

Authority without accountability becomes dangerous.

The right hand gives authority.

But the right hand also establishes ownership.



EN

ger belongs to Christ and must answer to Christ.

A MESSENGER MUST HEAR BEFORE HE CAN SPEAK

The prophets repeatedly declared:

“Thus saith the LORD.”

Why?

Because the prophet’s authority was not found in his own opinion.

He had heard.

Then he spoke.

Jesus Himself said:

“As I hear, I judge...”

— John 5:30

And concerning His words:

“The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.”

— John 14:24

If the Son Himself demonstrated dependence upon the Father, how much more should those who minister in His name?

The great temptation of ministry is to speak because people expect us to speak.

But sometimes the first responsibility of a messenger is:



EN

Before there is a word to the Church, there must be an ear toward the Spirit.

That is why every message to the churches concludes:

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

The messenger speaks.

But:

THE SPIRIT IS SPEAKING.

THE STAR MUST NEVER REPLACE THE SPIRIT

This is vital.

People can become so dependent upon a teacher that they stop hearing God for themselves.

They can become so attached to a preacher that his voice becomes the final authority in their lives.

That is dangerous.

Paul praised the Bereans because:

“They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

— Acts 17:11



EN

that.

Paul was teaching.

Yet the hearers searched Scripture.

True ministry is not threatened by that.

True ministry says:

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

A genuine messenger does not fear the Bible.

He points people toward it.

He does not want disciples who merely repeat his vocabulary.

He wants people who see Christ.

FALSE STARS CAN FALL

Revelation also uses star imagery in other ways.

Stars can fall.

This reminds us that symbolic language must always be interpreted in context.

Not every occurrence of “star” means exactly the same thing.

But the image carries an important warning.



EN

ot the same as faithfulness.

Visibility is not the same as maturity.

Gift is not the same as character.

A person may have influence and still fall.

That is why Paul warned:

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

— 1 Corinthians 10:12

No messenger becomes greater than the need for humility.

No ministry becomes too successful to require dependence upon Christ.

The safest star is the star that remembers:

I AM IN HIS HAND.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STAR IS TO GIVE DIRECTION

Stars have long served as markers in the heavens.

They give orientation.

They help establish direction.

That gives us a beautiful picture of spiritual ministry.

A true messenger should help people find their bearings.



When confusion enters, truth gives direction.

When fear enters, the Word gives direction.

When religious tradition obscures Christ, revelation gives direction.

When people lose sight of God's purpose, ministry should point again toward:

THE LAMB.

Paul described ministry gifts in Ephesians:

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers..."

— Ephesians 4:11

Why?

Not to create spiritual celebrities.

The next verse says:

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

— Ephesians 4:12

There is the purpose.

PERFECT THE SAINTS.

EDIFY THE BODY.

Ministry is supposed to build the people—not build a throne for the minister.



EN

UNTIL WE ALL COME

Paul continues:

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man...”

— Ephesians 4:13

Notice the destination:

WE ALL COME.

The ministry gift is not the destination.

Christ formed in the Body is the destination.

The messenger serves the maturation of the saints.

The teacher teaches until people understand.

The shepherd shepherds until people mature.

The apostolic and prophetic ministries labor toward the formation of Christ in a people.

Paul did not say:

Follow me forever because you cannot function without me.

He said:



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Followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

There is the qualification.

Follow me:

AS I FOLLOW CHRIST.

Christ remains the measure.

GOD'S MESSENGERS ARE SERVANTS

Jesus overturned the world's understanding of greatness.

He said:

"Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."

— Matthew 20:27

That is Lamb government.

The world says:

Rise above people.

Jesus says:

Serve them.

The world says:

Make yourself great.



EN

Jesus says:

Become servant.

The beast uses authority to dominate.

The Lamb uses authority to give Himself.

That means ministry operating under Christ's right hand must carry:

THE NATURE OF THE LAMB.

Authority without Lamb nature becomes beastly.

Gift without character becomes dangerous.

Revelation without love becomes pride.

Knowledge without humility produces self-exaltation.

The messenger must resemble the One whose message he carries.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PLATFORM AND A CALLING

Modern culture can confuse visibility with calling.

Someone has a large audience.

Therefore he must be important.

Someone has a small audience.

**EN**

e must be insignificant.

Heaven does not measure that way.

Jeremiah preached when people did not want to hear him.

Noah built while a generation ignored the warning.

John the Baptist ministered in a wilderness.

Jesus lost crowds when His sayings became difficult.

Truth is not determined by audience size.

A star does not become a star because men vote for it.

The seven stars are stars because:

CHRIST IDENTIFIES THEM AS HIS MESSENGERS.

Calling originates with God.

THE HAND DETERMINES THE DIRECTION OF THE STAR

If something is in your hand, your hand determines where it goes.

That gives us another powerful picture.

The messenger does not determine his own course independently of Christ.

Paul wanted to go certain places.



EN

US:

“They were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.”

— Acts 16:6

Imagine that.

Preaching the Word was good.

Asia needed the Gospel.

But the Spirit said:

Not now.

Then Paul received the Macedonian vision.

God redirected the messenger.

This is the difference between merely doing something good and doing what God is saying.

The star is in His hand.

HIS HAND DETERMINES THE DIRECTION.

THE TRUE MESSENGER DOES NOT NEED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST STAR

Competition dies when Christ becomes the center.

If another ministry prospers:



EN

If another preacher reaches people you cannot reach:

Bless God.

If another teacher explains something more clearly:

Bless God.

If another servant carries a different gift:

Bless God.

Paul said:

“For we are labourers together with God...”

— 1 Corinthians 3:9

Not competitors.

LABOURERS TOGETHER.

There is room in Christ’s hand for seven stars.

And there is room in the Body for many gifts.

The hand does not become confused because one finger is not another finger.

Diversity belongs to divine order.

THE STARS AND CANDLESTICKS WORK TOGETHER



EN

Now bring the two symbols together.

The candlesticks are the churches.

The stars are the messengers of the churches.

The stars are:

IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

Christ is:

IN THE MIDST OF THE CANDLESTICKS.

Look at the picture.

The messenger is in His hand.

The Church surrounds His presence.

And Christ governs both.

That is divine order.

The minister does not own the Church.

Christ does.

The Church does not own the minister.

Christ does.

Both exist under:



EN

THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

When that order is restored, religious control begins to lose its power.

CHRIST MUST REMAIN IN THE MIDST

This is the heart of the entire vision.

John did not turn and see seven churches with Christ somewhere in the background.

He saw:

“In the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man.”

IN THE MIDST.

Christ belongs in the center.

Not merely in the doctrinal statement.

Not merely in the songs.

Not merely in the name on the building.

In the midst.

Governing.

Speaking.

Correcting.



Revealing.

Giving Life.

When Christ moves from the center, something else will occupy the center.

A personality.

A tradition.

A denomination.

A method.

A doctrine isolated from the Person.

A movement.

A system.

But the Revelation restores the proper order.

CHRIST IN THE MIDST.

THE STAR HAS ONE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Shine with the light it has received.

Speak what it has heard.



EN

l the One who holds it.

Never mistake the gift for the Giver.

Never mistake influence for ownership.

Never mistake authority for independence.

Never mistake being used by God for being equal with God.

The star belongs:

IN HIS HAND.

And that may be one of the safest places in all of Revelation.

Held by Christ.

Directed by Christ.

Governed by Christ.

Used by Christ.

And ultimately pointing others toward Christ.

THE SECOND SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

SEVEN STARS.



EN

old us:

THE SEVEN STARS ARE THE ANGELS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

But now the symbol has opened wider.

We have seen:

MESSENGERS WHO BELONG TO CHRIST.

MESSENGERS WHO RECEIVE THEIR AUTHORITY FROM CHRIST.

MESSENGERS WHO MUST CARRY LIGHT RATHER THAN EXALT THEMSELVES.

MESSENGERS WHO SERVE THE MATURITY OF THE BODY.

MESSENGERS WHO ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ONE WHO HOLDS THEM.

And above everything else:

THE STARS ARE IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

The hand is greater than the star.

The Christ who sends is greater than the messenger who goes.

The Word is greater than the preacher who proclaims it.

And the Head is greater than every member of the Body.

But Revelation is about to move us from the churches on earth into another realm.

John sees something opened.



EN

Not a door into another earthly institution.

Not a door into another human system.

A DOOR OPENED IN HEAVEN.

Then comes a voice:

“COME UP HITHER.”

The perspective is about to change.

And when John comes up in the Spirit, the first thing he sees is not chaos.

Not the beast.

Not Babylon.

Not the nations.

HE SEES A THRONE.

CHAPTER THREE

THE DOOR OPENED IN HEAVEN

COME UP HITHER AND SEE FROM THE THRONE

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”

— Revelation 4:1



EN

changes in Revelation 4.

John has already seen the golden candlesticks.

He has seen the stars in Christ's right hand.

He has heard the words of Jesus to the churches.

But now:

A DOOR OPENS IN HEAVEN.

That is not a small detail.

A new perspective is about to be given.

A new realm is about to be entered.

A new vantage point is about to govern everything John sees afterward.

And the voice says:

COME UP HITHER.

If Revelation is going to be understood properly, we cannot keep trying to interpret everything from below.

We have to see from where John was invited to see.

THE DOOR WAS OPENED

John does not say he forced the door open.



He does not say he climbed his way into heaven.

He does not say he discovered the realm through human intelligence.

He says:

“A door was opened in heaven.”

The opening comes from God.

That is revelation.

Man does not manufacture it.

He receives it.

Paul said:

“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...”

— 1 Corinthians 2:10

That is the order.

God reveals.

The Spirit opens.

Man sees.

This is why revelation can never become a trophy for human pride.

If the door opened, God opened it.



EN

enabled us to see.

If we understood, light came from above.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE DOOR

The imagery of a door immediately takes us back to the words of Jesus.

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...”

— John 10:9

Christ does not merely open doors.

He is the Door.

Everything heavenly is accessed through Him.

Truth is accessed through Him.

Life is accessed through Him.

The Father is revealed through Him.

The kingdom is entered through Him.

There is no revelation of God that ultimately bypasses Jesus Christ.

That principle guards us.

Any spiritual interpretation that moves us away from Christ has missed the Door.



EN

SOUNDED LIKE A TRUMPET

John says:

“The first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me...”

Revelation continually joins voice and trumpet imagery.

A trumpet announces.

A trumpet summons.

A trumpet warns.

A trumpet gathers.

A trumpet declares that something is happening.

But this trumpet does not merely produce sound.

It speaks:

COME UP HITHER.

The purpose of the voice is elevation.

Not natural elevation.

Spiritual elevation.

The voice calls John out of one perspective into another.



EN

ITHER

That may be one of the most important invitations in the entire Book of Revelation.

COME UP HITHER.

Come above fear.

Come above confusion.

Come above the noise of nations.

Come above religious speculation.

Come above the earthly mind.

Come above the perspective that sees only what is happening below.

Because what you see depends greatly upon where you are looking from.

From below, the beast looks enormous.

From above, the Lamb is standing.

From below, Babylon looks rich and powerful.

From above, heaven declares:

BABYLON IS FALLEN.

From below, nations rage.

From above, there is a throne.



Perspective changes interpretation.

JOHN WAS IMMEDIATELY IN THE SPIRIT

The next verse says:

“And immediately I was in the spirit...”

— Revelation 4:2

Notice the sequence:

THE DOOR OPENS.

THE VOICE SPEAKS.

COME UP HITHER.

JOHN IS IN THE SPIRIT.

This is not accidental.

John is not merely changing geography.

He is changing realm.

He is being brought into the Spirit so he can see from God's perspective.

That confirms the principle we established from the beginning.

Revelation is not simply a natural report about future events.

It is spiritual vision.



EN

THE FIRST THING JOHN SEES IS A THRONE

Now look at what comes next.

“And, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”

— Revelation 4:2

John comes up.

He enters the Spirit.

The heavens open.

And the first great reality placed before him is:

A THRONE.

This matters tremendously.

God could have shown John the beast first.

He could have shown him Babylon first.

He could have shown wars first.

He could have shown tribulation first.

He could have shown the dragon first.

But heaven establishes something before those things dominate the vision.



EN

THRONE.

And Someone is sitting on it.

That changes everything.

REVELATION IS NOT THE STORY OF A LOST UNIVERSE

If we read Revelation only from earth, we may begin to think everything is out of control.

Wars.

Judgments.

Beasts.

Nations.

False prophets.

Babylon.

Death.

But the throne tells us:

GOD HAS NOT LOST CONTROL.

The universe has not escaped His government.

Satan has not become God's equal.



The beast has not seized heaven.

Babylon has not dethroned the Lamb.

John sees the throne.

The throne remains.

THRONE LANGUAGE IS GOVERNMENT LANGUAGE

A throne is not merely a chair.

It is a symbol of rule.

Authority.

Judgment.

Government.

Kingdom.

Psalm 103:19 says:

“The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.”

There it is.

Throne.

Kingdom



EN

Rule.

Revelation is governmental from beginning to end.

The question is not merely:

What happens?

The deeper question is:

WHO GOVERNS?

The answer is established in Revelation 4.

GOD GOVERNS.

BEFORE THE BEAST RISES, THE THRONE IS ALREADY SET

That order should settle fear.

The beast is introduced later.

But the throne is already there.

The dragon wars later.

But the throne is already there.

Babylon boasts later.

But the throne is already there.



EN

unfold later.

But the throne is already there.

Nothing that happens afterward catches heaven by surprise.

The throne is not built in response to the crisis.

THE THRONE WAS ALREADY SET.

That is one of the strongest truths in Revelation.

THE THRONE CHANGES HOW WE READ PROPHECY

Many people approach prophecy by starting with disaster.

They ask:

How bad will it get?

Who is the Antichrist?

What is the mark?

When will everything collapse?

But Revelation starts us somewhere else.

START WITH THE THRONE.

If you begin with fear, every symbol becomes frightening.



EN

with the throne, every symbol is placed beneath divine government.

That does not make judgment unreal.

It puts judgment in order.

That does not make opposition unreal.

It puts opposition beneath the King.

That does not make the beast harmless.

It reveals that the beast is temporary.

THE THRONE REVEALS FINAL AUTHORITY

Earthly thrones rise and fall.

Kings reign and die.

Empires appear and disappear.

Governments change.

Systems collapse.

But God's throne is not temporary.

Hebrews says:

“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever...”

— Hebrews 1:8



EN

That is why Revelation can show us so much shaking without presenting God as shaken.

Everything that can be shaken may be shaken.

But the throne remains.

COME UP HITHER IS A CALL OUT OF FEAR

Fear always pulls the mind downward.

It makes circumstances bigger than God.

It makes the enemy bigger than Christ.

It makes the problem bigger than the promise.

But Revelation calls:

COME UP HITHER.

Come see from the throne.

Come see from the realm of God's purpose.

Come see from the position of the Lamb's victory.

Paul said:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above..."



EN

s 3:1

That is the same movement.

Above.

Heavenly.

In Christ.

WE ARE SEATED WITH CHRIST

Paul takes the revelation even further.

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

— Ephesians 2:6

That language changes how the believer sees himself.

Raised up.

Seated together.

Heavenly places.

In Christ.

The believer is not called to interpret life only from the realm of dust.

There is a higher position.



EN

gher identity.

There is a higher government.

THE THRONE IS CONNECTED TO THE LAMB

As Revelation continues, the throne and the Lamb become inseparable.

By the end of the book John sees:

“The throne of God and of the Lamb...”

— Revelation 22:1

That phrase is tremendous.

The government of God is revealed through the Lamb.

Power and sacrifice meet.

Authority and love meet.

Government and redemption meet.

This is not beastly rule.

This is Lamb government.

That distinction matters.

The beast rules through domination.

The Lamb governs through Life.



EN

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT BEASTLY GOVERNMENT

Human government often depends on force.

Control.

Fear.

Pressure.

Manipulation.

But Jesus said:

“My kingdom is not of this world...”

— John 18:36

His kingdom operates from another source.

The Lamb conquers differently.

He overcomes through sacrifice.

Truth.

Faithfulness.

Righteousness.

Divine Life.



EN

Seeing the throne is not enough.

We must see who is associated with it.

THE LAMB.

THE OPEN DOOR REVEALS ACCESS TO A HIGHER VIEW

The door in Revelation 4 is more than an entrance.

It reveals access.

God is saying:

You do not have to remain trapped in the lower perspective.

There is another view.

There is another realm.

There is another way to see.

That is important for every believer.

When life becomes chaotic, there is still a throne.

When systems shake, there is still a throne.

When darkness increases, there is still a throne.

When you cannot understand what is happening, there is still a throne.



EN

SEEING FROM THE THRONE DOES NOT MEAN IGNORING THE EARTH

John still sees what happens on earth.

He sees conflict.

He sees judgment.

He sees suffering.

He sees opposition.

But now he sees those things from the right realm.

That is the difference.

Revelation does not teach denial.

It teaches perspective.

You can acknowledge the storm without believing the storm sits on the throne.

You can acknowledge darkness without believing darkness governs eternity.

You can acknowledge the beast without believing the beast wins.

THE THRONE EXPOSES FALSE GOVERNMENTS

Once John sees true government, counterfeit government becomes easier to recognize



EN

The beast has authority.

But it is borrowed.

Babylon boasts of rule.

But it falls.

The dragon claims power.

But he is cast down.

The false prophet speaks.

But he is judged.

True government is measured by the throne.

Everything else is exposed by comparison.

THE OPEN HEAVEN REVEALS WHAT THE EARTH CANNOT SEE

Earth sees appearances.

Heaven sees reality.

Earth sees Babylon standing.

Heaven hears:

FALLEN.



EN

the Lamb slain.

Heaven sees:

WORTHY.

Earth sees saints overcome.

Heaven sees overcomers.

Earth sees death.

Heaven sees resurrection.

That is why revelation changes everything.

The same event looks different from another realm.

JOHN DOES NOT COME UP TO ESCAPE PURPOSE

This is important.

"Come up hither" is not an invitation to abandon God's purpose in the earth.

John comes up so he can understand what God is doing.

He is lifted in perspective so he can speak accurately into the earth.

True heavenly revelation does not make us useless below.

It makes us more accurate.



EN

above so we can live rightly below.

HEAVENLY VISION PRODUCES EARTHLY OBEDIENCE

Every genuine revelation should eventually produce obedience.

If seeing heaven only makes us proud, we did not understand what we saw.

John comes up.

He sees the throne.

He hears worship.

He sees the Lamb.

Then he carries that revelation into testimony.

This is always the pattern.

See.

Hear.

Then speak.

THE DOOR OPENS BEFORE THE VISION DEEPENS

There is a progression in Revelation.

As the vision becomes, the more necessary the right realm becomes.



EN

You cannot understand heavenly things while insisting on a purely earthly mind.

That is why the door matters.

The door establishes access.

The Spirit establishes perception.

The throne establishes government.

A DOOR OPENED IN HEAVEN IS ALSO A STATEMENT OF HOPE

A closed heaven would mean no access.

No revelation.

No light.

No perspective.

But John sees:

AN OPEN DOOR.

Heaven is not silent.

God is not hiding Himself completely.

The throne can be seen.



EN

n be heard.

The Lamb can be revealed.

That is hope.

COME UP HITHER IS STILL A WORD TO THE CHURCH

The same Church that received correction in Revelation 2 and 3 is now being shown a higher realm.

Christ does not merely correct His people.

He calls them upward.

There is more to see.

More to understand.

More to become.

The message is not:

Stay where you are forever.

The message is:

COME UP HITHER.

WE MUST NOT BUILD OUR DOCTRINE ONLY FROM BELOW



EN

built only from headlines, it will change every time the headlines change.

If prophecy is built only from politics, every election rewrites the chart.

If interpretation is built only from technology, every invention becomes the mark.

But if Scripture interprets Scripture and the throne governs our perspective, we gain stability.

God's Word does not panic when the news changes.

The throne does not tremble when governments shift.

THE DOOR LEADS TO GOVERNMENT BEFORE IT LEADS TO MYSTERY

That is another important order.

John is not invited upward merely to see strange things.

He is invited upward to see government.

Before mystery:

THRONE.

Before judgments:

THRONE.

Before beasts:

THRONE.



Before conflict:

THRONE.

That is divine order.

A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN

The throne is set.

Established.

Fixed.

Not temporary.

Not improvised.

Not threatened.

That is the foundation of Revelation.

Everything else moves.

The throne remains.

THE THIRD SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN.



EN

The voice said:

COME UP HITHER.

John came into the Spirit.

And the first great reality he saw was:

A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN.

Now the symbol has opened wider.

The door reveals:

ACCESS TO A HIGHER REALM.

A CALL TO A HIGHER PERSPECTIVE.

A REVELATION OF DIVINE GOVERNMENT.

A POSITION FROM WHICH FEAR LOSES ITS POWER.

**A VIEW THAT PLACES EVERY BEAST, KINGDOM, CRISIS, AND JUDGMENT
BENEATH THE THRONE OF GOD.**

The door does not merely show us heaven.

It teaches us how Revelation must be seen.

FROM ABOVE.



EN

IT.

FROM THE THRONE.

And now that John is standing in that realm, he sees something surrounding the throne.

Not machines.

Not armies.

Not earthly rulers.

He sees living beings full of eyes.

Lion.

Calf.

Man.

Eagle.

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES.

And another symbol is ready to speak.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

THE NATURE OF THE LAMB MANIFESTED AROUND THE THRONE



EN

midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”

— Revelation 4:6

John has come through the open door.

He has heard the voice:

COME UP HITHER.

He is immediately in the Spirit.

And the first great reality established before him is the throne.

But John does not see an empty throne room.

There is life around the throne.

Movement around the throne.

Worship around the throne.

And immediately surrounding that government John sees four extraordinary living creatures.

“And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.”

— Revelation 4:7

Lion.

Calf.



EN

Eagle.

What are we looking at?

If we approach Revelation only with the natural mind, these creatures become strange objects in a strange vision.

But John is not giving us zoology.

He is showing us:

SPIRITUAL REALITY IN SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE.

