

In the Midst of the Throne

Revelation 5: 1-14

In previous studies we discovered Jesus in the midst of our struggles – appearing in the Upper Room as the disciples struggled with doubt and fear. We saw Him in the midst of the church, as John received the Revelation. There is great comfort knowing our Lord stands in the midst of our struggles and He is in the midst of His church. What have we to fear or dread as long as Jesus is in the midst?

Today I want us to consider a time yet future, given to John in the Revelation. As John was taken up into heaven, with the glorious opportunity to record the events that will take place around the throne of God, he found Jesus in the midst of the throne. Surely, John felt somewhat like the high priest of old, having the privilege of going behind the veil into the very presence of God. We know Jesus tore the veil in two as He fulfilled redemption's plan on the cross, but John stood in the presence of the glorified Christ!

This is a scene that is yet future, but we can rejoice knowing our Lord reigns and is in the midst of the throne of God. Seeing our Lord in this setting should bring peace and comfort to every believer. The grave could not hold Him; He lives today and forever more! One day, the saved by grace will experience the glorious presence of our risen Lord. As we consider the glorious [moments](#) recorded by John, I want to