And once again, the Old Testament gives us the foundation for understanding what John sees.

JOHN DID NOT INVENT THESE CREATURES

Hundreds of years before John received the Revelation, Ezekiel saw something remarkably similar.

Ezekiel writes:

“Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures.”

— Ezekiel 1:5

Then he describes their faces:

“As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion... and they four had the face of an ox... they four also had the face of



EN

10

There they are.

Man.

Lion.

Ox.

Eagle.

John says calf where Ezekiel says ox, but the correspondence is unmistakable.

This is one reason we continually say:

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE.

John's Revelation did not suddenly appear disconnected from everything God had previously spoken.

The same Spirit who gave Ezekiel the vision gave John the Revelation.

The symbols have a biblical history.

EZEKIEL SAW THEM CONNECTED TO THE THRONE

Now watch what happens in Ezekiel's vision.

Above the living creatures Ezekiel sees:

"The likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone..."



EN

26

Again:

LIVING CREATURES.

THRONE.

John sees the same connection.

These creatures are associated with divine government.

They are not wandering independently through heaven.

They are positioned around the throne.

Their identity and activity cannot be understood apart from:

THE ONE WHO SITS UPON THE THRONE.

This is the governing principle.

Everything around the throne takes its meaning from the throne.

THE WORD “BEASTS” CAN MISLEAD THE MODERN READER

The King James Version calls them “beasts.”

But these are not the same kind of beastly symbols we encounter later in Revelation 13.

These are living creatures associated with holiness, worship, perception, and the



EN

od.

That distinction matters.

Revelation later shows us beastly kingdoms arising from below.

But these creatures belong around the throne.

One is earthly and carnal in its character.

The other is heavenly and living.

So we must not see the word “beast” and assume every symbolic creature in Revelation represents evil.

CONTEXT GOVERNS THE SYMBOL.

That is one of the most important rules in understanding Revelation.

FOUR FACES — ONE COMPLETE TESTIMONY

Lion.

Calf.

Man.

Eagle.

Four different expressions.

Yet all are gathered around one throne.



EN

This gives us a picture of diversity within divine order.

The lion does not need to become the eagle.

The eagle does not need to become the man.

The man does not need to become the calf.

Each expression reveals something distinct.

Yet all serve the same government.

That is how God works.

Different expressions.

Different functions.

Different manifestations.

ONE PURPOSE.

ONE THRONE.

THE LION

John begins:

“The first beast was like a lion...”

Throughout Scripture, the lion carries imagery of strength, kingship, boldness, and dominion



EN

Genesis contains the great prophetic word concerning Judah:

“Judah is a lion’s whelp...”

— Genesis 49:9

Then Jacob declares:

“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah...”

— Genesis 49:10

Lion.

Sceptre.

Kingship.

Government.

Then Revelation itself identifies Christ:

“Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed...”

— Revelation 5:5

There is our great interpretive anchor.

THE LION POINTS US TOWARD KINGLY AUTHORITY.

And ultimately toward:

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDA.

Jesus Christ.



EN

THE LION HAS PREVAILED

Notice the language.

“The Lion of the tribe of Juda... hath prevailed.”

Revelation is not introducing us to a defeated Christ.

He has prevailed.

He has conquered.

He possesses authority.

He is King.

This is important because Revelation will later show us beasts claiming authority.

But before those counterfeit governments appear, heaven has already revealed:

THE TRUE KING.

The Lion belongs to the throne.

BUT JOHN TURNS AND SEES A LAMB

Here Revelation gives us one of its most extraordinary transitions.

John is told:

“Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda... hath prevailed...”



EN

John looks:

“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as it had been slain...”

— Revelation 5:6

He hears:

LION.

He sees:

LAMB.

That tells us something profound about divine authority.

Christ’s lion-like dominion is manifested through Lamb nature.

The King conquers through sacrifice.

Power is revealed through self-giving love.

Victory comes through the cross.

This is unlike beastly government.

The beast devours others to preserve itself.

THE LAMB GIVES HIMSELF TO SAVE OTHERS.

There is the difference between the kingdoms.



EN

— THE OX — THE SERVANT

The second living creature is:

“Like a calf...”

Ezekiel describes the corresponding face as an ox.

The ox is the great biblical picture of labor and service.

Under the Law, God commanded:

“Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.”

— Deuteronomy 25:4

Paul later uses that very scripture in speaking of labor in ministry.

The ox works.

The ox bears the burden.

The ox serves.

The ox gives its strength for the work.

And in the sacrificial system, cattle were also offered upon the altar.

So this second face carries the language of:

SERVICE.

LABOR.



CHRIST CAME AS A SERVANT

Jesus said concerning Himself:

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

— Mark 10:45

There is the ox nature.

The King becomes servant.

The One with all authority washes feet.

The One through whom the worlds were made takes the form of a servant.

Paul writes:

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...”

— Philippians 2:7

That is throne nature.

This is difficult for the natural mind because natural government seeks position.

Kingdom government serves.

Natural greatness says:

SERVE ME.



EN

Jesus says.

I AM AMONG YOU AS HE THAT SERVETH.

THE THRONE IS NOT SEPARATED FROM SERVANT NATURE

That is a tremendous revelation.

Around the throne stands the ox.

Service is not beneath the kingdom.

Service expresses the kingdom.

Jesus could kneel before His disciples and wash their feet because He knew exactly who He was.

John says:

“Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands...”

— John 13:3

And what did the One with all things in His hands do?

He took a towel.

He washed feet.

That is not weakness.

THAT IS LAMB GOVERNMENT.



EN

THE FACE OF A MAN

The third living creature:

“Had a face as a man...”

Now the vision comes very close to us.

Man.

Humanity.

God’s purpose has always involved man.

Genesis begins with:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

— Genesis 1:26

There was an image intended.

A likeness intended.

A dominion intended.

But Adam fell.

The image became obscured by sin and death.

Yet God’s purpose did not disappear.

Instead another Man appeared.



EN

THE FIRST MAN AND THE SECOND MAN

Paul gives us one of the great keys:

“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:47

There are the two men.

FIRST ADAM.

SECOND MAN.

One from earth.

One from heaven.

One became connected with death.

The other brings Life.

Paul says:

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:22

The face of the man around the throne cannot be understood merely as fallen humanity.

The throne is revealing God’s purpose for humanity:

MAN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.



EN

age is perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ.

BEHOLD THE MAN

Pilate unknowingly spoke prophetic language when he brought Jesus before the people and said:

“Behold the man!”

— John 19:5

Yes.

Behold the Man.

Not merely another descendant of Adam.

Here stands the Second Man.

The Last Adam.

The image of the invisible God.

The One in whom God’s purpose for humanity is revealed.

Paul says Christ is:

“The image of the invisible God...”

— Colossians 1:15

If you want to know what God intends man to become, do not study fallen Adam.

LOOK AT CHRIST.



EN

GOD IS FORMING THE IMAGE OF HIS SON IN A PEOPLE

Paul says:

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...”

— Romans 8:29

There is God’s purpose.

Not merely forgiven sinners waiting to leave earth.

CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON.

This brings the living creature vision directly into the purpose of God.

Lion nature.

Servant nature.

Man in divine image.

Eagle nature.

These are not disconnected religious ideas.

They reveal dimensions of Christ being manifested.

THE FLYING EAGLE

The fourth living creature:



EN

“flying eagle.”

The eagle gives us another dimension.

It belongs to the heights.

It sees from above.

It rises on the wind.

It carries a heavenly perspective.

Isaiah declared:

“They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles...”

— Isaiah 40:31

The eagle rises.

That connects directly with the word John has just heard:

COME UP HITHER.

The eagle speaks to us of heavenly vision.

Spiritual perception.

Life above the earthly realm.

THE EAGLE DOES NOT SEE FROM THE GROUND



EN

great difference.

A creature walking only upon the earth sees from ground level.

The eagle rises.

Its perspective changes because its position changes.

That is exactly what happened to John.

He came up.

He entered the Spirit.

He saw the throne.

The eagle therefore fits perfectly around this throne.

HEAVENLY GOVERNMENT REQUIRES HEAVENLY VISION.

You cannot accurately understand the purpose of God while seeing everything from beneath.

THE EAGLE RIDES THE WIND

The eagle does something remarkable.

It uses currents of air to rise.

Spiritually, that gives us a beautiful picture.

Jesus said:



EN

“The wind bloweth where it listeth... so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

— John 3:8

In Scripture, wind and Spirit are closely associated.

The eagle does not create the wind.

It learns to move upon what is already moving.

So it is with spiritual life.

We do not manufacture the Spirit.

We yield to the Spirit.

We move in the Spirit.

We are carried into a realm our natural strength could never reach.

LION — OX — MAN — EAGLE

Now put the four faces together.

LION — KINGSHIP.

OX — SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

MAN — DIVINE IMAGE EXPRESSED IN HUMANITY.

EAGLE — HEAVENLY VISION AND SPIRITUAL LIFE.



EN

And all four are around:

THE THRONE.

What a picture.

God's government contains strength without tyranny.

Service without weakness.

Human expression without fallen Adamic corruption.

Heavenly vision without earthly limitation.

And all of these dimensions come into perfect expression in:

JESUS CHRIST.

THEY ARE FULL OF EYES

John gives us another remarkable detail.

“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within...”

— Revelation 4:8

Earlier he says they are:

“Full of eyes before and behind.”

Eyes speak of seeing.



EN

Awareness.

Understanding.

These creatures are not blind participants in divine government.

THEY SEE.

This is crucial.

God does not desire blind religious activity.

He desires spiritual perception.

PAUL PRAYED THAT OUR EYES WOULD BE OPENED

Paul prayed:

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...”

— Ephesians 1:18

Why?

“That ye may know...”

There is a seeing that is deeper than natural eyesight.

You can have perfect physical vision and remain spiritually blind.

Jesus spoke repeatedly of people who had eyes but did not see.



EN

Revelation calls us into:

SPIRITUAL SIGHT.

The creatures around the throne are full of eyes because divine government operates in light.

EYES WITHIN

John does not merely say eyes outside.

He says:

EYES WITHIN.

That is powerful.

Spiritual perception begins inwardly.

Paul says:

“God... hath shined in our hearts...”

— 2 Corinthians 4:6

The kingdom works inside out.

God opens inward understanding.

Then outward circumstances are interpreted through inward revelation.

The natural man does the opposite.



EN

Nothing outside determine what he believes inside.

But spiritual vision comes from another source.

THEY SEE BEFORE AND BEHIND

John also says:

“Full of eyes before and behind.”

This speaks beautifully of comprehensive perception.

God’s purpose is not trapped in one moment.

Man looks at today and panics.

God sees beginning and end.

Man sees a chapter.

God sees the whole book.

Man sees the present battle.

God sees the finished purpose.

That is why throne vision produces rest.

Not inactivity.

REST.



EN

One governing knows the end from the beginning.

SIX WINGS

Each living creature has six wings.

Again, Isaiah helps us.

He saw seraphim around the throne:

“Each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.”

— Isaiah 6:2

Notice the same environment.

Throne.

Living heavenly beings.

Six wings.

Worship.

Holiness.

John’s vision belongs to a great prophetic stream running throughout Scripture.

WITH TWO THEY COVER THE FACE

Isaiah’s seraphim cover their faces.



Why?

There is humility before divine glory.

True revelation does not produce arrogance.

The closer a person comes to the glory of God, the less impressed he becomes with himself.

Isaiah saw the Lord and cried:

“Woe is me! for I am undone...”

— Isaiah 6:5

That is different from religious pride.

True throne revelation humbles the vessel.

WITH TWO THEY COVER THE FEET

Feet speak of our walk.

Even our walk is covered in humility before the holiness of God.

No flesh glories around the throne.

No creature stands there boasting:

LOOK WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

Everything around the throne understands:



EN

S WORTHY.

WITH TWO THEY FLY

Yet humility does not produce paralysis.

They fly.

They move.

They serve.

They respond.

This is divine balance.

Covered face.

Covered feet.

Flying wings.

HUMILITY AND ACTION.

WORSHIP AND SERVICE.

REVERENCE AND MOVEMENT.

God does not humble us so we will do nothing.

He humbles us so what we do comes from the right Source.



EN

NOT DAY AND NIGHT

John writes:

“And they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty...”

— Revelation 4:8

Their activity centers upon worship.

Holy.

Holy.

Holy.

Their attention is fixed upon the One seated upon the throne.

That tells us what governs true heavenly ministry.

GOD IS THE CENTER.

Not man.

Not the creature.

Not the gift.

Not the ministry.

Not even the vision.

GOD.



EN

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Isaiah heard the same cry:

“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

— Isaiah 6:3

John hears:

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

Hundreds of years separate the prophets.

But heaven’s testimony has not changed.

HOLY.

The throne is holy.

The government is holy.

The purpose is holy.

The One seated there is holy.

THE LIVING CREATURES LEAD THE ELDERS INTO WORSHIP

John continues:

“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne... the four and twenty elders fall down before him...”

— Revelation 4:9–10



EN

One expression of worship releases another.

The living creatures worship.

The elders fall down.

Crowns come off.

Everything returns glory to the Source.

That is heavenly order.

The closer we get to the throne, the fewer crowns we want to keep on our own heads.

THEY CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE

The elders declare:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power...”

— Revelation 4:11

Why?

“For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Everything returns to Him.

Creation exists for Him.

Government exists for Him.



EN

Ministry exists for Him.

The Church exists for Him.

We exist for Him.

THOU ART WORTHY.

That is the song of the throne.

THESE FOUR FACES REVEAL A PATTERN OF MATURE SONSHIP

Now bring the picture into God's purpose for His people.

Christ is the perfect expression.

But God is conforming a people to His image.

That means His nature must appear in us.

The lion without the ox becomes domination.

Authority without service becomes tyranny.

The ox without the lion may serve but never govern.

Service without spiritual authority becomes mere religious labor.

The man without the eagle remains earthly.

Humanity without heavenly vision remains trapped in Adam.



EN

Without the man may speak of heavenly things but never bring them into practical expression.

God joins the dimensions.

LION.

OX.

MAN.

EAGLE.

Strength.

Service.

Image.

Vision.

All under one throne.

THE LAMB PRODUCES A BALANCED PEOPLE

Jesus was bold enough to confront religious hypocrisy.

LION.

Yet humble enough to wash feet.

OX.



EN

expressed as the Son of Man.

MAN.

Yet He lived from uninterrupted fellowship with the Father above.

EAGLE.

Nothing was missing.

Nothing was out of balance.

This is the image God is forming.

THE CREATURES ARE LIVING

Never overlook the simplest word.

They are called:

LIVING CREATURES.

Around God's throne is Life.

The kingdom of God is not dead religion.

Jesus said:

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

— John 10:10

**EN**

to the throne.

Life belongs to the Lamb.

Life belongs to the Spirit.

And Revelation ultimately carries us to:

A RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE.

A TREE OF LIFE.

A BOOK OF LIFE.

God's purpose is saturated with Life.

DEATH DOES NOT SIT ON THE THRONE

This must be said plainly.

Death appears in Revelation.

Death rides.

Death kills.

Death is judged.

But death never occupies the throne.

GOD DOES.



EN

ally:

“Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.”

— Revelation 20:14

Death is not the final government.

Life is.

Paul declares:

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:26

The throne is moving creation toward the victory of Life.

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES POINT US BACK TO CHRIST

We can study every detail.

Lion.

Ox.

Man.

Eagle.

Eyes.

Wings.



EN

But if our interpretation does not lead us back to Jesus Christ, we have missed the center.

Revelation is:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

The symbols are not given so we can become fascinated with symbols.

They are windows.

They show us realities in God's purpose.

And the greatest reality is always:

CHRIST.

THE FOURTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with four strange creatures around a throne.

But Scripture opened the picture.

Ezekiel had seen them.

Isaiah had seen beings around the throne with six wings crying holy.

John now brings these prophetic streams together.

And we see:



EN

THE LION — KINGLY AUTHORITY.

THE OX — SERVANT NATURE AND SACRIFICE.**THE MAN — GOD’S IMAGE EXPRESSED IN HUMANITY.****THE EAGLE — HEAVENLY VISION AND LIFE IN THE SPIRIT.**

They are full of eyes.

They see.

They worship.

They move in divine order.

And all of them remain:

AROUND THE THRONE.

They do not compete with the throne.

They reveal something of the nature and government proceeding from it.

The vision is becoming clearer.

The throne is established.

The living creatures worship.

The elders cast down their crowns.

But now John’s attention is drawn to the right hand of the One seated upon the



There is something there.

A book.

Written within and on the backside.

Closed.

Sealed.

Not with one seal.

WITH SEVEN SEALS.

And a mighty angel cries:

“WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE BOOK?”

For a moment, John weeps.

Because no man is found worthy.

Then one of the elders speaks.

“WEEP NOT.”

The Lion has prevailed.

And when John looks toward the Lion—

HE SEES A LAMB.



EN

CHAPTER FIVE

THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

CROWNS CAST BEFORE THE THRONE

“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”

— Revelation 4:4

John has come through the open door.

He has heard:

COME UP HITHER.

He has entered the Spirit.

He has seen the throne.

He has seen the four living creatures around the throne.

And now another company appears.

Twenty-four elders.

They are seated.

They are clothed in white.

They wear crowns of gold.



EN

sitioned around the throne.

And when worship rises in heaven, something extraordinary happens.

They get off their seats.

They fall down.

And they take the crowns from their own heads and cast them before the throne.

That picture is loaded with revelation.

Because these elders possess authority.

They possess crowns.

They possess position.

Yet in the presence of the One who sits upon the throne, they understand:

ALL AUTHORITY HAS A SOURCE.

And every crown eventually belongs at His feet.

TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS AROUND ONE THRONE

John does not see twenty-four independent thrones competing with God.

He sees twenty-four seats:

AROUND THE THRONE.



EN

matters.

There may be many expressions of authority.

But there is one ultimate government.

There may be many rulers.

But there is one King.

There may be many ministries.

But there is one Head.

There may be many crowns.

But there is one throne from which all legitimate authority proceeds.

The elders do not replace the throne.

They surround it.

That is divine order.

WHAT DOES AN ELDER REPRESENT?

Throughout Scripture, elders are associated with maturity, responsibility, counsel, representation, and government.

Eldership is not merely a matter of age.

It speaks of maturity sufficient to carry responsibility.



EN

Israel had elders.

Cities had elders.

The early Church appointed elders.

The term carries governmental weight.

So when John sees elders around the throne, we should immediately recognize:

THIS IS GOVERNMENTAL LANGUAGE.

These are not babes.

These are not immature children running through the throne room.

They are elders.

Maturity and government are connected.

GOD DOES NOT GIVE GOVERNMENT TO IMMATURITY

This principle reaches far beyond Revelation.

A child may be an heir.

But an heir is not necessarily ready to govern.

Paul writes:

“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”



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4:1

Think about that.

He is an heir.

The inheritance belongs to him.

Yet because he remains a child, he cannot fully exercise what belongs to him.

Maturity matters.

There is a difference between possessing promise and possessing capacity.

God does not merely prepare an inheritance for His sons.

HE PREPARES HIS SONS FOR THE INHERITANCE.

That is why spiritual maturity is governmental.

WHY TWENTY-FOUR?

The number twenty-four immediately sends us back into the Old Testament.

In 1 Chronicles 24, David organized the priesthood into:

TWENTY-FOUR COURSES.

The sons of Aaron were divided into twenty-four orders for priestly service.

Then in 1 Chronicles 25 we find another arrangement connected with worship and service before the house of God.



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Twenty-four therefore carries strong associations with:

PRIESTLY ORDER.

WORSHIP.

SERVICE.

GOVERNMENT AROUND THE HOUSE OF GOD.

John's twenty-four elders appear around the heavenly throne.

This is not random arithmetic.

Revelation is drawing from biblical patterns already established.

PRIESTHOOD AND KINGSHIP COME TOGETHER

The elders wear crowns.

That speaks of kingship.

But the number twenty-four reaches backward into priestly order.

Now two great biblical ideas come together:

KING.

PRIEST.

Revelation has already declared concerning the redeemed:

**EN**

made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

— Revelation 5:10

Kings.

Priests.

Reigning.

Worship.

Government.

These themes belong together.

God's kingdom is not merely governmental.

It is priestly.

And His priesthood is not powerless.

It carries kingdom authority.

THE MELCHIZEDEK ORDER

This combination of king and priest reaches even deeper.

Genesis introduces Melchizedek:

“Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.”



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King.

And priest.

Both in one order.

Hebrews later reveals Christ as High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus Christ does not merely rule.

He ministers Life.

He does not merely sit upon a throne.

He brings men to God.

His kingship and priesthood are joined.

That same pattern appears around the throne in Revelation.

Crowns.

Worship.

Government.

Priestly service.

THEY ARE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT



EN

“They were clothed in white raiment...”

White carries the language of purity, righteousness, victory, and heavenly character throughout Revelation.

The elders are not clothed in garments representing earthly glory.

They are clothed in white.

Government in God’s kingdom must be joined to righteousness.

Psalm 89:14 declares:

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

God’s government is righteous government.

Authority separated from righteousness becomes corruption.

Power separated from holiness becomes domination.

But the throne of God is established in righteousness.

And those who surround it are clothed accordingly.

CLOTHING SPEAKS OF NATURE AND IDENTITY

Throughout Scripture, garments often speak beyond fabric.



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“He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.”

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Paul tells believers:

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There is an inward clothing.

A nature being worn.

An identity being manifested.

So the white garments around the throne speak to us of a people whose government is not merely positional.

Their character corresponds to the realm they occupy.

That matters.

GOD IS NOT MERELY PRODUCING PEOPLE WITH CROWNS

Many want the crown.

Fewer want the formation.

Many want authority.



EN

righteousness.

Many want to reign.

Fewer want to serve.

But heaven does not separate the crown from the garment.

The elders are:

CROWNED.

And:

CLOTHED IN WHITE.

Authority and nature belong together.

The kingdom of God is not merely about what position you occupy.

It is about what nature occupies you.

THEIR CROWNS ARE GOLDEN

John says:

“They had on their heads crowns of gold.”

Again, gold appears.

The golden candlesticks.



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crowns.

Gold points us toward divine value and nature.

These crowns are not cheap ornaments.

They symbolize authority connected with God's order.

Yet something remarkable happens.

The elders do not cling to them.

They cast them down.

THE GREATEST REVELATION OF THE CROWN IS WHAT THEY DO WITH IT

We could spend all day asking:

What exactly do the crowns mean?

Who receives them?

What authority do they represent?

But Revelation shows us something even more important.

It shows us what mature elders do with crowns in the presence of God.

THEY CAST THEM DOWN.

That may be the greatest revelation in the entire symbol.



EN

is authority without becoming possessed by authority.

They have crowns without worshipping their crowns.

They have position without making position their identity.

They know the difference between receiving authority and becoming the Source of authority.

THEY FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM

John writes:

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne...”

— Revelation 4:10

Notice the movement.

They are seated.

Then they fall.

They are crowned.

Then they remove the crowns.

They possess authority.

Then they worship the Source of authority.

The closer we come to the throne, the less interested we become in proving how important we are.



EN

True maturity bows.

IMMATURE MEN FIGHT FOR CROWNS

The natural man wants position.

Recognition.

Titles.

Control.

Visibility.

He wants to sit higher.

He wants people to acknowledge his authority.

Jesus encountered this even among His disciples.

They argued over:

WHO SHOULD BE THE GREATEST?

Jesus answered:

“He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”

— Matthew 23:11

That is throne order.

The world says:



Rise so others may bow to you.

The kingdom says:

Mature until you know how to bow.

JESUS WORE A CROWN OF THORNS BEFORE THE CROWN OF GLORY

This is Lamb government.

Men placed a crown of thorns upon His head.

They mocked Him:

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

The true King allowed Himself to be humiliated.

He did not preserve His life through force.

He gave it.

And because He humbled Himself, Paul says:

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.”

— Philippians 2:9

The kingdom moves through death into Life.

Through humility into exaltation.



EN

vice into government.

That pattern belongs to the Lamb.

GOD'S WAY UP IS DOWN

Jesus said:

“Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

— Matthew 23:12

That is opposite the world's system.

The world climbs.

The kingdom bows.

The world promotes self.

The kingdom empties self.

The world grasps crowns.

The elders cast them down.

And heaven calls that maturity.

THE CROWN DOES NOT MAKE THE ELDER

This is important.



They are not elders because they have crowns.

They can cast their crowns down and remain elders.

Their identity is deeper than the symbol of authority resting on their heads.

That means true spiritual identity does not disappear when title disappears.

If a man stops being called pastor tomorrow, is Christ still formed in him?

If the platform disappears, does the revelation remain?

If the position changes, does the nature remain?

If nobody recognizes the gift, is the Life still there?

Maturity is not dependent upon applause.

THEY WORSHIP HIM WHO LIVETH FOR EVER AND EVER

Revelation says the elders:

“Worship him that liveth for ever and ever...”

There is the great contrast.

Their crowns are temporary expressions of delegated authority.

But He lives:

FOR EVER AND EVER.



EN

ority ends.

Human fame fades.

Generations pass.

Institutions rise and disappear.

But God remains.

The elders know where eternity resides.

That is why they worship.

THEY CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE

Now we arrive at the action itself.

“And cast their crowns before the throne...”

— Revelation 4:10

What does that say?

Everything I have come from You.

Every victory came from You.

Every authority came from You.

Every gift came from You.

Every revelation came from You.



Every opportunity came from You.

Every accomplishment ultimately rests upon grace.

Therefore:

THE CROWN BELONGS AT YOUR FEET.

That is worship.

TRUE WORSHIP RETURNS EVERYTHING TO THE SOURCE

Worship is more than singing.

The elders teach us that worship includes surrendering glory.

They refuse to keep for themselves what belongs to God.

This is the exact opposite of Babylon.

Babylon glorifies herself.

She says:

“I sit a queen...”

— Revelation 18:7

Babylon keeps the crown.

The elders cast theirs down.

There are two spirits.



One says:

LOOK WHAT I HAVE BECOME.

The other says:

THOU ART WORTHY.

BABYLON EXALTS SELF — ZION EXALTS THE LAMB

This contrast runs through Revelation.

Babylon glorifies herself.

The beast magnifies itself.

The dragon seeks worship.

The false prophet directs worship toward the beast.

But around God's throne:

CROWNS COME OFF.

That is one of the clearest ways to discern two governments.

One gathers glory to itself.

The other gives glory to God.

**EN****THOU ART WORTHY**

The elders declare:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power...”

— Revelation 4:11

This is the language of heaven.

Not:

WE ARE WORTHY.

Not:

LOOK AT OUR CROWNS.

Not:

LOOK AT OUR POSITION.

But:

THOU ART WORTHY.

That phrase becomes even more powerful in Revelation 5.

A question is asked:

“Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”

No man is found worthy.



EN

THE LAMB APPEARS.

And heaven begins declaring His worthiness.

The entire throne room is moving toward one revelation:

THE WORTHINESS OF THE LAMB.

THE ELDERS UNDERSTAND CREATION'S PURPOSE

They continue:

“For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

— Revelation 4:11

There is a massive statement.

Why does creation exist?

FOR HIS PLEASURE.

Not man's ultimate pleasure.

Not the beast's purpose.

Not Babylon's glory.

Not Satan's agenda.



EN

ire.

God's purpose.

God's will.

That means the story of creation cannot ultimately end anywhere except in the accomplishment of God's purpose.

PURPOSE PRECEDES CREATION

God did not create first and then wonder what He might do with creation.

Purpose was already in Him.

Paul speaks of:

“The eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— Ephesians 3:11

Eternal purpose.

Before manifestation.

Before history.

Before kingdoms.

Before Babylon.

Before the beast.



EN

Dragon appears in Revelation.

GOD HAS PURPOSE.

And the elders around the throne understand it.

THIS IS WHY THE THRONE PRODUCES REST

If purpose began in God, then purpose does not depend upon man's ability to invent it.

We participate.

We obey.

We labor.

But God's purpose is greater than us.

That produces rest.

Not laziness.

Rest.

We do not have to carry creation upon our shoulders.

There is already a throne.

THE ELDERS HAVE HARPS AND GOLDEN VIALS

**EN**

ation 5 continues, we see the elders again.

“The four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”

— Revelation 5:8

Now the picture expands.

They have:

HARPS.

And:

GOLDEN VIALS.

Worship and prayer.

Praise and intercession.

Again priestly imagery appears.

The elders are deeply connected to the worship of heaven and the prayers of the saints.

THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ARE BEFORE THE THRONE

Do not miss this.

The prayers are not forgotten.

They appear before God.



The saints may pray on earth.

But Revelation shows those prayers in the throne room.

That gives us another perspective.

A prayer may feel small when it leaves your lips.

But heaven does not treat prayer lightly.

John sees golden vessels containing:

THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS.

What earth calls weak, heaven may preserve in gold.

THE ELDERS SING A NEW SONG

Revelation continues:

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book...”

— Revelation 5:9

Again:

THOU ART WORTHY.

Their worship is centered upon the Lamb.

And why is He worthy?

“For thou wast slain...”



EN

There it is again.

The throne continually points us toward the cross.

The Lion prevailed because the Lamb was slain.

Kingdom victory flows through sacrificial love.

MATURITY RECOGNIZES THAT THE LAMB IS WORTHY

Babes can become impressed with gifts.

Mature people become impressed with Christ.

Babes may argue over personalities.

Mature people cast crowns.

Babes may fight over positions.

Mature people fall before the Lamb.

Babes ask:

Who is greatest among us?

Mature elders answer:

THOU ART WORTHY.

That is maturity.



ELDERS KNOW HOW TO BOW

That may be the simplest definition of spiritual maturity in this entire picture.

They know how to bow.

Not because they have no authority.

They have crowns.

Not because they have no position.

They have seats.

Not because they are insignificant.

They surround the throne.

But maturity understands proper order.

The greater the revelation of God, the deeper the bow.

THE ELDER IS DIFFERENT FROM THE CHILD

Paul said:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child...”

— 1 Corinthians 13:11



EN

“But when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

Children often make everything about themselves.

My need.

My recognition.

My position.

My preference.

My offense.

Maturity begins seeing the larger purpose.

The elders are not sitting around the throne complaining about whether their seats are close enough to God.

They are worshipping.

THE CROWN IS SAFE ON THE HEAD OF SOMEONE WILLING TO CAST IT DOWN

Now there is a word.

God can trust authority to someone who does not worship authority.

He can entrust influence to someone who does not need influence to know who he is.



EN

a crown to someone who knows how to remove it.

That is safe government.

The dangerous man is not the man with authority.

The dangerous man is the man whose identity depends upon keeping it.

JESUS DID NOT GRASP HIS POSITION

Paul writes concerning Christ:

**“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation...”**

— Philippians 2:6–7

Christ did not grasp.

He emptied Himself.

He served.

He obeyed.

He died.

Then God highly exalted Him.

That is the pattern behind the throne.

THE KINGDOM IS FILLED WITH THOSE WHO HAVE OVERCOME



EN

Revelation repeatedly promises authority to overcomers.

Jesus says:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne...”

— Revelation 3:21

Now listen carefully.

The promise is not merely:

You will escape trouble.

The promise is governmental.

SIT WITH ME IN MY THRONE.

Overcoming prepares a people for government.

But the elders teach us what throne government looks like.

It does not produce pride.

It produces worship.

REIGNING WITH CHRIST IS NOT HUMAN DOMINATION

When Revelation speaks of reigning, the natural mind can imagine one group becoming powerful enough to dominate another.

That is not the Lamb's kingdom.



EN

s disciples:

“The princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them... But it shall not be so among you.”

— Matthew 20:25–26

There is the dividing line.

IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU.

Kingdom government does not imitate beast government.

If we conquer the beast by becoming beastly, the beast has won.

The Lamb governs differently.

THE ELDERS REVEAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT SELF-EXALTATION

This is perhaps their greatest testimony.

They sit.

Yet they bow.

They wear crowns.

Yet they cast them down.

They possess authority.

Yet they worship Another.



EN

ture enough to govern because they are mature enough not to make government about themselves.

That is beautiful.

TWENTY-FOUR SPEAKS OF ORDER — NOT CHAOS

God's throne room is not disorderly.

There is arrangement.

There is position.

There is worship.

There is movement.

The creatures have their place.

The elders have their place.

The throne is central.

Divine Life is not confusion.

Paul says:

“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...”

— 1 Corinthians 14:33

Babylon means confusion.

The throne reveals order.



That contrast will continue throughout Revelation.

THE CROWN AND THE THRONE ARE NOT THE SAME

This distinction must remain clear.

The elders have crowns.

But God has the throne.

Delegated authority is not ultimate authority.

Ministry authority is not sovereignty.

Church government is not divine supremacy.

Every legitimate crown remains subordinate to:

THE THRONE.

When a crown forgets the throne, corruption begins.

THE THRONE DOES NOT NEED OUR CROWN — BUT WE NEED TO CAST IT DOWN

God does not become greater because elders give Him their crowns.

He is already God.

He is already worthy.



EN

King.

The act changes the worshipper.

Casting down the crown puts everything back into proper order.

It declares:

I know where this came from.

I know who gave it.

I know who deserves the glory.

EVERYTHING RETURNS TO GOD

Paul writes:

“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.”

— Romans 11:36

There is the throne room in one verse.

OF HIM.

Source.

THROUGH HIM.

Operation.



EN

Destination.

Everything returns to God.

The crown came from Him.

The authority came through Him.

The glory returns to Him.

THE FIFTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS.

Seated around the throne.

Clothed in white.

Wearing crowns of gold.

But the symbol opened much wider.

We saw:

MATURITY CONNECTED TO GOVERNMENT.

PRIESTHOOD JOINED TO KINGSHIP.



EN

NESS JOINED TO AUTHORITY.

CROWNS THAT NEVER REPLACE THE THRONE.

LEADERS WHO KNOW HOW TO BOW.

A GOVERNMENT THAT RETURNS ALL GLORY TO GOD.

And perhaps the greatest lesson:

THE CROWN IS SAFEST ON THE HEAD OF THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO CAST IT DOWN.

The elders worship.

The living creatures cry holy.

The throne remains.

The Lamb is worthy.

But Revelation is about to move us into one of its most extraordinary visions.

A woman appears.

Not upon earth.

IN HEAVEN.

She is clothed with the sun.

The moon is beneath her feet.



EN

head is a crown of twelve stars.

And she is travailing.

Something is about to be born.

Something the dragon desperately wants to devour.

Something destined:

TO RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON.

The vision is moving toward birth.

And the next symbol is:

THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.

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They have crowns without worshipping their crowns.

They have position without making position their identity.

They know the difference between receiving authority and becoming the Source of authority.

THEY FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM

John writes:

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne...”



EN

4:10

Notice the movement.

They are seated.

Then they fall.

They are crowned.

Then they remove the crowns.

They possess authority.

Then they worship the Source of authority.

The closer we come to the throne, the less interested we become in proving how important we are.

True maturity bows.

IMMATURE MEN FIGHT FOR CROWNS

The natural man wants position.

Recognition.

Titles.

Control.

Visibility



EN

He wants to sit higher.

He wants people to acknowledge his authority.

Jesus encountered this even among His disciples.

They argued over:

WHO SHOULD BE THE GREATEST?

Jesus answered:

“He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”

— Matthew 23:11

That is throne order.

The world says:

Rise so others may bow to you.

The kingdom says:

Mature until you know how to bow.

JESUS WORE A CROWN OF THORNS BEFORE THE CROWN OF GLORY

This is Lamb government.

Men placed a crown of thorns upon His head.

They mocked Him:



EN

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

The true King allowed Himself to be humiliated.

He did not preserve His life through force.

He gave it.

And because He humbled Himself, Paul says:

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.”

— Philippians 2:9

The kingdom moves through death into Life.

Through humility into exaltation.

Through service into government.

That pattern belongs to the Lamb.

GOD’S WAY UP IS DOWN

Jesus said:

“Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

— Matthew 23:12

That is opposite the world’s system.



EN

imbs.

The kingdom bows.

The world promotes self.

The kingdom empties self.

The world grasps crowns.

The elders cast them down.

And heaven calls that maturity.

THE CROWN DOES NOT MAKE THE ELDER

This is important.

They are not elders because they have crowns.

They can cast their crowns down and remain elders.

Their identity is deeper than the symbol of authority resting on their heads.

That means true spiritual identity does not disappear when title disappears.

If a man stops being called pastor tomorrow, is Christ still formed in him?

If the platform disappears, does the revelation remain?

If the position changes, does the nature remain?



EN

cognizes the gift, is the Life still there?

Maturity is not dependent upon applause.

THEY WORSHIP HIM WHO LIVETH FOR EVER AND EVER

Revelation says the elders:

“Worship him that liveth for ever and ever...”

There is the great contrast.

Their crowns are temporary expressions of delegated authority.

But He lives:

FOR EVER AND EVER.

Earthly authority ends.

Human fame fades.

Generations pass.

Institutions rise and disappear.

But God remains.

The elders know where eternity resides.

That is why they worship.



THEY CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE

Now we arrive at the action itself.

“And cast their crowns before the throne...”

— Revelation 4:10

What does that say?

Everything I have came from You.

Every victory came from You.

Every authority came from You.

Every gift came from You.

Every revelation came from You.

Every opportunity came from You.

Every accomplishment ultimately rests upon grace.

Therefore:

THE CROWN BELONGS AT YOUR FEET.

That is worship.

TRUE WORSHIP RETURNS EVERYTHING TO THE SOURCE



Worship is more than singing.

The elders teach us that worship includes surrendering glory.

They refuse to keep for themselves what belongs to God.

This is the exact opposite of Babylon.

Babylon glorifies herself.

She says:

“I sit a queen...”

— Revelation 18:7

Babylon keeps the crown.

The elders cast theirs down.

There are two spirits.

One says:

LOOK WHAT I HAVE BECOME.

The other says:

THOU ART WORTHY.

BABYLON EXALTS SELF — ZION EXALTS THE LAMB

This contrast runs through Revelation.



EN

Babylon glorifies herself.

The beast magnifies itself.

The dragon seeks worship.

The false prophet directs worship toward the beast.

But around God's throne:

CROWNS COME OFF.

That is one of the clearest ways to discern two governments.

One gathers glory to itself.

The other gives glory to God.

THOU ART WORTHY

The elders declare:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power..."

— Revelation 4:11

This is the language of heaven.

Not:

WE ARE WORTHY.

Not:



LOOK AT OUR CROWNS.

Not:

LOOK AT OUR POSITION.

But:

THOU ART WORTHY.

That phrase becomes even more powerful in Revelation 5.

A question is asked:

“Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”

No man is found worthy.

Then:

THE LAMB APPEARS.

And heaven begins declaring His worthiness.

The entire throne room is moving toward one revelation:

THE WORTHINESS OF THE LAMB.

THE ELDERS UNDERSTAND CREATION’S PURPOSE

They continue:



EN

...ast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were
created.”

— Revelation 4:11

There is a massive statement.

Why does creation exist?

FOR HIS PLEASURE.

Not man's ultimate pleasure.

Not the beast's purpose.

Not Babylon's glory.

Not Satan's agenda.

God's pleasure.

God's purpose.

God's will.

That means the story of creation cannot ultimately end anywhere except in the accomplishment of God's purpose.

PURPOSE PRECEDES CREATION

God did not create first and then wonder what He might do with creation.

Purpose was already in Him.



Paul speaks of:

“The eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— Ephesians 3:11

Eternal purpose.

Before manifestation.

Before history.

Before kingdoms.

Before Babylon.

Before the beast.

Before the dragon appears in Revelation.

GOD HAS PURPOSE.

And the elders around the throne understand it.

THIS IS WHY THE THRONE PRODUCES REST

If purpose began in God, then purpose does not depend upon man's ability to invent it.

We participate.

We obey.



EN

But God's purpose is greater than us.

That produces rest.

Not laziness.

Rest.

We do not have to carry creation upon our shoulders.

There is already a throne.

THE ELDERS HAVE HARPS AND GOLDEN VIALS

When Revelation 5 continues, we see the elders again.

“The four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”

— Revelation 5:8

Now the picture expands.

They have:

HARPS.

And:

GOLDEN VIALS.



EN

l prayer.

Praise and intercession.

Again priestly imagery appears.

The elders are deeply connected to the worship of heaven and the prayers of the saints.

THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ARE BEFORE THE THRONE

Do not miss this.

The prayers are not forgotten.

They appear before God.

The saints may pray on earth.

But Revelation shows those prayers in the throne room.

That gives us another perspective.

A prayer may feel small when it leaves your lips.

But heaven does not treat prayer lightly.

John sees golden vessels containing:

THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS.

What earth calls weak, heaven may preserve in gold.



EN

THE ELDERS SING A NEW SONG

Revelation continues:

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book...”

— Revelation 5:9

Again:

THOU ART WORTHY.

Their worship is centered upon the Lamb.

And why is He worthy?

“For thou wast slain...”

There it is again.

The throne continually points us toward the cross.

The Lion prevailed because the Lamb was slain.

Kingdom victory flows through sacrificial love.

MATURITY RECOGNIZES THAT THE LAMB IS WORTHY

Babes can become impressed with gifts.

Mature people become impressed with Christ.



Babes may argue over personalities.

Mature people cast crowns.

Babes may fight over positions.

Mature people fall before the Lamb.

Babes ask:

Who is greatest among us?

Mature elders answer:

THOU ART WORTHY.

That is maturity.

ELDERS KNOW HOW TO BOW

That may be the simplest definition of spiritual maturity in this entire picture.

They know how to bow.

Not because they have no authority.

They have crowns.

Not because they have no position.

They have seats.



EN

they are insignificant.

They surround the throne.

But maturity understands proper order.

The greater the revelation of God, the deeper the bow.

THE ELDER IS DIFFERENT FROM THE CHILD

Paul said:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child...”

— 1 Corinthians 13:11

Then:

“But when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

Children often make everything about themselves.

My need.

My recognition.

My position.

My preference.

My offense.



EN

begins seeing the larger purpose.

The elders are not sitting around the throne complaining about whether their seats are close enough to God.

They are worshipping.

THE CROWN IS SAFE ON THE HEAD OF SOMEONE WILLING TO CAST IT DOWN

Now there is a word.

God can trust authority to someone who does not worship authority.

He can entrust influence to someone who does not need influence to know who he is.

He can give a crown to someone who knows how to remove it.

That is safe government.

The dangerous man is not the man with authority.

The dangerous man is the man whose identity depends upon keeping it.

JESUS DID NOT GRASP HIS POSITION

Paul writes concerning Christ:

**“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation...”**

— Philippians 2:6–7



EN

Christ did not grasp.

He emptied Himself.

He served.

He obeyed.

He died.

Then God highly exalted Him.

That is the pattern behind the throne.

THE KINGDOM IS FILLED WITH THOSE WHO HAVE OVERCOME

Revelation repeatedly promises authority to overcomers.

Jesus says:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne...”

— Revelation 3:21

Now listen carefully.

The promise is not merely:

You will escape trouble.

The promise is governmental.

SIT WITH ME IN MY THRONE.



EN

Overcoming prepares a people for government.

But the elders teach us what throne government looks like.

It does not produce pride.

It produces worship.

REIGNING WITH CHRIST IS NOT HUMAN DOMINATION

When Revelation speaks of reigning, the natural mind can imagine one group becoming powerful enough to dominate another.

That is not the Lamb's kingdom.

Jesus told His disciples:

“The princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them... But it shall not be so among you.”

— Matthew 20:25–26

There is the dividing line.

IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU.

Kingdom government does not imitate beast government.

If we conquer the beast by becoming beastly, the beast has won.

The Lamb governs differently.



EN

S REVEAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT SELF-EXALTATION

This is perhaps their greatest testimony.

They sit.

Yet they bow.

They wear crowns.

Yet they cast them down.

They possess authority.

Yet they worship Another.

They are mature enough to govern because they are mature enough not to make government about themselves.

That is beautiful.

TWENTY-FOUR SPEAKS OF ORDER — NOT CHAOS

God's throne room is not disorderly.

There is arrangement.

There is position.

There is worship.

There is movement.



EN

The creatures have their place.

The elders have their place.

The throne is central.

Divine Life is not confusion.

Paul says:

“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...”

— 1 Corinthians 14:33

Babylon means confusion.

The throne reveals order.

That contrast will continue throughout Revelation.

THE CROWN AND THE THRONE ARE NOT THE SAME

This distinction must remain clear.

The elders have crowns.

But God has the throne.

Delegated authority is not ultimate authority.

Ministry authority is not sovereignty.

Church government is not divine supremacy.



Every legitimate crown remains subordinate to:

THE THRONE.

When a crown forgets the throne, corruption begins.

THE THRONE DOES NOT NEED OUR CROWN — BUT WE NEED TO CAST IT DOWN

God does not become greater because elders give Him their crowns.

He is already God.

He is already worthy.

He is already King.

The act changes the worshipper.

Casting down the crown puts everything back into proper order.

It declares:

I know where this came from.

I know who gave it.

I know who deserves the glory.

EVERYTHING RETURNS TO GOD



“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.”

— Romans 11:36

There is the throne room in one verse.

OF HIM.

Source.

THROUGH HIM.

Operation.

TO HIM.

Destination.

Everything returns to God.

The crown came from Him.

The authority came through Him.

The glory returns to Him.

THE FIFTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:



EN

OUR ELDERS.

Seated around the throne.

Clothed in white.

Wearing crowns of gold.

But the symbol opened much wider.

We saw:

MATURITY CONNECTED TO GOVERNMENT.

PRIESTHOOD JOINED TO KINGSHIP.

RIGHTEOUSNESS JOINED TO AUTHORITY.

CROWNS THAT NEVER REPLACE THE THRONE.

LEADERS WHO KNOW HOW TO BOW.

A GOVERNMENT THAT RETURNS ALL GLORY TO GOD.

And perhaps the greatest lesson:

THE CROWN IS SAFEST ON THE HEAD OF THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO CAST IT DOWN.

The elders worship.

The living creatures cry holy.



EN

remains.

The Lamb is worthy.

But Revelation is about to move us into one of its most extraordinary visions.

A woman appears.

Not upon earth.

IN HEAVEN.

She is clothed with the sun.

The moon is beneath her feet.

Upon her head is a crown of twelve stars.

And she is travailing.

Something is about to be born.

Something the dragon desperately wants to devour.

Something destined:

TO RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON.

The vision is moving toward birth.

And the next symbol is:

THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.



EN

CHAPTER SIX

THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

HEAVENLY GLORY, THE MOON UNDER HER FEET, AND TWELVE STARS

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”

— Revelation 12:1

Revelation 12 opens with one of the most majestic symbolic pictures in the entire book.

John sees:

A GREAT WONDER IN HEAVEN.

A woman.

Clothed with the sun.

The moon under her feet.

A crown of twelve stars upon her head.

She is with child.

She travails in birth.

She cries out in pain to be delivered.

And before the child is born, another wonder appears.



EN

dragon stands before the woman.

Why?

“For to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

— Revelation 12:4

This vision is not accidental.

Every detail matters.

The woman matters.

The sun matters.

The moon matters.

The twelve stars matter.

The travail matters.

The child matters.

The dragon matters.

And perhaps most importantly:

THE WOMAN APPEARS IN HEAVEN.

If we are going to understand this symbol, we must resist the temptation to drag everything immediately down into the natural realm.

John is seeing a heavenly sign.



EN

A spiritual reality.

A divine purpose unfolding through symbolic language.

WHO IS THE WOMAN?

Revelation uses women symbolically in several places.

Later, John sees another woman.

Mystery Babylon.

The angel eventually tells him:

“The woman which thou sawest is that great city...”

— Revelation 17:18

That gives us a principle.

A woman can represent a corporate order.

A people.

A city.

A covenantal expression.

A spiritual company.

So when we encounter the woman of Revelation 12, we should not immediately reduce her to one natural individual.



EN

ing something corporate.

Something heavenly.

Something carrying seed.

Something capable of bringing forth.

WOMAN LANGUAGE RUNS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

The Bible repeatedly uses feminine imagery to describe God's people.

Jerusalem is portrayed as a woman.

Zion is portrayed as a woman.

Israel is portrayed as a woman.

Paul writes:

“Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

— Galatians 4:26

Notice that language carefully.

JERUSALEM WHICH IS ABOVE.

Again we are brought into a heavenly realm.

Mother.

Above



Free.

The language fits the pattern of Revelation 12.

A woman appears:

IN HEAVEN.

THE WOMAN IS CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

This is the first great feature of the vision.

She is not merely standing in sunlight.

She is:

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.

The sun surrounds her.

Covers her.

Becomes her garment.

What does the sun represent?

Scripture gives us powerful language.

Malachi speaks of:

“The Sun of righteousness... with healing in his wings.”

— Malachi 4:2



EN

Christ is repeatedly connected with light.

Jesus said:

“I am the light of the world.”

— John 8:12

John writes:

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

— John 1:4

The woman is clothed in heavenly light.

That tells us something about her identity.

She is not clothed in darkness.

Not clothed in beastly nature.

Not clothed in Babylon’s merchandise.

SHE IS CLOTHED IN LIGHT.

CLOTHING SPEAKS OF WHAT COVERS AND DEFINES US

Scripture often uses clothing symbolically.

Paul writes:

“Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

— Romans 13:14



EN

Isaiah says:

"He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation..."

— Isaiah 61:10

So to be clothed with the sun suggests more than standing near light.

It speaks of:

BEING COVERED IN DIVINE LIGHT.

BEING IDENTIFIED WITH HEAVENLY GLORY.

BEING WRAPPED IN THE REVELATION OF CHRIST.

This woman belongs to the realm of light.

THE MOON IS UNDER HER FEET

John continues:

"And the moon under her feet..."

Again, the placement matters.

The moon is not on her head.

It is not covering her.

It is:

UNDER HER FEET.



EN

That is governmental language.

What is beneath the feet is beneath authority.

Psalm 8 declares concerning God's purpose for man:

"Thou hast put all things under his feet."

— Psalm 8:6

Paul uses the same language concerning Christ.

The feet speak of dominion.

Position.

Government.

So the moon under her feet indicates a realm that has been brought beneath her standing.

THE MOON REFLECTS LIGHT

The moon does not generate its own light.

It reflects the light of the sun.

That gives us a beautiful spiritual picture.

The moon can represent reflected light.

A lesser light.



EN

that points toward a greater light.

Genesis tells us:

“God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...”

— Genesis 1:16

Greater light.

Lesser light.

The sun rules the day.

The moon rules the night.

Yet in Revelation 12, the woman is not clothed with the lesser light.

She is clothed with:

THE SUN.

The lesser light is beneath her feet.

THIS SPEAKS OF MOVING FROM SHADOW INTO FULNESS

The Old Testament was filled with types.

Shadows.

Patterns.



Ceremonies.

Natural representations of spiritual realities.

Paul says:

“Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

— Colossians 2:17

Shadow.

Then substance.

Pattern.

Then fulfillment.

Promise.

Then manifestation.

The woman clothed with the sun gives us a picture of a people no longer living merely in reflected revelation.

They are clothed in the greater Light.

CHRIST HIMSELF.

THE LAW WAS A SHADOW — CHRIST IS THE REALITY



EN

aks of:

“The law having a shadow of good things to come...”

— Hebrews 10:1

The shadow had purpose.

The moon has purpose.

But the shadow is not the final destination.

The reflection is not the source.

The woman is standing upon the lesser realm while clothed in the greater.

That is a powerful picture of spiritual advancement.

SHADOW BENEATH.

SUN ABOVE.

GLORY UPON HER.

THE WOMAN WEARS A CROWN

John continues:

“And upon her head a crown...”

Again we encounter governmental language.

The woman is not merely illuminated.



She is crowned.

Light and government are joined.

This is significant because God's purpose has always involved:

IMAGE.

And:

DOMINION.

Genesis 1:26 declares:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..."

Image and government belong together.

The woman is clothed in light and crowned with authority.

THE CROWN CONTAINS TWELVE STARS

The crown is not empty.

John says:

"A crown of twelve stars."

Why twelve?

Throughout Scripture, twelve carries strong governmental associations.



EN

Twelve tribes of Israel.

Twelve apostles of the Lamb.

New Jerusalem has twelve gates.

Twelve foundations.

The number twelve repeatedly appears in connection with divine governmental order.

So when the woman wears a crown of twelve stars, we are looking at more than decoration.

THIS IS HEAVENLY GOVERNMENT.

TWELVE SPEAKS OF DIVINE ORDER

Israel's twelve tribes formed a governmental people.

Jesus chose twelve apostles.

The city in Revelation is saturated with twelve.

Twelve gates.

Twelve angels.

Twelve tribes.

Twelve foundations.



EN

titles.

Measurements built around twelve.

The symbolism is unmistakable.

God is revealing:

ORDER.

GOVERNMENT.

COMPLETENESS OF DIVINE ADMINISTRATION.

The woman is carrying that order upon her head.

THE HEAD SPEAKS OF GOVERNING MIND

The stars are not on her hands.

They are:

UPON HER HEAD.

The head speaks of mind.

Government.

Authority.

Direction.



EN

is again to the issue of what governs the inward man.

In Revelation 13, the beast seeks a mark in the forehead.

In Revelation 14, the Father's name appears in the foreheads of those standing with the Lamb.

Here the woman wears a crown of stars upon her head.

The battle of Revelation repeatedly involves:

GOVERNMENT OF THE MIND.

Whose thought governs?

Whose nature rules?

Whose name is written?

Whose image is being formed?

THE WOMAN IS WITH CHILD

Now the vision moves.

The woman is not merely clothed and crowned.

She is:

PREGNANT.

John says:



EN

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

— Revelation 12:2

Something is growing within her.

Something has been conceived.

Something must come forth.

This takes us into one of the deepest themes in Scripture.

GOD BRINGS PURPOSE TO BIRTH.

CONCEPTION COMES BEFORE MANIFESTATION

Before anything is born outwardly, something has been conceived inwardly.

The kingdom works that way.

Seed.

Conception.

Formation.

Travail.

Birth.

Manifestation.



EN

Jesus said:

“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone...”

— John 12:24

Life begins hidden.

Then it emerges.

God’s purpose often develops inwardly long before the world can see it outwardly.

PAUL UNDERSTOOD SPIRITUAL TRAVAIL

Paul used exactly this kind of language.

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

— Galatians 4:19

Travail.

Birth.

Formation.

What was Paul travelling for?

CHRIST FORMED IN A PEOPLE.

That gives us a tremendous key.

Spiritual birth is not merely about producing activity.



EN

It is about producing:

CHRIST.

The purpose of ministry is not merely to gather crowds.

It is to see Christ formed.

THE WOMAN CARRIES SOMETHING GOD INTENDS TO BRING FORTH

This is why the dragon stands before her.

The dragon is not frightened by religious activity for its own sake.

He is threatened by:

WHAT GOD IS BRINGING FORTH.

The serpent has always opposed the seed.

Genesis 3:15 establishes the conflict:

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed..."

There it is.

Woman.

Seed.

Serpent



EN

Conflict.

Revelation 12 gathers the ancient pattern into one tremendous vision.

GENESIS BEGINS THE WAR — REVELATION UNVEILS IT

Genesis gives us:

Woman.

Serpent.

Seed.

Revelation gives us:

Woman.

Dragon.

Child.

The connection is too strong to miss.

The Bible begins with the promise of the woman's seed.

The Bible's final book shows a woman bringing forth while the old serpent stands ready to devour.

The war has matured.

The serpent has become a dragon.



EN

But God's purpose has also matured.

THE DRAGON STANDS BEFORE THE WOMAN

John writes:

“And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered...”

— Revelation 12:4

The dragon knows birth is near.

That is when opposition intensifies.

Throughout Scripture, the enemy repeatedly attempts to destroy what God is bringing forth.

Pharaoh attacks the male children.

Herod seeks the infant Jesus.

Religious authorities persecute the early Church.

The pattern repeats.

OPPOSITION GATHERS AROUND BIRTH.

But opposition does not cancel purpose.

THE WOMAN TRAVAILS

Travail is not comfortable.



Birth involves pressure.

Labor.

Pain.

Intensity.

There are moments when God's purpose comes forth through travail.

Isaiah says:

"As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

— Isaiah 66:8

Notice it.

ZION TRAVAILED.

ZION BROUGHT FORTH.

Travail and birth are connected.

This makes Revelation 12 much larger than one isolated prophetic scene.

It belongs to a scriptural pattern.

ZION IS CONNECTED TO BIRTH

Isaiah asks:

"Shall a nation be born at once?"



EN

Then:

“For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

Zion is not merely a geographical mountain.

In the New Testament, Hebrews speaks of:

“Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...”

— Hebrews 12:22

Again:

HEAVENLY.

The woman appears in heaven.

Zion is heavenly.

Jerusalem above is free.

These pictures begin speaking to one another.

THE WOMAN REPRESENTS A HEAVENLY PEOPLE IN TRAVAIL

Now the vision becomes clearer.

A woman.

In heaven.

Clothed with the sun.



EN

The moon beneath her feet.

Twelve stars upon her head.

Travailing to bring forth.

This is a people carrying:

HEAVENLY LIGHT.

DIVINE GOVERNMENT.

GOD'S SEED.

A PURPOSE READY FOR MANIFESTATION.

The woman is not Babylon.

Babylon is clothed differently.

Babylon glories in another order.

This woman is connected with heaven.

TWO WOMEN — TWO CITIES — TWO ORDERS

Revelation contains tremendous contrasts.

The woman of Revelation 12.

The woman of Revelation 17.



EN

s in heaven.

The other sits upon the beast.

One is clothed with the sun.

The other is arrayed in purple and scarlet.

One brings forth God's purpose.

The other produces mixture and corruption.

The contrast is deliberate.

There are two women.

Two orders.

Two manifestations.

THE WOMAN OF REVELATION 12 IS NOT THE HARLOT

We must keep the pictures distinct.

The woman of Revelation 17 is associated with Babylon.

The woman of Revelation 12 is associated with heavenly glory and divine birth.

One gives birth to purpose.

The other intoxicates nations.



EN

ed in light.

The other is adorned in religious and worldly glory.

One belongs to heavenly order.

The other is judged and falls.

WHAT IS THE WOMAN BRINGING FORTH?

This is the great question.

Revelation 12:5 says:

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron...”

There is the birth.

Not merely another religious movement.

Not merely another organization.

A MAN CHILD.

And the child carries governmental destiny.

“To rule all nations with a rod of iron.”

This language appears elsewhere in Revelation.

Jesus promises the overcomer:



“And he that overcometh... to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron.”

— Revelation 2:26–27

Now the picture deepens.

The promise to the overcomer and the destiny of the manchild use the same governmental language.

THE WOMAN AND THE MANCHILD ARE NOT THE SAME PICTURE

This distinction is critical.

The woman brings forth the child.

Therefore the woman and the child cannot simply be treated as identical symbols.

One produces.

The other is produced.

One travails.

The other is born.

One remains in the vision in one position.

The child is caught up into another.

That distinction opens a powerful revelation concerning spiritual maturity.



EN

EVERYTHING IN THE WOMAN DOES NOT REMAIN IN THE SAME MEASURE

The woman is glorious.

Clothed with the sun.

Crowned.

Heavenly.

Yet something more mature comes forth from within her.

That tells us:

GOD CAN BRING A GREATER MEASURE OUT OF A GLORIOUS COMPANY.

The woman is not evil.

She is not Babylon.

She is heavenly.

But the child represents another dimension of manifestation and government.

This is the movement from:

CONCEPTION TO BIRTH.**PROMISE TO MANIFESTATION.****CORPORATE WOMAN TO GOVERNMENTAL SON.****EN**

THIS IS THE MOVEMENT TOWARD SONSHIP

Paul speaks of creation waiting for:

“The manifestation of the sons of God.”

— Romans 8:19

Manifestation.

Not merely existence.

Sons may exist before they are manifested in maturity.

God is moving toward a people in whom Christ is not merely confessed doctrinally.

CHRIST IS FORMED.

And then:

CHRIST IS MANIFESTED.

That is birth language.

THE WOMAN IS CLOTHED WITH WHAT THE CHILD WILL MANIFEST

The woman is clothed in light.

She carries divine seed.

She wears governmental order.



She travails.

Then something comes forth capable of ruling.

The internal reality becomes outward manifestation.

That is how the kingdom works.

First:

WITHIN.

Then:

WITHOUT.

First:

SEED.

Then:

FRUIT.

First:

FORMATION.

Then:

MANIFESTATION.



EN

ON CANNOT STOP THE BIRTH

This may be the greatest word in the whole chapter.

The dragon stands ready.

He positions himself before the woman.

His intention is clear.

He wants to devour the child immediately.

But what happens?

THE CHILD IS BORN.

The dragon's presence did not stop conception.

The dragon's threat did not stop travail.

The dragon's opposition did not stop birth.

God's purpose came forth anyway.

WHAT GOD HAS SPOKEN CANNOT BE CANCELED BY THE DRAGON

The dragon can oppose.

But he cannot rewrite God's purpose.

He can threaten.



EN

ot erase divine seed.

He can stand before the woman.

But he cannot stop what God has determined to bring forth.

This is one of the great messages of Revelation.

Opposition is real.

But:

OPPOSITION IS NOT SOVEREIGN.

God is.

THE WOMAN FLEES INTO THE WILDERNESS

After the child is caught up, the woman enters another experience.

Revelation 12:6 says:

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God...”

Notice the wording.

PREPARED OF GOD.

The wilderness is not necessarily evidence that God has abandoned her.

There is a place there:



EN

PREPARED.

This is important.

The wilderness can become a place of preservation.

Testing.

Formation.

Dependence.

God dealt with Israel in the wilderness.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

John received the Word of God in a wilderness context.

The wilderness is not always punishment.

Sometimes it is preparation.

GOD FEEDS HER IN THE WILDERNESS

Revelation says:

“That they should feed her there...”

God provides.

The wilderness does not mean there is no provision.



EN

Provision comes from another Source.

Israel learned that when manna fell.

Natural supply disappeared.

Heavenly supply appeared.

The wilderness teaches dependence upon God.

THE WOMAN IS GIVEN TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE

Later Revelation says:

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle...”

— Revelation 12:14

Now our previous symbol speaks again.

The eagle.

Heavenly movement.

Elevation.

Preservation by divine provision.

God gives the woman wings.

She does not manufacture them.

THEY ARE GIVEN.



EN

Grace again.

THE SERPENT CASTS OUT A FLOOD

Revelation says:

“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman...”

— Revelation 12:15

Notice where the flood comes from.

HIS MOUTH.

This returns us to the warfare of words.

Genesis began with the serpent speaking.

Revelation continues with the serpent’s mouth producing a flood.

Deception.

Accusation.

False doctrine.

Words.

A torrent intended to carry the woman away.

But again the attack does not prevail.



EN

HELPS THE WOMAN

John says:

“And the earth helped the woman...”

— Revelation 12:16

The vision is rich with symbolic interaction.

Heaven.

Earth.

Woman.

Dragon.

Flood.

Wings.

God uses realms and circumstances to preserve His purpose.

The serpent's flood does not achieve its intended end.

Again:

THE DRAGON DOES NOT WIN.

THE DRAGON IS WROTH WITH THE WOMAN

Revelation 12:17 says:



EN

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman...”

Why?

Because God's purpose is still alive.

The child was born.

The woman remains.

The seed continues.

The dragon's anger is evidence of his failure.

He could not devour the child.

He could not destroy the woman.

So he continues warfare.

But the chapter has already told us the outcome.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony..."

— Revelation 12:11

The overcomers win.

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB STANDS IN THE CENTER OF THE VICTORY

Never lose this.



EN

is glorious.

The child has governmental destiny.

The saints overcome.

But the victory does not originate in human ability.

They overcome:

BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

Everything comes back to Christ.

The woman is clothed with light because He is the Light.

The child is destined for rule under divine government.

The overcomers conquer through His blood.

The entire vision belongs to:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE WOMAN REVEALS A PEOPLE BEARING DIVINE SEED

Now we can gather the picture.

She is:

IN HEAVEN.



EN

spiritual.

She is:

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.

She is covered in divine light.

The moon is:

UNDER HER FEET.

The lesser realm is beneath her standing.

She wears:

A CROWN OF TWELVE STARS.

Divine governmental order rests upon her head.

She is:

WITH CHILD.

God's purpose has been conceived within her.

She:

TRAVAILS.

The purpose is moving toward manifestation.

And she:



EN

BRINGS FORTH.

What was hidden becomes visible.

THIS IS MORE THAN PROPHECY ABOUT EVENTS

If we reduce Revelation 12 only to an argument about historical or future events, we may miss the spiritual principle.

God is showing us:

HOW PURPOSE COMES FORTH.

Seed.

Formation.

Travail.

Opposition.

Birth.

Government.

Victory.

That pattern is larger than one moment in history.

It is woven throughout Scripture.



EN

POSE MOVES FROM WOMAN TO SON

This chapter marks a tremendous transition.

The woman carries.

The manchild governs.

The woman travails.

The son is born.

The woman is glorious.

The son is destined for the throne.

This is not competition between two companies.

It is progression in divine purpose.

What is conceived in the corporate people of God comes forth in mature manifestation.

THE SIXTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.

And the symbol opened.

We saw



A HEAVENLY PEOPLE.

CLOTHED IN DIVINE LIGHT.

STANDING ABOVE THE LESSER REALM.

CROWNED WITH DIVINE GOVERNMENTAL ORDER.

CARRYING GOD'S SEED.

TRAVAILING FOR MANIFESTATION.

OPPOSED BY THE DRAGON.

YET STILL BRINGING FORTH GOD'S PURPOSE.

The dragon stands.

But birth happens.

The serpent floods.

But preservation comes.

Opposition rises.

But divine purpose continues.

And now the child has appeared.

A male child.

A son.



Born out of travail.

Destined:

TO RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON.

And Revelation says something astonishing happens immediately after his birth.

He is not left where the dragon can reach him.

He is:

CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD.

And:

TO HIS THRONE.

The woman has brought forth.

Now we must understand:

THE MANCHILD CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE MANCHILD CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD

BORN TO RULE THE NATIONS FROM THE THRONE

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”

— Revelation 12:5



EN

The woman has travailed.

The dragon has waited.

The birth has come.

And now Revelation gives us one of the strongest governmental pictures in the entire vision:

A MANCHILD IS BORN.

This child is not introduced merely as another infant.

He carries destiny.

He carries government.

He carries rulership.

John says plainly:

“Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.”

And immediately after the birth:

HE IS CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD.

And:

TO HIS THRONE.

This is not accidental language.



EN

Rule.

Catching up.

Throne.

All four belong together.

The woman of Revelation 12 has not merely brought forth life.

She has brought forth:

GOVERNMENTAL SONSHIP.

THE CHILD IS BORN OUT OF TRAVAIL

We cannot understand the manchild apart from the woman.

She carried.

She travailed.

She brought forth.

The child came out of a process.

This is important.

Maturity does not appear out of nowhere.



EN

al capacity is formed.

Life is conceived.

Christ is formed.

Pressure works.

Travail comes.

Then something is manifested.

Paul said:

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

— Galatians 4:19

There is the pattern again.

TRAVAIL.

CHRIST FORMED.

BIRTH.

The manchild is not the product of religious ambition.

He is the product of divine formation.

THE WOMAN AND THE MANCHILD ARE CONNECTED — BUT DISTINCT



EN

is glorious.

She is clothed with the sun.

She wears a crown of twelve stars.

She stands in a heavenly sign.

But she brings forth something distinct from herself.

That distinction matters.

The woman is not discarded.

But the child represents a further manifestation.

One carries.

One is born.

One travails.

One is caught up.

One produces.

One rules.

This is movement in God's purpose.

GOD BRINGS MATURITY OUT OF A CORPORATE PEOPLE



EN

and does not appear isolated from the woman.

He comes out from within her.

That tells us something about divine order.

God develops mature expression within a larger body.

Not everything in the body is always in the same measure.

Not every believer is at the same stage.

Paul understood this clearly.

He spoke of:

Babes.

Children.

Young men.

Fathers.

Mature sons.

The Body can contain different measures of spiritual development at the same time.

That is not condemnation.

It is growth.



EN

MORE THAN BIRTH

Every child born into a family is a child.

But maturity involves something further.

Paul writes:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

— Romans 8:14

Notice the language.

Led by the Spirit.

Sonship is not merely biological language.

It carries the idea of mature relationship and government.

A mature son can represent the Father.

A babe cannot yet carry the same responsibility.

THE HEIR MUST GROW

Paul says:

“The heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”

— Galatians 4:1

The inheritance may belong to him.



But he is not yet ready to exercise it.

This helps us understand the manchild.

The issue is not merely:

BORN.

The issue is:

BORN TO RULE.

That means the child carries mature governmental destiny.

TO RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON

Revelation 12:5 gives the destiny:

“Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.”

This phrase does not begin in Revelation 12.

It reaches back into Psalm 2.

God says of His Anointed:

“Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron...”

— Psalm 2:9

The language is Messianic.

Governmental.



Royal.

It belongs first and supremely to Christ.

But Revelation does something remarkable.

The same language is extended to the overcomer.

THE OVERCOMER RECEIVES THE SAME GOVERNMENTAL PROMISE

Jesus says:

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron...”

— Revelation 2:26–27

There is the connection.

Christ.

Overcomer.

Rod of iron.

Nations.

Government.

This means Revelation 12 cannot be separated from the overcomer promises in the earlier chapters.

The manchild carries the same governmental language.



EN

THE ROD SPEAKS OF RULE

A rod in Scripture is not merely a weapon.

It is connected to authority.

Shepherding.

Government.

Discipline.

Rule.

Psalm 23 says:

“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

So the rod can carry correction and protection.

But in Revelation, the iron rod speaks of unyielding divine government.

Not flexible human opinion.

Not unstable religious sentiment.

RIGHTEOUS RULE.

IRON SPEAKS OF STRENGTH



EN

Firm.

Unyielding.

This is not weak government.

The kingdom of God is not fragile.

Truth is not delicate.

Divine purpose does not depend upon the approval of the nations.

The rod of iron tells us:

GOD'S GOVERNMENT STANDS.

BUT THIS IS LAMB GOVERNMENT

We must never separate the rod from the Lamb.

Otherwise we will interpret rulership carnally.

The same Revelation that speaks of the rod shows us:

THE LAMB.

The government of Christ is not beastly domination.

The Lamb does not become the beast in order to rule.



EN

comes from another nature.

That is critical.

If we preach rulership without Lamb nature, we produce religious tyranny.

THE MANCHILD MUST CARRY THE NATURE OF THE LAMB

Government in the kingdom cannot be separated from nature.

A man may know doctrine and still be unfit to govern.

A man may possess gifting and still be immature.

A man may be bold and still be carnal.

The rod belongs in the hand of a mature son.

Not because he wants power.

But because Christ has been formed in him.

THE DRAGON WANTS TO DEVOUR THE CHILD

Revelation says the dragon stood before the woman:

“To devour her child as soon as it was born.”

Why is the dragon so interested in this child?

Revelation says the child carries:



EN

GOVERNMENTAL DESTINY.

The dragon understands authority.

He has heads.

Horns.

Crowns.

He seeks rule.

So when a child is born who is destined to rule under God's government, the conflict intensifies.

This is not merely about life.

It is about:

WHO WILL GOVERN.

THE DRAGON CANNOT DEVOUR WHAT GOD HAS DESTINED FOR THE THRONE

The dragon stands ready.

But he fails.

The child is born.

Then Revelation says:



EN

"Her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

That is tremendous.

The dragon reaches from below.

God lifts from above.

The dragon seeks to devour.

God brings the child into throne position.

The enemy's intention is:

DESTRUCTION.

God's intention is:

GOVERNMENT.

And God's intention prevails.

CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD

The phrase "caught up" speaks of sudden divine action.

The child does not climb there through human ambition.

He is:

CAUGHT UP.



EN

God raises.

God positions.

God brings the child into another realm.

This is grace.

No man can promote himself into the throne of God.

No organization can vote him there.

No title can place him there.

No earthly recognition can produce heavenly position.

TRUE EXALTATION COMES FROM GOD

Psalm 75 says:

“Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.”

Then:

“But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”

There it is.

The manchild is not self-promoted.



EN

He is caught up.

God places him.

That is the only safe exaltation.

THE THRONE IS THE DESTINATION

Notice carefully.

The child is caught up:

“Unto God, and to his throne.”

Not merely to heaven.

Not merely to safety.

TO THE THRONE.

This is governmental.

The destiny revealed before the catching up was rulership.

The destination after birth is the throne.

The two belong together.

THRONE POSITION IS SPIRITUAL POSITION



EN

careful not to reduce everything to physical geography.

Paul says believers are already:

“Made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

— Ephesians 2:6

Heavenly position is a present spiritual reality in Christ.

This does not mean every believer is functioning in mature throne government.

But it does show us that throne language is not limited to physical relocation.

It speaks of realm.

Authority.

Identity.

Union with Christ.

COME UP HITHER PREPARED US FOR THIS

Earlier John heard:

COME UP HITHER.

He came up.

He saw the throne.

Now Revelation 12 gives us another upward movement.



EN

The manchild is:

CAUGHT UP.

There is a pattern.

Revelation keeps moving us:

From earth toward heaven.

From natural perspective toward spiritual perspective.

From lower government toward throne government.

THE CHILD IS NOT CAUGHT UP TO ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY

This is important.

The purpose is not escapism.

The verse has already told us the child is destined to:

RULE.

Throne position increases responsibility.

It does not remove it.

The child is caught up because government belongs to the throne.

You cannot rule from the beast's realm.

**EN**

manifest divine government from carnal nature.

The realm must match the rule.

THE THRONE SPEAKS OF GOD'S VIEW

A throne gives perspective.

From the throne:

The dragon is seen accurately.

The beast is seen accurately.

Babylon is seen accurately.

The nations are seen accurately.

Fear loses its distortion.

That is why mature sons must see from the throne.

Government without revelation becomes dangerous.

THE MANCHILD IS A CORPORATE SIGN

The language of Revelation frequently moves beyond one individual to corporate realities.

The woman is corporate.



EN

corporate.

Babylon is corporate.

The Bride is corporate.

The 144,000 are corporate.

So it is fitting to read the manchild within that same symbolic world.

This is not merely one natural infant.

The image carries the language of a company brought forth into mature governmental sonship.

CHRIST IS THE PATTERN SON

Yet we must never separate the corporate expression from Christ Himself.

Jesus is the pattern.

The firstborn.

The Son.

The One who overcame.

The One seated with the Father in His throne.

Revelation 3:21 says:

"Even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."



EN

There is the pattern.

CHRIST OVERCAME.

CHRIST SAT DOWN.

Then He says:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne.”

Now the corporate promise appears.

THE OVERCOMER SHARES THE THRONE

This is one of the strongest statements in Revelation.

Jesus does not merely promise survival.

He promises:

THRONE PARTICIPATION.

“Sit with me in my throne.”

That is mature sonship.

Not replacing Christ.

Not becoming independent kings.

But sharing His government.



In Him.

Through Him.

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE THRONE

This must remain clear.

The sons do not build competing thrones.

They sit with Christ.

The elders surround His throne.

The saints reign with Him.

The manchild is caught up to God's throne.

Everything stays centered in:

ONE GOVERNMENT.

ONE KING.

ONE LAMB.

THE MANCHILD DOES NOT TAKE THE THRONE FROM CHRIST



EN

Interpretations of sonship can become dangerous if they separate the sons

That must never happen.

All true sonship exists:

IN CHRIST.

The sons rule because Christ rules.

They overcome because He overcame.

They live because He lives.

They reign because they are joined to His government.

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE MANCHILD COMPANY

Paul says:

“He is the head of the body, the church.”

— Colossians 1:18

The body never becomes independent of the Head.

Maturity does not produce separation from Christ.

Maturity produces deeper union with Christ.

The closer we come to sonship, the more clearly Christ becomes Head.



EN

**MANCHILD REPRESENTS FORMATION BROUGHT TO GOVERNMENTAL
EXPRESSION**

This is the progression.

The woman carried seed.

The seed was formed.

The woman travailed.

The child was born.

The child was caught up.

The child was destined to rule.

That is movement.

SEED.

FORMATION.

BIRTH.

ASCENSION.

GOVERNMENT.

This is not random symbolism.

It is a divine pattern.



EN

REVEAL — FORM — MANIFEST PATTERN

God reveals Christ.

Christ is formed inwardly.

Formation produces manifestation.

Manifestation produces governmental expression.

This is what Paul was after when he said:

“Until Christ be formed in you.”

Not merely Christ discussed.

Not merely Christ preached.

CHRIST FORMED.

And what is formed inwardly must eventually be manifested outwardly.

CREATION IS WAITING FOR MANIFESTED SONS

Romans 8 says:

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

— Romans 8:19

Creation is waiting.

Not merely church membership.

Not merely religious activity.

MANIFESTATION.

Something must come forth.

This is birth language again.

THE SONS ARE NOT MANIFESTED FOR THEIR OWN GLORY

This is critical.

The manifestation of sons is not the glorification of human personalities.

It is the manifestation of:

THE SON IN THE SONS.

Christ reproduced.

Christ expressed.

Christ governing through a people.

The moment sonship becomes self-exaltation, it has left the nature of the Lamb.

THE PURPOSE IS THE IMAGE OF THE SON



EN

Romans 8 continues:

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...”

— Romans 8:29

There is the goal.

IMAGE OF HIS SON.

Not image of the beast.

Not image of Adam.

Not image of religion.

IMAGE OF CHRIST.

This is what makes governmental sonship safe.

THE MANCHILD IS MALE IN GOVERNMENTAL SYMBOLISM

The language “man child” speaks of the male son.

In biblical symbolism, this points toward government, inheritance, sonship, and mature representation.

The emphasis is not on natural gender superiority.

The symbol is governmental.



EN

Paul says in Christ:

“There is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

— Galatians 3:28

So this vision is not about natural men being superior to natural women.

It is spiritual language describing a governmental birth.

THE WOMAN IS NOT LESS VALUABLE

This distinction must also be protected.

The woman is glorious.

She is heavenly.

She is clothed with the sun.

She is crowned.

She is preserved by God.

The manchild coming forth does not make the woman worthless.

The symbol is about differing functions and measures within one unfolding purpose.

One bears.

One comes forth.

Both belong in the vision.



EN

THE DRAGON LOSES HIS PLACE

Immediately after the child is caught up, Revelation describes war in heaven.

Michael and his angels fight.

The dragon fights.

And then:

“And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.”

— Revelation 12:8

Look at the order.

Birth.

Catching up.

War.

Displacement.

The manifestation of divine government is connected with the removal of counterfeit government.

That is powerful.

WHEN THE TRUE SON IS MANIFESTED, THE FALSE GOVERNMENT LOSES PLACE



EN

occupies a place until divine government is manifested.

Then:

HIS PLACE IS REMOVED.

This principle is larger than one verse.

Light removes darkness.

Truth removes deception.

Life swallows up death.

Christ displaces Adam.

Divine government displaces beastly government.

The answer to darkness is not merely attacking darkness.

MANIFEST LIGHT.

THE ACCUSER IS CAST DOWN

Revelation continues:

“For the accuser of our brethren is cast down...”

— Revelation 12:10

The dragon is not only a deceiver.

He is an accuser.



EN

Accusation belongs to his government.

Condemnation.

Blame.

Shame.

Constant testimony against the brethren.

But the voice in heaven declares:

CAST DOWN.

THE SONS DO NOT GOVERN THROUGH ACCUSATION

This is important.

If the manchild company is to carry Lamb government, it cannot operate through the dragon's nature.

The dragon accuses.

The Lamb redeems.

The dragon condemns.

The Lamb restores.

The dragon destroys.

The Lamb gives Life.



EN

You cannot defeat the accuser while carrying accusation in your own mouth.

THEY OVERCAME HIM

Revelation 12:11 says:

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...”

Now the overcomer appears again.

The victory is not theoretical.

THEY OVERCAME HIM.

How?

First:

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

The foundation is finished work.

Not human performance.

Not self-righteousness.

Not spiritual boasting.

THE BLOOD ANSWERS THE ACCUSER



EN

points at failure.

The blood points at redemption.

The accuser points at sin.

The blood speaks of reconciliation.

The accuser says:

Condemned.

The blood says:

Redeemed.

This is why the overcomer cannot base his throne position upon personal perfection.

His confidence is in:

THE LAMB.

THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY

Then:

“By the word of their testimony.”

The serpent brought another word in Eden.

The overcomers answer with testimony aligned with God.



EN

er.

Government speaks.

The beast speaks.

The false prophet speaks.

The dragon speaks.

But the sons also speak.

And their testimony agrees with:

THE LAMB.

THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH

Revelation continues:

“And they loved not their lives unto the death.”

There is Lamb nature again.

Self-preservation does not rule them.

They are not governing to protect ego.

They are not holding the throne to preserve personal advantage.

They have passed through death to self.



EN

them safe for authority.

YOU CANNOT TRUST THE THRONE TO A MAN WHO MUST SAVE HIMSELF

This is one of the great principles of the kingdom.

If a man must protect reputation at all costs, power becomes dangerous in his hands.

If he must preserve position, he will manipulate.

If he must always win, he will dominate.

But the Lamb laid His Life down.

And the overcomers:

LOVE NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH.

That is mature government.

THE MANCHILD IS CAUGHT UP BECAUSE HIS NATURE MATCHES THE THRONE

The throne is not merely a location.

It is a government.

A nature.

An order.

**EN**

cannot occupy God's throne because beastly nature does not match divine government.

The dragon loses his place.

But the son is caught up.

Why?

Because divine purpose has formed something compatible with the throne.

GOD IS PREPARING A PEOPLE WHO CAN CARRY HIS GOVERNMENT

This is the heart of the symbol.

God does not merely want to rescue people from evil.

He wants to form a people through whom His righteous government can be manifested.

This is why maturity matters.

This is why formation matters.

This is why overcoming matters.

The throne requires capacity.

AUTHORITY IS NOT THE GOAL — CHRIST IS THE GOAL

This must remain central.



EN

Authority as the goal, we have already missed the Lamb.

The goal is Christ.

Authority is a consequence of union with Him.

Government flows from nature.

The son does not chase the throne.

He is caught up to it.

THE THRONE IS A PLACE OF RESTED AUTHORITY

Christ sat down.

Hebrews repeatedly emphasizes that He:

SAT DOWN.

Why?

Because His work was finished.

Throne government does not operate from panic.

It operates from victory.

The manchild is caught up into that government.

Not frantic striving.



EN

s anxiety.

RESTED AUTHORITY.

THE SON RULES FROM FINISHED WORK

This is crucial.

We do not reign in order to make Christ victorious.

We reign because:

CHRIST HAS OVERCOME.

We do not fight for a throne that is uncertain.

The throne is already established.

We do not attempt to complete an unfinished redemption.

The Lamb has already been slain.

The government of the sons must flow from:

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST.

THE MANCHILD DOES NOT MAGNIFY THE DRAGON

This is another important mark.

prophecy can become obsessed with the enemy.



EN

But the manchild is not born to spend eternity staring at the dragon.

He is born:

TO RULE.

He is caught up:

TO THE THRONE.

His identity is defined by God, not by opposition.

THE DRAGON IS PART OF THE STORY — NOT THE DESTINATION

The dragon rages.

But he falls.

The son rises.

That is the movement.

DRAGON DOWN.

SON UP.

Counterfeit government displaced.

Divine government manifested.



EN

ation.

THE MANCHILD REVEALS THE DIRECTION OF GOD'S PURPOSE

God's purpose moves upward.

From Adam to Christ.

From flesh to Spirit.

From earth to heaven.

From immaturity to maturity.

From religious form to manifested Life.

From accusation to testimony.

From beastly government to Lamb government.

From travail to birth.

From birth to throne.

THE SEVENTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

A MANCHILD.

... of a glorious woman.



EN

Opposed by a dragon.

Destined to rule.

And caught up unto God.

But now the symbol has opened.

We see:

MATURE SONSHIP.

GOVERNMENTAL DESTINY.

THE OVERCOMER PROMISE.

CHRIST FORMED AND MANIFESTED IN A PEOPLE.

DIVINE AUTHORITY ROOTED IN LAMB NATURE.

A SON WHO DOES NOT PROMOTE HIMSELF BUT IS CAUGHT UP BY GOD.

A THRONE OCCUPIED FROM FINISHED VICTORY, NOT HUMAN STRIVING.

And perhaps the great movement of the entire vision:

THE DRAGON SEEKS TO DEVOUR.

GOD BRINGS FORTH.

THE DRAGON FALLS.



EN

THE SON RISES.

The woman has travailed.

The son has been born.

The throne has received him.

The accuser has been cast down.

But Revelation now brings us to another company.

Two witnesses.

Two olive trees.

Two candlesticks.

Standing before the God of the earth.

They testify.

They are opposed.

They are killed.

Their bodies lie in the street.

The world rejoices.

Then something happens.

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD ENTERS INTO THEM.



EN

They stand upon their feet.

A voice calls:

COME UP HITHER.

And they ascend.

Another symbol is about to open.

THE TWO WITNESSES.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE TWO WITNESSES

TWO OLIVE TREES AND TWO CANDLESTICKS

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

— Revelation 11:3

Revelation 11 brings us into another powerful symbolic picture.

Two witnesses.

Two olive trees.

Two candlesticks.

They stand before the God of the earth.

They prophesy.



EN

They carry testimony.

Opposition rises against them.

They are killed.

Their bodies lie in the street.

The world rejoices over their apparent defeat.

Then suddenly:

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD ENTERS INTO THEM.

They stand upon their feet.

Fear falls upon those who behold them.

Then a great voice from heaven declares:

COME UP HITHER.

And they ascend.

Once again Revelation gives us a pattern:

Witness.

Opposition.

Death.

Life.



EN

Ascension.

Government.

This is not merely a story of two individuals suffering persecution.

It is a revelation concerning:

THE TESTIMONY OF GOD.

And what happens when that testimony appears in the earth.

WHY TWO WITNESSES?

The number two matters.

Throughout Scripture, two is connected with:

WITNESS.

Deuteronomy establishes the principle:

“At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

— Deuteronomy 19:15

Jesus repeats the principle:

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”

— Matthew 18:16

Paul repeats it again:



EN

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

— 2 Corinthians 13:1

The pattern is consistent.

One voice may speak.

But two witnesses establish testimony.

So when Revelation shows us:

TWO WITNESSES,

we are immediately in the language of:

ESTABLISHED TESTIMONY.

GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD A WITNESS

A witness testifies concerning what he has seen and heard.

John writes:

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...”

— 1 John 1:3

That is witness.

Not speculation.



EN

tion.

Not religious theory.

SEEN.

HEARD.

DECLARED.

Jesus told His disciples:

“Ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

— Acts 1:8

Not merely witnesses of events.

WITNESSES UNTO ME.

Christ is still the center.

THE TWO WITNESSES BELONG TO THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation begins with:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

And throughout the book testimony remains central.

John says he was on Patmos:

“For the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”



EN

n 1:9

Later Revelation says:

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

— Revelation 19:10

That gives us a great key.

True prophecy does not exist to magnify prophetic personalities.

It bears:

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS.

So whatever we understand about the two witnesses, their purpose must remain connected to the testimony of Christ.

THEY PROPHECY CLOTHED IN SACKCLOTH

John writes:

“They shall prophesy... clothed in sackcloth.”

Sackcloth throughout Scripture carries the language of:

Humility.

Mourning.

Repentance.



EN

Seriousness.

These witnesses do not appear dressed in worldly glory.

They do not come wearing Babylon's purple and scarlet.

They come:

IN SACKCLOTH.

That tells us something about the nature of their testimony.

This is not entertainment.

This is not religious performance.

This is not prophecy given to make the messenger look impressive.

There is weight in the word.

TRUE WITNESS CARRIES THE BURDEN OF GOD

The prophets often carried something deeper than information.

Jeremiah felt the Word as:

"A burning fire shut up in my bones..."

— Jeremiah 20:9

Paul spoke of travail.



Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

True testimony is not always detached from the condition being addressed.

Sometimes the messenger feels the burden of the word.

The sackcloth represents that seriousness.

THE TWO WITNESSES ARE TWO OLIVE TREES

Revelation interprets the symbol further:

“These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

— Revelation 11:4

Now Revelation joins three images:

WITNESSES.

OLIVE TREES.

CANDLESTICKS.

We have already studied the candlestick.

The candlestick bears light.

But now the olive tree enters.

What does the olive tree supply?

And oil throughout Scripture carries the language of:

THE SPIRIT.

Now the picture begins to open.

Witness.

Oil.

Light.

ZECHARIAH SAW THE SAME SYMBOLS

Once again Revelation sends us backward.

Zechariah saw a golden candlestick.

He also saw:

TWO OLIVE TREES.

He asks what they mean.

The answer comes through a great declaration:

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

— Zechariah 4:6

There is our key.



EN

The testimony of God cannot be sustained merely by human strength.

The witness depends upon:

THE SPIRIT.

THE OLIVE TREE FEEDS THE LIGHT

This is beautiful.

The candlestick bears the flame.

The olive tree supplies the oil.

The witness speaks.

The Spirit gives the Life.

Take away the oil and the lamp goes dark.

Take away the Spirit and witness becomes empty speech.

You can repeat correct words without carrying living testimony.

You can quote Scripture while lacking the oil that makes the Word burn.

The true witness needs:

WORD.

And:



EN

TWO OLIVE TREES — TWO CANDLESTICKS

Why are the witnesses represented by both?

Because testimony requires:

LIFE WITHIN.

And:

LIGHT WITHOUT.

Oil within.

Flame without.

Spirit within.

Witness without.

This is the kingdom pattern.

God works inside out.

He fills.

Then He manifests.

He gives Life.



EN

roduces testimony.

YOU CANNOT MANUFACTURE OIL

Men can manufacture religious machinery.

They can build pulpits.

Organizations.

Programs.

Platforms.

Conferences.

Schools.

Publishing houses.

Television stations.

Websites.

All of those can be useful.

But none can create oil.

The oil comes from God.

That is why Zechariah says:



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IGHT.

NOT BY POWER.

BUT BY MY SPIRIT.

The testimony must remain dependent upon the Spirit.

THEY STAND BEFORE THE GOD OF THE EARTH

Revelation says the two olive trees and candlesticks are:

“Standing before the God of the earth.”

Standing speaks of position.

They are not merely wandering in the earth speaking their own opinions.

They stand:

BEFORE GOD.

That means accountability.

Relationship.

Commission.

Authority.

A witness must first stand before God before he can stand before men.



ELIJAH USED THE SAME LANGUAGE

Elijah said:

“As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand...”

— 1 Kings 17:1

That statement reveals the source of prophetic authority.

Elijah stood before Ahab.

But before he stood before Ahab:

HE STOOD BEFORE GOD.

That is the difference between divine witness and human boldness.

True authority comes from another presence.

THE WITNESS MUST LIVE BEFORE GOD

This is one of the greatest safeguards of ministry.

If we live only before people, we will eventually adjust our message to please people.

If applause governs us, truth becomes negotiable.

If rejection governs us, fear enters.

But if we stand:



EN

BEFORE GOD,

the audience changes.

The primary question becomes:

What is He saying?

What does He desire?

What testimony has He entrusted to us?

FIRE PROCEEDS OUT OF THEIR MOUTH

Revelation says:

“And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth...”

— Revelation 11:5

Again:

OUT OF THEIR MOUTH.

This is word imagery.

We should be careful about reducing this immediately to literal flames.

Jeremiah gives us a biblical pattern.

God says:

“Behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire...”



EN

5:14

There it is.

WORDS AS FIRE.

Fire can expose.

Consume.

Purify.

Judge.

The witness carries a word that confronts what opposes God.

GOD'S WORD IS FIRE

Jeremiah records:

“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD...”

— Jeremiah 23:29

There is the interpretive connection.

The fire proceeding from the witness's mouth speaks powerfully of:

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE MOUTH OF A PEOPLE.

Not weak opinion.

Not empty religion.



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A word carrying divine authority.

FIRE EXPOSES WHAT CANNOT REMAIN

Paul says:

“The fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.”

— 1 Corinthians 3:13

Fire tests.

Reveals.

Consumes what is combustible.

Leaves what can endure.

That is why the Word of God can be uncomfortable.

It exposes.

It reveals mixture.

It uncovers motives.

It separates soul from spirit.

Hebrews says:

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...”

— Hebrews 4:12



EN

True witness is not harmless religious noise.

It carries the ability to expose.

THEY HAVE POWER TO SHUT HEAVEN

Revelation continues:

“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy...”

— Revelation 11:6

Immediately we hear Elijah.

James tells us:

“Elias... prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth...”

— James 5:17

The witness carries prophetic imagery associated with Elijah.

Again Scripture interprets Scripture.

THEY TURN WATERS TO BLOOD

Revelation also says:

“And have power over waters to turn them to blood...”

Now we hear Moses.



Plagues.

Judgment.

Deliverance.

So the two witnesses carry imagery associated with:

MOSES.

And:

ELIJAH.

Law and prophets.

Deliverance and prophetic confrontation.

The symbolism gathers powerful biblical testimony into one picture.

MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARED WITH JESUS

There is an extraordinary New Testament connection.

On the Mount of Transfiguration:

Moses appeared.

Elijah appeared.



EN

ood in the midst.

Peter wanted to build three tabernacles.

But the Father spoke:

“This is my beloved Son... hear ye him.”

— Matthew 17:5

Moses.

Elijah.

Christ.

The Law and the Prophets testify.

But the final voice says:

HEAR THE SON.

Again all testimony finds fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

THE LAW AND PROPHETS POINT TO CHRIST

Jesus said:

“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.”

— Matthew 11:13

After His resurrection He began:



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and all the prophets”

and showed His disciples:

“The things concerning himself.”

— Luke 24:27

That is tremendous.

Moses speaks.

The prophets speak.

But what are the Scriptures ultimately revealing?

CHRIST.

So the witness must not become a ministry of Moses and Elijah apart from the Son.

The testimony points to Jesus.

THE TWO WITNESSES SPEAK UNTIL THEIR TESTIMONY IS FINISHED

Revelation says:

“And when they shall have finished their testimony...”

— Revelation 11:7

Do not rush past that.

FINISHED THEIR TESTIMONY.



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does not stop them before the testimony is complete.

The beast cannot act until:

THEY HAVE FINISHED.

That reveals something powerful about divine purpose.

The enemy does not determine the length of the assignment.

God does.

FINISHING MATTERS

Paul said near the end of his life:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

— 2 Timothy 4:7

Finished.

Jesus said:

“I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”

— John 17:4

And from the cross:

“IT IS FINISHED.”

God is a finisher.



EN

is not called merely to start.

FINISH THE TESTIMONY.

THE BEAST MAKES WAR AGAINST THEM

Only after their testimony is finished does Revelation say:

“The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them...”

The beast opposes witness because truth threatens counterfeit government.

The beast does not fear empty religion.

But testimony that exposes false government becomes dangerous to the beastly order.

THE BEAST OVERCOMES THEM — OUTWARDLY

Revelation says the beast:

“Shall overcome them, and kill them.”

For a moment, the beast appears victorious.

The witnesses are dead.

Their bodies lie in the street.

The world celebrates.



EN

If we stopped reading there, we would conclude:

THE BEAST WON.

But Revelation does not stop there.

That is one of the great lessons of this entire book.

Never stop halfway through the story.

APPEARANCE IS NOT FINAL REALITY

Revelation repeatedly shows us apparent defeat followed by divine reversal.

The Lamb is slain.

Yet He stands.

The saints are opposed.

Yet they overcome.

The witnesses are killed.

Yet they rise.

Babylon appears powerful.

Yet she falls.

Death appears final.

**EN**

elf is destroyed.

What looks final from earth may not be final from heaven.

THEIR DEAD BODIES LIE IN THE STREET OF THE GREAT CITY

John says:

“Their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

— Revelation 11:8

Notice the word:

SPIRITUALLY.

Revelation itself warns us not to interpret the city merely naturally.

It is:

Spiritually called Sodom.

Spiritually called Egypt.

And connected with the place where the Lord was crucified.

This is symbolic geography.

SODOM — EGYPT — THE PLACE OF CRUCIFIXION

These names carry tremendous biblical associations.



EN

Sodom:

Corruption.

Egypt:

Bondage.

The place where Christ was crucified:

Religious rejection of the Son.

The great city gathers these characteristics.

Corruption.

Bondage.

Religious opposition to Christ.

The witnesses testify within an order that rejects divine testimony.

THE WORLD REJOICES OVER THEIR DEATH

Revelation says:

“They that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another...”

— Revelation 11:10

Why?



EN

These two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”

Truth can torment a system built upon lies.

Light disturbs darkness.

The witness exposes what people would rather leave hidden.

So when the testimony appears silenced, the earthly realm celebrates.

EARTH REJOICES — HEAVEN IS NOT FINISHED

This contrast is tremendous.

Earth says:

THEY ARE DEAD.

Heaven says:

WATCH.

Earth celebrates.

Heaven waits.

The witnesses lie in the street.

But divine purpose has not reached its conclusion.

Then Revelation says:



EN

Three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them..."

— Revelation 11:11

There is the reversal.

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD

What enters them?

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD.

There is our answer to death.

Life does not originate in the witnesses themselves.

They are dead.

They cannot raise themselves.

God supplies the Life.

This is resurrection principle.

GOD'S ANSWER TO DEATH IS LIFE

The gospel is not merely about improving death.

It is about:



Jesus said:

“I am the resurrection, and the life.”

— John 11:25

Paul says:

“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

— Romans 8:2

Revelation shows us the same principle.

Death appears.

Then:

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD.

THEY STOOD UPON THEIR FEET

Revelation continues:

“And they stood upon their feet...”

That language echoes Ezekiel’s valley of dry bones.

Ezekiel prophesied.

Breath entered the slain.



EN

Then:

“They lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”

— Ezekiel 37:10

Again:

Death.

Breath.

Life.

Standing.

Revelation is drawing on the prophetic vocabulary of resurrection.

GOD DOES NOT MERELY REVIVE THEM ENOUGH TO LIE THERE

They stand.

Life produces position.

Life produces strength.

Life produces testimony again.

Death had laid them down.

Life causes them to stand.

That is victory.



EN

GREAT FEAR FALLS UPON THOSE WHO SEE THEM

When the witnesses were dead, men rejoiced.

When they stand:

FEAR FALLS.

Why?

Because the apparent victory has been overturned.

The power that killed them has been exposed as unable to keep them dead.

That is resurrection authority.

DEATH CAN KILL THE BODY — BUT IT CANNOT DEFEAT THE LIFE OF GOD

This is the great testimony.

The beast can kill.

But it cannot create Life.

The world can celebrate death.

But it cannot prevent resurrection.

Death can appear to win temporarily.



LIFE HAS THE FINAL WORD.

COME UP HITHER — AGAIN

Then the witnesses hear:

“A great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither.”

— Revelation 11:12

There it is again.

The same voice John heard in Revelation 4.

COME UP HITHER.

The same upward movement.

The same shift in realm.

The same call from below to above.

REVELATION KEEPS MOVING UPWARD

John comes up.

The manchild is caught up.

The witnesses come up.



EN

ccidental.

The book is constantly revealing a movement:

FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN.

FROM DEATH TO LIFE.

FROM LOWER GOVERNMENT TO THRONE GOVERNMENT.

FROM NATURAL APPEARANCE TO SPIRITUAL REALITY.

THEY ASCEND IN A CLOUD

Revelation says:

“And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud...”

Cloud imagery throughout Scripture is connected with divine presence and glory.

God appeared in the cloud.

Christ ascended in a cloud.

Revelation says Christ comes with clouds.

The witness is brought into heavenly identification.

Again the earthly realm does not have the final word over the testimony.



EN

THEIR ENEMIES BEHELD THEM

Revelation says:

“And their enemies beheld them.”

The resurrection is witnessed.

The ascension is witnessed.

What men celebrated as defeat becomes public testimony.

God turns apparent shame into manifestation.

THE WITNESS CANNOT BE DESTROYED BECAUSE THE TESTIMONY BELONGS TO GOD

This is the heart of the chapter.

Men may oppose the messenger.

But the testimony belongs to God.

Systems may silence a voice temporarily.

But they cannot extinguish divine truth.

Generations pass.

Messengers die.

Empires fall



EN

Yet:

THE WORD OF GOD REMAINS.

Peter writes:

“The word of the Lord endureth for ever.”

— 1 Peter 1:25

That is why the witness cannot ultimately be destroyed.

GOD ALWAYS PRESERVES HIS TESTIMONY

Elijah once believed he stood alone.

He said:

“I, even I only, am left...”

But God answered that He had reserved:

SEVEN THOUSAND.

Elijah could not see them.

God knew them.

God’s testimony was not as close to extinction as Elijah thought.

That is comforting.

Men may think truth has disappeared.



God still has a witness.

THE TWO WITNESSES REVEAL WORD AND SPIRIT TOGETHER

Now bring the symbols together.

Two witnesses.

Two olive trees.

Two candlesticks.

The witness speaks.

The olive supplies oil.

The candlestick bears light.

This gives us a powerful picture:

WORD AND SPIRIT.

Not Word without Spirit.

Not spiritual activity without the Word.

Together.

The Spirit gives Life to the testimony.

The Word gives definition to what the Spirit reveals.



EN

WORD WITHOUT SPIRIT CAN BECOME DEAD LETTER

Paul says:

“The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

— 2 Corinthians 3:6

This does not mean Scripture kills.

It means divine truth handled merely by natural ability cannot produce the Life it describes.

We need:

THE SPIRIT.

SPIRIT WITHOUT SCRIPTURAL GOVERNMENT CAN BECOME CONFUSION

At the same time, claiming spiritual revelation without the government of Scripture becomes dangerous.

The Spirit who inspired Scripture does not contradict Himself.

True spiritual revelation will stand under the Word.

That is why the two belong together.

Oil.

Light.



EN

Spirit.

Word.

Witness.

THE TWO WITNESSES ARE AN OVERCOMING TESTIMONY

They prophesy.

They confront.

They finish.

They are opposed.

They are killed.

They rise.

They ascend.

The pattern is unmistakable.

THE WITNESS OVERCOMES THROUGH RESURRECTION LIFE.

Not because opposition never comes.

But because opposition cannot destroy the Life carrying the testimony.

THEIR STORY FOLLOWS THE LAMB



EN

Think about Jesus.

He testified.

He was rejected.

He was killed.

Men thought the problem had been solved.

Then:

RESURRECTION.

Then:

ASCENSION.

The witnesses follow the same pattern.

That tells us whose testimony they carry.

The servant is not greater than his Lord.

But the servant participates in the Lord's victory.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION ARE BUILT INTO TRUE WITNESS

Paul writes:



EN

...ring about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also
of Jesus might be made manifest..."

— 2 Corinthians 4:10

There it is.

Dying.

Then Life manifested.

The witness carries both.

The cross removes self.

Resurrection reveals Christ.

THE TESTIMONY IS NOT ABOUT PRESERVING THE WITNESS

This is crucial.

If the witness's primary goal becomes self-preservation, the testimony will eventually be compromised.

Jesus said:

“Whosoever will save his life shall lose it...”

The witnesses finish their testimony.

Then death comes.

But death does not defeat them.



EN

A witness can afford to lay down his life when he knows:

LIFE BELONGS TO GOD.

TWO CANDLESTICKS — LIGHT THAT CANNOT BE PERMANENTLY EXTINGUISHED

The beast appears to put out the lamps.

But the Spirit of Life enters again.

That means the darkness cannot permanently overcome the Light.

John said concerning Christ:

“The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

— John 1:5

The witnesses embody that principle.

The darkness attacks the light.

But:

THE LIGHT RISES.

TWO OLIVE TREES — OIL THAT COMES FROM AN UNLIMITED SOURCE

The olive tree speaks of ongoing supply.

A lamp can burn only while it receives oil.



God's testimony survives because its supply is not human.

If the testimony depended upon human energy, it would eventually die.

But:

NOT BY MIGHT.

NOT BY POWER.

BY MY SPIRIT.

The source is divine.

TWO WITNESSES — TESTIMONY ESTABLISHED

Now the number two speaks fully.

God establishes a witness.

The Word is confirmed.

The testimony stands.

Men may reject it.

The beast may fight it.

The earthly realm may celebrate its apparent death.

But heaven establishes:



EN

TESTIMONY WILL STAND.

THE WITNESS STANDS BEFORE GOD BEFORE IT STANDS BEFORE MEN

That is worth repeating.

This is the order.

Before prophecy:

STAND BEFORE GOD.

Before confrontation:

STAND BEFORE GOD.

Before public ministry:

STAND BEFORE GOD.

Before anyone hears your voice:

HEAR HIS VOICE.

That is where authority comes from.

THE TWO WITNESSES ARE NOT RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINERS

Sackcloth tells us that.

that.



EN

Opposition tells us that.

Death tells us that.

This testimony carries weight.

It is not designed merely to make people comfortable.

Sometimes truth comforts.

Sometimes truth confronts.

Sometimes light heals.

Sometimes light exposes.

The same Light does both.

TRUE PROPHECY CALLS MEN BACK TO GOD

The purpose is never spectacle.

It is alignment.

Repentance.

Truth.

Christ.



EN

says:

Return.

See.

Hear.

Come out.

Come up.

Follow the Lamb.

THE EIGHTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

TWO WITNESSES.

But Revelation showed us much more.

They are:

TWO OLIVE TREES.

The testimony is supplied by the Spirit.

They are:

TWO CANDLESTICKS.



EN

ny bears divine light.

They:

STAND BEFORE GOD.

Their authority comes from His presence.

They:

PROPHECY.

The Word of God proceeds from them.

They:

FINISH THEIR TESTIMONY.

The beast cannot stop God's assignment before its appointed completion.

They:

ARE KILLED.

Apparent defeat comes.

Then:

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD ENTERS THEM.

They stand.

They hear:



EN

COME UP HITHER.

And they ascend.

The pattern is clear.

WITNESS.

DEATH.

RESURRECTION.

ASCENSION.

VICTORY.

The beast can attack testimony.

But it cannot destroy the Life behind testimony.

The world can rejoice over apparent defeat.

But heaven has not finished speaking.

And now Revelation is going to show us another messenger.

Not lying in the street.

Not standing beneath the sun.

STANDING IN THE SUN.

A mighty angel.



EN

A proclamation.

A great supper.

A declaration of divine victory.

The next symbol opens before us:

THE ANGEL STANDING IN THE SUN.

CHAPTER NINE

THE ANGEL STANDING IN THE SUN

A MESSENGER CLOTHED WITH THE LIGHT OF VICTORY

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice...”

— Revelation 19:17

Revelation has already shown us angels standing in many places.

Around the throne.

At the altar.

At the four corners of the earth.

With trumpets.

With vials.

With messages.



EN

ents.

But now John sees something unusual:

AN ANGEL STANDING IN THE SUN.

That detail matters.

The angel is not merely near the sun.

Not beneath it.

Not looking toward it.

John says he is:

STANDING IN THE SUN.

This is symbolic language.

And once again we ask the same question:

What does Scripture teach us about the sun?

THE SUN SPEAKS OF LIGHT

The most obvious meaning is light.

The sun governs the day.

It exposes darkness.



EN

at is hidden.

It gives visibility.

Without light, men cannot see.

So when the messenger stands in the sun, we are immediately brought into the language of:

REVELATION.

ILLUMINATION.

MANIFESTATION.

A messenger standing in light is not bringing a hidden word from darkness.

He is speaking from a realm of unveiled victory.

CHRIST IS THE TRUE LIGHT

Jesus said:

"I am the light of the world..."

— John 8:12

John writes:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

— John 1:4

And:



“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

— John 1:9

So any Revelation symbol involving divine light must ultimately bring us back to Christ.

The angel standing in the sun is standing in a realm identified with:

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Malachi declares:

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings...”

— Malachi 4:2

That phrase is powerful.

SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Not merely physical brightness.

Righteousness.

Healing.

Divine manifestation.



EN

comes a prophetic picture of the appearing of God’s righteous government.

So the angel standing in the sun is connected with a realm where righteousness has become manifest.

THE SUN RULES THE DAY

Genesis says:

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day...”

— Genesis 1:16

The sun is associated with rule.

That means the symbol carries not only illumination, but government.

The angel is standing in a place of:

LIGHT.

And:

RULE.

This is not merely a messenger with information.

This is a messenger standing in governmental light.

REVELATION IS MOVING OUT OF NIGHT

Much of Revelation exposes darkness.



EN

Beasts.

Babylon.

The dragon.

The false prophet.

War.

Death.

But Revelation does not end in darkness.

It moves toward light.

Toward glory.

Toward the Lamb.

Toward New Jerusalem.

Toward a city where:

“The Lamb is the light thereof.”

— Revelation 21:23

So the angel standing in the sun fits the direction of the entire book.

DARKNESS IS BEING EXPOSED.

LIGHT IS TAKING THE FIELD.



EN

STANDING SPEAKS OF POSITION

John says the angel is:

STANDING.

He is not falling.

Not fleeing.

Not hiding.

Not uncertain.

Standing speaks of established position.

This is the posture of victory.

Paul writes:

“And having done all, to stand.”

— Ephesians 6:13

The messenger stands because the message he carries comes from a settled realm.

THE ANGEL CRIES WITH A LOUD VOICE

Revelation says:

“And he cried with a loud voice...”

Not a whisner.



Not uncertainty.

Not speculation.

A loud voice.

The message is public.

Clear.

Authoritative.

This is one of the great patterns in Revelation.

Heaven speaks with certainty.

Earth may be confused.

But heaven is not.

LIGHT PRODUCES A CLEAR WORD

When a person does not see clearly, his speech becomes uncertain.

Maybe.

Perhaps.

Possibly.

But revelation produces clarity.



EN

stands in the sun and speaks loudly because the realm of light removes ambiguity.

That does not mean every interpreter knows everything.

It means divine truth, once revealed, carries certainty.

THE MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE FALL OF BEASTLY POWER

Revelation 19 has brought us to the judgment of beastly government.

The beast.

The false prophet.

The kings of the earth.

The armies gathered against the Rider.

The chapter is saturated with conflict.

But the angel in the sun speaks from the victorious side of the conflict.

That distinction matters.

He is not standing in fear of the beast.

He is standing in light.

THE MESSENGER SPEAKS AFTER BABYLON HAS FALLEN

Revelation 18 has already declared:



EN

BABYLON IS FALLEN.

Then Revelation 19 opens with worship:

“Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God...”

The angel standing in the sun appears in a chapter already filled with the sound of victory.

This is not a desperate last-minute announcement.

It belongs to a settled heavenly verdict.

HEAVEN DECLARES THE END BEFORE EARTH FULLY SEES IT

This is a major Revelation principle.

Heaven often announces something before the earthly realm fully manifests it.

Babylon is called fallen while earth may still see remnants of her system.

The throne sees the end from the beginning.

The sun represents the realm where the conclusion is already illuminated.

The angel speaks from that realm.

THIS IS WHY PROPHETIC VISION MUST COME FROM ABOVE

**EN**

If prophecy comes only from current events, it will be forever reacting.

But heavenly vision speaks from God's purpose.

Not merely what appears to be happening.

But what God has declared concerning the outcome.

This is why Revelation repeatedly says:

COME UP HITHER.

You cannot speak the final word while looking only from below.

THE ANGEL CALLS THE FOWLS OF HEAVEN

Revelation 19:17 continues:

"Saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God."

The language is severe.

This is judgment imagery.

The fowls gather to consume the flesh of defeated powers.

Kings.

Captains.

Mighty men,



Horses.

Those who oppose the government of God.

This is not a soft symbol.

It announces the end of beastly power.

THE GREAT SUPPER OF GOD

The phrase is striking.

“The supper of the great God.”

Revelation has already shown us another supper.

The marriage supper of the Lamb.

Now we see a supper connected with judgment.

Two suppers.

Two outcomes.

Those aligned with the Lamb enter one feast.

Those aligned with beastly government become part of another scene.

Revelation continually presents contrast.

ONE SUPPER CELEBRATES UNION — THE OTHER ANNOUNCES DEFEAT



EN

The marriage supper speaks of:

Union.

Joy.

Completion.

Bride and Lamb.

The supper in Revelation 19 speaks of:

Judgment.

Exposure.

Defeat of counterfeit power.

This is the dividing line of divine government.

Everything eventually comes into alignment or judgment.

THE FLESH OF KINGS IS CONSUMED

John's language is vivid.

“That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men...”

— Revelation 19:18



EN

Public judgment upon human strength and beastly government.

What is being stripped away?

The glory of flesh.

Human power.

Earthly boasting.

Systems that exalt themselves against God.

The judgment is not arbitrary.

It is the removal of what opposes divine government.

ALL FLESH IS GRASS

Isaiah says:

“All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field.”

— Isaiah 40:6

Flesh appears strong.

Temporary glory can look permanent.

But the Word of God endures.

The angel standing in the sun announces the collapse of fleshly power from the perspective of eternal light.



THE SUN EXPOSES HUMAN GLORY

Nothing looks impressive forever under divine light.

The sun exposes.

Earthly crowns lose brilliance.

Human power shrinks.

Religious pride is revealed.

The beast appears for what it is.

Light strips away illusion.

That is why the angel standing in the sun is such a fitting symbol.

The word comes from a place where nothing can hide.

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE HAS ALREADY APPEARED

Earlier in Revelation 19 John sees:

“A white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...”

— Revelation 19:11

This Rider judges in righteousness.

His name is called:

THE WORD OF GOD.



EN

He wears many crowns.

He is:

KING OF KINGS.

LORD OF LORDS.

Now the angel standing in the sun announces what happens to every power gathered against that King.

The chapter is governmental from beginning to end.

THE ANGEL DOES NOT CREATE THE VICTORY

This must remain clear.

The messenger announces.

He does not become the source.

The victory belongs to:

THE WORD OF GOD.

The Rider.

The King.

The Lamb.

The angel merely stands in the light of what Christ has accomplished and declares it.



EN

That is true ministry.

A TRUE MESSENGER ANNOUNCES THE VICTORY OF CHRIST

The messenger does not build his own kingdom.

He does not become the story.

He does not stand in the sun so people will admire him.

He stands in the light to proclaim:

CHRIST HAS PREVAILED.

That is the pattern.

THE SUN IS NOT THE MESSENGER

This is another important distinction.

The angel is standing in the sun.

He is not the sun.

The messenger is in the light.

But the Light is greater than the messenger.

Just as the star was held in Christ's hand, this angel stands in a realm larger than himself.

**EN**

THE MESSENGER IS NOT THE SOURCE.

TRUE MINISTRY STANDS IN WHAT CHRIST HAS ALREADY FINISHED

This gives us a powerful application.

A messenger can speak from fear.

From striving.

From uncertainty.

Or from finished victory.

The angel standing in the sun speaks from:

LIGHT ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

That is a different sound.

He is not asking whether the beast might fall.

He is announcing judgment from a heavenly perspective.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRYING TO WIN AND ANNOUNCING VICTORY

The gospel does not begin with man trying to create redemption.

**EN**

ished the work.

The preacher announces what God has done.

The same principle carries into Revelation.

The messenger stands in the sun.

He speaks from accomplished heavenly purpose.

That is the power of finished-work proclamation.

THE SUN REVEALS THE END OF SHADOW

Shadows exist because light is partial or obstructed.

But when the sun rises fully, shadow loses its dominion.

This fits Revelation.

The book begins with signs.

Symbols.

Mysteries.

But it moves toward unveiling.

Toward clarity.

Toward a city filled with light.



EN

ands in the sun as though declaring:

THE DAY IS WINNING.

NIGHT DOES NOT LAST FOREVER

Psalm 30 says:

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Night has a boundary.

Darkness is temporary.

Morning comes.

This is one of the deepest messages of Revelation.

The dragon is temporary.

The beast is temporary.

Babylon is temporary.

Death is temporary.

The throne is eternal.

THE SUN SPEAKS OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

Scripture repeatedly connects divine appearing with day imagery.



EN

Day reveals.

Day judges.

Day manifests.

John said he was:

“In the Spirit on the Lord’s day.”

Revelation is saturated with divine appearing.

The angel in the sun belongs to that same world.

This is the light of God’s day confronting every work of darkness.

WHEN THE SUN RISES, HIDDEN THINGS ARE REVEALED

Paul speaks of a day that will declare men’s works:

“For the day shall declare it...”

— 1 Corinthians 3:13

Why?

Because fire reveals.

Light reveals.

The day makes manifest.



EN

That is the function of divine appearing.

It exposes what was concealed.

THE ANGEL STANDS WHERE NOTHING CAN HIDE

The sun is the worst place for darkness to pretend it is light.

Everything becomes visible.

That is where the messenger stands.

This teaches us something about true proclamation.

The closer we stand in Christ's light, the less room there is for mixture.

Human ambition becomes visible.

False doctrine becomes visible.

Self-exaltation becomes visible.

Beastly nature becomes visible.

LIGHT DOES NOT NEED DARKNESS'S PERMISSION

The sun does not ask night whether it may rise.

Light does not negotiate with darkness.

And darkness must give way.

That is kingdom authority.

THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO WHAT FLIES IN HEAVEN

Again the realm matters.

The fowls are:

“Flying in the midst of heaven.”

The proclamation moves through a heavenly realm.

Revelation is not merely showing earthly politics.

It is unveiling spiritual government behind visible manifestation.

That is why everything must be interpreted from the right realm.

THE BEAST GATHERS — THE KING STANDS

Revelation says:

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together...”

— Revelation 19:19

The beast gathers power.



EN

Kings gather.

Armies gather.

From earth, that might look terrifying.

But heaven has already shown us:

The Rider.

The Word.

The King.

The angel in the sun.

The outcome is not uncertain.

THE BEAST IS TAKEN

Then Revelation says:

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet...”

— Revelation 19:20

There is the end of the counterfeit order.

Taken.

Judged.

Removed



EN

The beast does not ascend to the throne.

The beast does not reign forever.

The beast falls.

THE FALSE PROPHET FALLS WITH THE BEAST

This matters because religion that supports beastly government shares its judgment.

The false prophet used signs.

Deception.

Religious appearance.

But when the beast falls, the false prophetic system does not survive independently.

Counterfeit religion and counterfeit government are judged together.

THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE FINAL WORD

The Rider's name is:

THE WORD OF GOD.

That may be one of the most fitting revelations in the chapter.

Beastly governments speak.

Beastly governments speak.



EN

Kings speak.

Nations speak.

But the final authority belongs to:

THE WORD.

God's Word outlives them all.

THE SUN REVEALS THAT THE OUTCOME WAS NEVER IN DOUBT

This is the heart of the symbol.

The angel is not standing in twilight.

Not in partial light.

Not waiting to see what happens.

He stands in the sun.

Full light.

Open visibility.

Established victory.

The message is clear:



EN

DOM OF DARKNESS DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD.

THIS IS HOW THE CHURCH SHOULD SPEAK

Not arrogantly.

Not carelessly.

Not pretending we understand everything.

But from confidence in Christ.

We do not preach a nervous Savior.

We do not preach a throne under threat.

We do not preach a Lamb wondering whether He will overcome.

Revelation declares:

HE HAS PREVAILED.

THE MESSENGER'S AUTHORITY COMES FROM WHERE HE STANDS

This chapter has shown us that position matters.

The stars were in Christ's right hand.

The witnesses stood before God.

The stars were in the sun.



EN

Every messenger's authority comes from relationship to the Source.

That is divine order.

STAND IN THE LIGHT BEFORE YOU SPEAK

There is an application here.

Before we speak into darkness, stand in light.

Before we address confusion, see clearly.

Before we confront Babylon, come out of Babylon.

Before we expose beastly nature, let Lamb nature govern us.

Before we preach victory, know the Victor.

YOU CANNOT PROCLAIM LIGHT WHILE LOVING DARKNESS

A messenger standing in the sun must be willing to let that same light search him.

Truth begins at home.

Light first exposes the vessel carrying it.

This is why ministry requires continual humility.

The messenger is not above the message.



EN

He stands inside the light himself.

THE ANGEL IS NOT AFRAID OF THE DAY

Some men hide from light because light exposes.

But the true messenger stands in it.

He wants truth.

He wants purity.

He wants clarity.

He wants Christ revealed.

That is why he can speak loudly.

THE NINTH SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

AN ANGEL STANDING IN THE SUN.

But now the symbol has opened.

We see:

A MESSENGER STANDING IN DIVINE LIGHT.



EN

A PROCLAMATION COMING FROM HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE.

THE EXPOSURE OF FLESHLY AND BEASTLY GOVERNMENT.

A WORD ANNOUNCING THE VICTORY OF THE KING OF KINGS.

A MESSENGER WHO DOES NOT CREATE THE LIGHT BUT STANDS IN IT.

A DECLARATION THAT DARKNESS, BEASTLY POWER, FALSE PROPHECY, AND HUMAN GLORY DO NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD.

And perhaps the strongest truth:

THE SUN IS ALREADY SHINING.

The angel does not light it.

He stands in it.

The victory does not originate in the messenger.

He proclaims it.

The beast gathers.

But the Word of God rides forth.

Kings resist.

But the King of kings remains.



EN

phet deceives.

But the Light exposes.

And Revelation continues moving toward its final scene.

The beast is judged.

The dragon is removed.

Death is confronted.

New Jerusalem appears.

And from the throne of God and of the Lamb comes something living.

Clear.

Pure.

Flowing.

A RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE.

And on either side of that river:

THE TREE OF LIFE.

The Bible began with a garden.

A river.

A tree.



EN

And now Revelation is about to bring us back to them.

The final symbol is ready to open.

THE RIVER AND THE TREE OF LIFE.

CHAPTER TEN

THE RIVER AND THE TREE OF LIFE

FROM EDEN TO THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

— Revelation 22:1

Revelation has carried us through dragons.

Beasts.

Babylon.

Judgment.

War.

Witness.

Resurrection.

Government.

Light.



EN

The Lamb.

And now, as the book approaches its conclusion, John sees something that takes us all the way back to the beginning of Scripture.

A river.

A tree.

Life.

But this time the river does not simply flow through a garden.

It proceeds from:

THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB.

And on either side of the river stands:

THE TREE OF LIFE.

The Bible began with a river and a tree.

The Bible ends with a river and a tree.

That is not accidental.

Genesis introduces the purpose.

Revelation unveils its fulfillment.

And between those two books runs the entire story of redemption.



THE BIBLE ENDS WHERE IT BEGAN

Genesis 2 tells us:

“And a river went out of Eden to water the garden...”

— Genesis 2:10

And in the midst of the garden stood:

“The tree of life...”

— Genesis 2:9

River.

Tree.

Life.

Then sin entered.

Death entered.

Man was driven from the garden.

Access to the tree of life was guarded.

But Revelation 22 opens the picture again.

River.

Tree.

Life.



Only now something has changed.

The river is no longer merely associated with Eden.

It proceeds from the throne.

The tree is no longer guarded from redeemed humanity.

Its leaves are for:

THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS.

The biblical story has come full circle.

GOD NEVER ABANDONED HIS ORIGINAL PURPOSE

This is one of the great truths of Scripture.

Man fell.

But God did not abandon His purpose.

The serpent entered.

But God did not abandon His purpose.

Death entered.

But God did not abandon His purpose.

Cain killed Abel.



EN

me.

Babel rose.

Israel failed.

Kings failed.

Priests failed.

Babylon arose.

Beasts appeared.

But through all of it:

GOD'S PURPOSE REMAINED.

Revelation 22 proves it.

The river still flows.

The tree still stands.

Life still wins.

THE RIVER PROCEEDS FROM THE THRONE

John says:

“Proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”



EN

mous.

The source of the river is:

THE THRONE.

Government produces Life.

Not death.

Not oppression.

Not fear.

Not bondage.

LIFE.

That tells us something about the nature of God's kingdom.

His throne does not merely issue decrees.

It releases Life.

GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS LIFE-GIVING

Beastly government consumes.

Divine government gives.

The beast controls.



EN

leases Life.

Babylon traffics in souls.

The throne sends forth a river.

This is the difference between the two kingdoms.

One takes.

The other gives.

One devours.

The other heals.

One produces death.

The other produces Life.

THE RIVER IS CALLED THE WATER OF LIFE

John does not merely say water.

He says:

WATER OF LIFE.

Throughout Scripture, water is connected with cleansing, refreshing, Spirit, truth, and Life.

Jesus said:



EN

“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”

— John 7:37

Then John explains:

“This spake he of the Spirit...”

— John 7:39

There is the connection.

Water.

Spirit.

Life.

THE RIVER IS PURE

John says:

“A pure river...”

No mixture.

No corruption.

No Babylon.

No muddy water.



EN

This is significant because Revelation has already shown us religious mixture in Babylon.

But the river coming from the throne is:

PURE.

What comes directly from God carries no mixture.

CLEAR AS CRYSTAL

John continues:

“Clear as crystal.”

Clarity.

Transparency.

No confusion.

Babylon means confusion.

The river is clear.

That contrast is powerful.

False religion confuses.

The throne clarifies.



Human mixture muddies the water.

Divine Life comes clear.

THE RIVER FLOWS

Life moves.

It does not stagnate.

A stagnant pool becomes corrupted.

A river moves.

Flows.

Carries.

Feeds.

Refreshes.

God's Life is not dead doctrine.

It moves.

It reaches.

It transforms.

It carries the government of the throne outward.



EN

EZEKIEL SAW A RIVER TOO

Once again Revelation sends us backward.

Ezekiel 47 describes water flowing from the temple.

At first it is shallow.

Then deeper.

Ankles.

Knees.

Loins.

Then:

“A river that I could not pass over...”

— Ezekiel 47:5

The water increases.

The further it flows, the deeper it becomes.

That is a tremendous picture of divine Life.

THE RIVER BRINGS LIFE WHEREVER IT GOES

Ezekiel says:



EN

“Every thing shall live whither the river cometh.”

— Ezekiel 47:9

There is the nature of the river.

Not death.

LIFE.

Wherever it goes.

That is one of the clearest pictures of God’s ultimate purpose.

The river is not flowing to destroy everything it touches.

It gives Life.

THE WATERS HEAL

Ezekiel continues:

“The waters shall be healed.”

— Ezekiel 47:8

Healing.

Restoration.

Life.



EN

onds beautifully with Revelation 22.

The leaves of the tree are:

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS.

The river and tree belong to one great purpose.

JESUS SPOKE OF LIVING WATER

Jesus told the Samaritan woman:

“The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

— John 4:14

Notice:

IN HIM.

The water is not only external.

It becomes inward.

This is kingdom principle again.

God works:

INSIDE OUT.

The river from the throne becomes a river through a people.



EN

OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS

Jesus said:

“He that believeth on me... out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

— John 7:38

Now the picture becomes extraordinary.

Revelation shows the river proceeding from the throne.

Jesus says living water will flow:

OUT OF THE BELIEVER.

That means the throne and the believer are not unrelated.

When God’s government is established inwardly, His Life begins flowing outwardly.

THRONE WITHIN — RIVER WITHOUT

This is one of the great patterns.

God establishes government.

Then Life flows.

If Christ governs the heart:

Life flows.

If the Spirit governs the mind:



EN

Life flows.

If truth governs the inward man:

Life flows.

Government determines what kind of river proceeds.

A CORRUPT THRONE PRODUCES A CORRUPT RIVER

This is why government matters.

Whatever rules the heart eventually flows out of the mouth.

Jesus said:

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

— Matthew 12:34

If fear governs, fear flows.

If accusation governs, accusation flows.

If bitterness governs, bitterness flows.

But if the throne of the Lamb governs:

LIFE FLOWS.

THE RIVER FLOWS THROUGH THE STREET OF THE CITY



EN

2:2 says:

“In the midst of the street of it...”

The river is not hidden away.

It flows through the city.

The city itself is full of Life.

New Jerusalem is not merely architecture.

It is a corporate dwelling of God.

And through that city flows what proceeds from the throne.

THE CITY CARRIES THE RIVER TO THE NATIONS

This is where the picture expands beyond personal blessing.

The river does not exist merely so one believer can feel refreshed.

Its purpose reaches:

THE NATIONS.

This is kingdom.

God blesses a people so His Life can reach beyond them.

The city becomes a vessel.



EN

ws through it.

The nations receive healing.

THE TREE OF LIFE APPEARS AGAIN

John continues:

“And on either side of the river, was there the tree of life...”

There it is.

The tree from Genesis.

The tree that stood in Eden.

The tree from which fallen man was barred.

Now appearing in the final chapter of Revelation.

The tree was never forgotten.

God’s purpose was never canceled.

WHAT IS THE TREE OF LIFE?

The first thing we must understand is that the tree of life represents more than botany.

It carries the principle of:



EN

In Eden there were two great trees emphasized.

The tree of life.

And the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Two ways.

Two sources.

Two principles.

Life.

And knowledge independent of Life.

THE FIRST ADAM CHOSE ANOTHER TREE

Man ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The result was death.

God had said:

“In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

— Genesis 2:17

Death entered.

But the tree of life remained.



EN

God's Life remained God's answer.

CHRIST IS THE LIFE

Jesus said:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

— John 14:6

He did not merely say:

I teach Life.

He said:

I AM THE LIFE.

So when Revelation brings us back to the tree of life, we are again brought back to Christ.

The tree points beyond itself.

THE CROSS BECOMES THE TREE THROUGH WHICH LIFE COMES

Peter says concerning Christ:

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...”

— 1 Peter 2:24

The cross is called a tree.



EN

ened there.

But through that death came Life.

The tree of shame became the doorway into resurrection Life.

That is redemption.

DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP BY LIFE

Paul writes:

“That mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:4

Notice the direction.

Life swallows mortality.

Not mortality swallowing Life.

That is the entire movement of Scripture.

Death entered.

Life answers.

Darkness entered.

Light answers.

Adam fell



EN

Christ rises.

THE TREE BEARS TWELVE MANNER OF FRUITS

Revelation says the tree:

“Bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month...”

Again the number twelve appears.

Government.

Order.

Completeness.

But now government bears:

FRUIT.

That is essential.

True government produces Life.

If our doctrine of authority produces no fruit, something is wrong.

FRUIT REVEALS NATURE

Jesus said:

“By their fruits ye shall know them.”



EN

7:20

Fruit reveals the tree.

Nature reveals itself through what it produces.

The tree of life produces:

LIFE.

The beastly tree produces beastly fruit.

The Lamb produces Lamb nature.

Seed always brings forth after its kind.

THE TREE YIELDS FRUIT CONTINUALLY

John says:

“Every month.”

The image speaks of ongoing supply.

Not one moment of fruit and then barrenness.

Continual provision.

Divine Life is inexhaustible.

Christ does not run out.



EN

not become bankrupt.

The Spirit does not exhaust His supply.

THE LEAVES ARE FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Then comes one of the most beautiful statements in Revelation:

“And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Look at the end of the story.

Nations.

Healing.

Life.

The Revelation does not conclude with the nations permanently abandoned to wounds.

There is healing in the final vision.

GOD’S PURPOSE IS HEALING, NOT ENDLESS WOUNDING

Judgment appears in Revelation.

But judgment is not God’s final picture.

The final picture contains:



This matters.

God judges what destroys Life.

He removes what opposes His purpose.

But His ultimate government produces healing.

THE NATIONS THAT WERE DECEIVED ARE NOW IN THE LIGHT

Earlier Revelation speaks of nations deceived.

Nations intoxicated by Babylon.

Nations influenced by the beast.

But by the end:

The nations walk in the light of the city.

And the leaves are for their healing.

That is tremendous movement.

DECEPTION TO LIGHT.

WOUNDING TO HEALING.

DARKNESS TO LIFE.



EN

THERE SHALL BE NO MORE CURSE

Revelation 22:3 declares:

“And there shall be no more curse...”

The Bible began with curse entering through sin.

The ground was cursed.

Pain increased.

Death ruled.

But Revelation ends:

NO MORE CURSE.

That is not a small statement.

Redemption has reached the root.

THE THRONE REMAINS

The verse continues:

“But the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it...”

Again:



EN

IE.

The throne that appeared in Revelation 4 remains in Revelation 22.

Government has not disappeared.

But look at what flows from it.

Life.

Healing.

Service.

Light.

That tells us the character of eternal divine government.

HIS SERVANTS SHALL SERVE HIM

Revelation says:

“And his servants shall serve him.”

Service remains.

But no curse.

No beast.

No Babylon.



EN

phet.

No death.

Service is purified from bondage.

This is not slavery to corruption.

It is joyful participation in divine purpose.

THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE

Then:

“And they shall see his face...”

This may be one of the greatest statements in the Bible.

The entire journey leads toward:

HIS FACE.

Not merely information about Him.

Not merely symbols about Him.

Not merely doctrine concerning Him.

SEE HIM.

The Revelation ends in unveiled relationship.



EN

HIS NAME SHALL BE IN THEIR FOREHEADS

John continues:

“And his name shall be in their foreheads.”

Now the battle over the forehead is complete.

Earlier:

The beast’s mark.

The beast’s name.

The Father’s name upon the 144,000.

Now:

HIS NAME IN THEIR FOREHEADS.

Government has reached the mind.

Identity has been settled.

Nature has been formed.

The question:

Who governs?

has been answered.



EN

THE MARK OF THE BEAST DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD

The Father's name does.

That is important.

Revelation does not end with 666 stamped over creation.

It ends with:

HIS NAME.

The beast's identity is temporary.

Christ's identity is final.

THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE

Revelation 22:5 says:

"And there shall be no night there..."

Night is gone.

Darkness is gone.

Fear is gone.

The need for lesser lights is gone.



EN

“For the Lord God giveth them light...”

There is the fulfillment.

THE SUN SYMBOL HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE SOURCE OF LIGHT

Earlier:

The woman was clothed with the sun.

The angel stood in the sun.

But New Jerusalem reaches something greater.

The city needs no created sun to light it.

Why?

THE LORD GOD GIVES THEM LIGHT.

The symbol gives way to the reality.

THEY SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER

The verse concludes:

“And they shall reign for ever and ever.”

... final governmental word.



EN

Reigning.

But notice the environment of the reign.

River.

Tree.

Healing.

No curse.

His face.

His name.

No night.

Light.

This is what divine government looks like when fully manifested.

TRUE REIGNING PRODUCES LIFE

This cannot be overstated.

If our concept of reigning does not resemble Revelation 22, we need to revisit it.

The throne produces:



EN

The tree produces:

FRUIT.

The leaves produce:

HEALING.

God's servants:

SERVE.

His people:

SEE HIS FACE.

His name:

FILLS THEIR FOREHEADS.

And they reign.

This is Lamb government.

REIGNING IS NOT DOMINATION

The final picture destroys that idea.

The kingdom is not a group of religious rulers forcing nations into submission through carnal power.



EN

The nations encounter:

HEALING.

The river encounters them with:

LIFE.

The city encounters them with:

LIGHT.

That is kingdom government.

THE TREE OF LIFE STANDS WHERE DEATH ONCE RULED

Death entered in Genesis.

By Revelation 22, the tree of life stands openly.

No flaming sword keeps the redeemed away.

No curse remains.

Death has already been cast into the lake of fire.

Life stands victorious.

FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

the journey.

**EN**

Genesis:

TREE OF LIFE.

Revelation:

TREE OF LIFE.

Genesis:

RIVER.

Revelation:

RIVER.

Genesis:

GARDEN.

Revelation:

CITY-GARDEN FILLED WITH GOD.

Genesis:

SERPENT.

Revelation:

SERPENT JUDGED.



EN

Genesis:

CURSE.

Revelation:

NO MORE CURSE.

Genesis:

DEATH ENTERS.

Revelation:

DEATH DESTROYED.

That is the story.

GOD FINISHES WHAT HE STARTS

This is perhaps the greatest lesson of Revelation 22.

God began with purpose.

And He ends with purpose fulfilled.

Nothing ultimately destroys what God intended.

The serpent could interrupt man's experience.

But not God's eternal purpose.

**EN**

d introduce death.

But not defeat Life.

History could become dark.

But darkness cannot extinguish the Light.

THE RIVER IS STILL FLOWING

This is not merely future hope.

The Life of God is already flowing through Christ.

Jesus already gives living water.

The Spirit already indwells believers.

The kingdom is already within.

The river will reach fullness.

But the Source is already open.

DRINK NOW

Revelation ends with an invitation:

“And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

— Revelation 22:17



EN

Look at the final invitation.

Not:

Run from the beast.

Not:

Fear the dragon.

Not:

Decode every chart.

COME.

DRINK.

TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

That is the heart of the gospel.

FREELY

Do not miss that word.

“Freely.”

The water is not bought.

Not earned.



EN

d.

Grace flows from the throne.

The Lamb paid the price.

The thirsty receive.

This is finished work.

THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB

The river comes from:

GOD.

And:

THE LAMB.

That means everything flows through redemption.

The Lamb is not an afterthought.

The Lamb is built into the throne itself.

Government and redemption are forever joined.

THE RIVER CARRIES THE NATURE OF ITS SOURCE

If the river comes from the throne of God and the Lamb, then what is in the river?



EN

The nature of God.

The nature of the Lamb.

Life.

Grace.

Truth.

Righteousness.

Healing.

Love.

That is what flows.

THE TREE CARRIES THE NATURE OF ITS SEED

The tree of life produces life because Life is its nature.

This brings us back to the principle of seed.

A corrupt seed cannot produce divine fruit.

But the incorruptible seed of the Word produces after its kind.

Peter writes:



EN

...again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of
God..."

— 1 Peter 1:23

Incorruptible seed.

Life.

Fruit.

God's purpose is reproductive.

CHRIST IS THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED WORKING IN A PEOPLE

Everything returns to Him.

Christ in us.

The hope of glory.

Christ formed in us.

Christ manifested through us.

The river flowing through us.

The tree producing fruit.

The nations receiving healing.

That is the movement.



EN

THE FINAL SYMBOL HAS SPOKEN

We began with:

A PURE RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE.

And:

THE TREE OF LIFE.

But now the symbol has opened.

The river reveals:

LIFE PROCEEDING FROM DIVINE GOVERNMENT.

THE SPIRIT FLOWING FROM THE THRONE.

A KINGDOM THAT HEALS RATHER THAN DESTROYS.

A LIFE THAT DEEPENS, FLOWS, AND MAKES EVERYTHING LIVE.

The tree reveals:

THE DIVINE LIFE THAT WAS PRESENT IN GOD'S PURPOSE FROM THE BEGINNING.

CHRIST AS THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

FRUIT THAT NEVER FAILS.



EN

OR THE NATIONS.

THE COMPLETE REVERSAL OF THE CURSE.

And the final picture declares:

NO MORE CURSE.

NO MORE NIGHT.

HIS FACE.

HIS NAME.

HIS LIGHT.

HIS THRONE.

HIS LIFE.

THEY SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER.

Revelation began with a Man walking among seven golden candlesticks.

It carried us through stars.

An open door.

Living creatures.

Elders.

A woman clothed with the sun.



EN

A manchild caught up to the throne.

Two witnesses raised by the Spirit of Life.

An angel standing in the sun.

And now:

THE RIVER.

THE TREE.

LIFE.

Every symbol has been pointing somewhere.

Not toward fear.

Not toward endless speculation.

Not toward the glorification of the beast.

Every symbol has been carrying us toward:

JESUS CHRIST.

The Light.

The Lamb.

The Life.

The King.



EN

The Beginning.

The End.

The One from whom the river flows.

The One whose throne remains.

And the One who says:

“Surely I come quickly.”

— Revelation 22:20

And the answer rises from the heart of the redeemed:

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.

CONCLUSION

THE SYMBOLS POINT TO THE LAMB

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ...”

— Revelation 1:1

We began this volume with a simple truth:

REVELATION IS WRITTEN IN SIGNS.

Candlesticks.

Stars.

A door opened in heaven.



EN

Living creatures.

Elders.

A woman clothed with the sun.

A manchild.

Two witnesses.

An angel standing in the sun.

A river.

A tree.

At first glance, these symbols can appear disconnected.

One seems to belong to the churches.

Another to heaven.

Another to prophecy.

Another to government.

Another to judgment.

Another to resurrection.

Another to the final chapters of the Bible.

But when Scripture begins interpreting Scripture, the symbols start speaking the



EN

age.

And that language keeps leading us back to one Person:

JESUS CHRIST.

THE CANDLESTICKS POINTED TO CHRIST

The seven golden candlesticks represented the churches.

But the churches were never the center.

Christ was:

IN THE MIDST.

The candlestick exists to bear light.

But the Church does not create the Light.

Christ is the Light.

The vessel matters.

But the source matters more.

The Church is glorious only to the measure that Christ is being manifested through it.

THE STARS POINTED TO CHRIST

**EN**

ars were messengers.

But where were they?

IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

The messenger was never independent.

The gift was never the source.

The ministry was never the Head.

The stars were held.

Governed.

Directed.

Kept.

True ministry exists to reveal Christ, not replace Him.

THE OPEN DOOR POINTED TO THE THRONE

John heard:

COME UP HITHER.

Then he was in the Spirit.

Then he saw:



EN

SET IN HEAVEN.

That changed the perspective of the entire Revelation.

The beast could rise.

But the throne was already there.

Babylon could boast.

But the throne was already there.

The dragon could war.

But the throne was already there.

The nations could rage.

But the throne was already there.

The throne did not appear because God was reacting to the crisis.

IT WAS ALREADY SET.

THE LIVING CREATURES POINTED TO THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Lion.

Ox.

Man.



EN

Kingly authority.

Servant nature.

Divine image expressed in humanity.

Heavenly vision.

Four expressions.

One throne.

And all of them find their perfect fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The Lion who prevailed.

The Lamb who was slain.

The Son of Man.

The One from heaven.

The One who serves.

The One who reigns.

THE ELDERS POINTED TO TRUE GOVERNMENT

Twenty-four elders.



EN

ents.

Golden crowns.

Authority.

Maturity.

Priestly order.

But the greatest revelation was not that they had crowns.

It was what they did with them.

THEY CAST THEM DOWN.

True maturity knows where authority came from.

True government does not worship position.

True elders know how to bow.

The closer they came to the throne, the less they wanted the glory for themselves.

Their testimony became:

THOU ART WORTHY.

THE WOMAN POINTED TO A PEOPLE CARRYING DIVINE SEED

She appeared in heaven.



EN

in the sun.

The moon beneath her feet.

Twelve stars upon her head.

She carried seed.

She travailed.

She brought forth.

The woman revealed a people under heavenly light and divine government, carrying something God intended to manifest.

The dragon opposed the birth.

But opposition did not cancel purpose.

THE CHILD WAS BORN.

THE MANCHILD POINTED TO MATURE SONSHIP

The manchild was not born merely to exist.

He was born:

TO RULE.

And he was caught up:

UNTO GOD AND TO HIS THRONE.



This was governmental sonship.

Christ formed.

Christ manifested.

A mature company sharing the overcoming government of the Son.

Not independent from Christ.

Not replacing Christ.

But:

IN CHRIST.

Under the Head.

Sharing the throne.

Manifesting the Lamb's nature.

THE TWO WITNESSES POINTED TO TESTIMONY THAT CANNOT DIE

Two witnesses.

Two olive trees.

Two candlesticks.

Word.



EN

Oil.

Light.

They testified.

They finished their assignment.

The beast killed them.

The world celebrated.

For a moment it looked like testimony had been silenced.

Then:

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FROM GOD ENTERED THEM.

They stood.

They heard:

COME UP HITHER.

They ascended.

The beast could kill the vessel.

It could not kill the Life.



EN

IN THE SUN POINTED TO VICTORY IN THE LIGHT

The angel did not stand in darkness.

He stood:

IN THE SUN.

He spoke from a realm of light.

A realm where the outcome was clear.

A realm where beastly government had already been exposed.

A realm where the Word of God rode forth.

The messenger did not create the victory.

He proclaimed it.

That is true ministry.

Stand in the Light.

Then speak what the Light reveals.

THE RIVER POINTED TO LIFE FLOWING FROM THE THRONE

At the end of Revelation, the throne does not produce fear.

It produces:



EN

WATER OF LIFE.

That tells us everything we need to know about the nature of God's final government.

Life flows.

Healing flows.

Purity flows.

The river is clear.

No mixture.

No confusion.

No Babylon.

It proceeds from:

THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB.

Government and redemption are joined forever.

THE TREE POINTED BACK TO GOD'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

Genesis began with the tree of life.

Revelation ends with the tree of life.

The serpent entered.



EN

Death entered.

The curse entered.

But God never abandoned His purpose.

By the end:

THE TREE STILL STANDS.

THE RIVER STILL FLOWS.

THE CURSE IS GONE.

THE NATIONS RECEIVE HEALING.

DEATH HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

The purpose survived every opposition.

REVELATION IS NOT A BOOK ABOUT THE TRIUMPH OF DARKNESS

That may be one of the greatest misunderstandings surrounding the Book of Revelation.

People often approach it as though it is primarily a book about:

Satan.

The Antichrist.

The beast



EN

Global catastrophe.

Judgment.

Destruction.

But those things are not the center.

The dragon appears.

But he is cast down.

The beast appears.

But he is judged.

Babylon appears.

But she falls.

Death appears.

But death is destroyed.

And what remains?

THE THRONE.

THE LAMB.

THE RIVER.



EN

THE TREE.

THE CITY.

THE LIGHT.

LIFE.

THE LAMB IS THE CENTER

This must govern every interpretation.

John was told:

“Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda... hath prevailed.”

He turned.

And saw:

A LAMB.

That is Revelation.

Human thinking expects domination.

God reveals sacrifice.

Human thinking expects force.

God reveals the Lamb.



EN

king expects power that takes.

God reveals power that gives.

And the Lamb wins.

THE BEAST DOES NOT DEFINE REVELATION

The beast is exposed.

But the beast does not define the book.

The mark is exposed.

But the mark does not define the book.

Babylon is exposed.

But Babylon does not define the book.

Judgment is revealed.

But judgment does not define the book.

JESUS CHRIST DEFINES THE BOOK.

Because the first verse already told us what this Revelation is.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

I must eventually pass through that door.



EN

What does this reveal concerning Christ?

What does this reveal concerning His government?

What does this reveal concerning His nature?

What does this reveal concerning His people?

What does this reveal concerning His purpose?

That is how the symbols stop being religious puzzles and become revelation.

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE

This has been our method.

Not imagination.

Not fear.

Not newspaper speculation.

Not forcing every modern event into John's vision.

We asked:

Where has Scripture already used this language?

What does Revelation itself say?



EN

ns appear in Genesis?

The prophets?

The Psalms?

The words of Jesus?

The apostles?

And when Scripture began speaking to Scripture, the book began opening.

That is the safest path.

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE.

THE SYMBOL IS NOT THE DESTINATION

The candlestick was not the destination.

The star was not the destination.

The woman was not the destination.

The manchild was not the destination.

The witnesses were not the destination.

The river was not the destination.

The tree was not the destination.



EN

revelation.

The sign points beyond itself.

The picture carries spiritual reality.

And the spiritual reality keeps leading us back to Christ.

REVELATION CALLS US UPWARD

Again and again the movement was:

COME UP HITHER.

John came up.

The manchild was caught up.

The witnesses came up.

The book continually moves us toward a heavenly perspective.

From below, fear dominates.

From above, the throne dominates.

From below, the beast appears enormous.

From above, the Lamb has prevailed.

From below, Babylon appears rich.



EN

BABYLON IS FALLEN.

Perspective matters.

WE MUST SEE FROM THE THRONE

If we interpret Revelation only from the earth, we will magnify earthly power.

If we interpret it from the throne, every other power is placed in its proper measure.

The dragon is not sovereign.

The beast is not sovereign.

Babylon is not sovereign.

Death is not sovereign.

GOD IS.

That changes the whole book.

THE FINAL GOVERNMENT IS LAMB GOVERNMENT

Revelation ends with reigning.

But look at the environment of that reign.



EN

Tree.

Healing.

No curse.

His face.

His name.

No night.

Light.

Life.

This is not beastly domination.

This is Lamb government.

Government that gives Life.

Government that heals.

Government that restores.

Government rooted in the nature of Christ.

THE FINAL WORD IS LIFE



EN

gan with death entering the human story.

But death does not get the final word.

Paul said:

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:26

Revelation shows us that destruction.

Then it shows us:

WATER OF LIFE.

TREE OF LIFE.

BOOK OF LIFE.

Life wins.

THE FINAL WORD IS LIGHT

Darkness does not get the final word either.

Revelation says:

“There shall be no night there...”

— Revelation 22:5

Why?



EN

and God giveth them light...”

The whole movement is toward illumination.

Toward unveiling.

Toward seeing His face.

That is why the book is called:

REVELATION.

THE FINAL WORD IS HIS NAME

The beast wanted its name in the forehead.

But Revelation ends with:

“His name shall be in their foreheads.”

— Revelation 22:4

The battle over identity is finished.

The Father’s nature governs.

Christ’s image is manifested.

The counterfeit has been removed.

THE FINAL WORD IS THE THRONE



EN

appeared early.

And the throne remains at the end.

“The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it...”

— Revelation 22:3

Everything else has been shaken.

The throne remains.

That is the security of the Revelation.

THE FINAL WORD IS THE LAMB

The Lamb opens the book.

The Lamb stands on Zion.

The Lamb defeats beastly government.

The Lamb marries the Bride.

The Lamb lights the city.

The Lamb shares the throne.

The river proceeds from the throne of God and:

OF THE LAMB.

From beginning to end, the Lamb is everywhere.



EN

SO WHAT HAVE WE DECODED?

We have not exhausted Revelation.

We have barely opened the treasure.

But we have learned how to see.

We learned that:

SIGNS MUST BE INTERPRETED THROUGH SCRIPTURE.

SPIRITUAL REALITIES MUST BE DISCERNED IN THE SPIRIT.

THE THRONE MUST GOVERN OUR PERSPECTIVE.

THE LAMB MUST REMAIN THE CENTER.

And once those principles are established, fear begins losing its hold.

The symbols become windows instead of walls.

REVELATION WAS NEVER GIVEN TO HIDE CHRIST

It was given to unveil Him.

That is where we began.

And that is where we end.



EN

tion of Jesus Christ..."

Not the revelation of the beast.

Not the revelation of Babylon.

Not the revelation of the Antichrist.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE SYMBOLS HAVE SPOKEN

The candlestick said:

BEAR THE LIGHT.

The star said:

REMAIN IN HIS HAND.

The open door said:

COME UP HITHER.

The living creatures said:

MANIFEST HIS NATURE.

The elders said:

CAST DOWN THE CROWN.



EN

said:

CARRY THE SEED.

The manchild said:

COME TO MATURITY AND GOVERN IN THE LAMB.

The witnesses said:

TESTIFY UNTIL THE WORK IS FINISHED.

The angel in the sun said:

STAND IN THE LIGHT AND PROCLAIM THE VICTORY.

The river said:

LET LIFE FLOW.

The tree said:

GOD'S PURPOSE WILL BEAR FRUIT.

And all of them together say:

BEHOLD THE LAMB.

THERE IS MORE TO SEE

Revelation contains far more than these symbols.

**EN**

Mountains.

Waters.

The little book.

The measuring reed.

The sea of glass.

The white stone.

Hidden manna.

The morning star.

The key of David.

The seven spirits.

The New Jerusalem.

The gates.

The foundations.

The precious stones.

The book of life.

And many more.



EN

We have not finished decoding Revelation.

We have only continued the journey.

There are still doors to open.

Still symbols to trace.

Still mysteries to unveil.

Still Scripture waiting to speak into Scripture.

But our foundation is established.

CHRIST IS THE CENTER.

BLESSED IS HE THAT READETH

Revelation begins with a blessing:

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy...”

— Revelation 1:3

The book was meant to be read.

Heard.

Kept.

Not feared.

Not avoided.



EN

Not abandoned because it appears difficult.

There is blessing in the Revelation.

AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME

Revelation closes with an invitation:

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.”

— Revelation 22:17

That is where all the symbols finally bring us.

Not into terror.

Into invitation.

COME.

The Spirit says:

Come.

The Bride says:

Come.

The thirsty are told:

Come.

And the water of Life is offered:



EN

FREELY.

THE LAST INVITATION IS LIFE

What a way for Revelation to end.

After every symbol.

Every judgment.

Every conflict.

Every kingdom.

Every mystery.

The invitation is:

COME AND DRINK.

That tells us the heart of God.

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS

The book closes:

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

— Revelation 22:20

There is the final response.



Not fear.

Not confusion.

Not speculation.

Expectation.

Agreement.

Desire.

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.

Come in revelation.

Come in manifestation.

Come in glory.

Come in Your people.

Come in the fullness of Your government.

Come until every counterfeit falls.

Come until darkness gives way to Light.

Come until death is swallowed up by Life.

Come until the river fills the earth.

Come until the nations walk in Your light.



EN

Come until Your name fills every forehead that belongs to You.

Come until the throne of God and of the Lamb governs without rival.

And come until the entire creation bears witness to what the book declared from the beginning:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

The symbols have spoken.

The Lamb has been unveiled.

And the final word remains:

LIFE.

LIGHT.

THE THRONE.

THE LAMB.

JESUS CHRIST.



EN



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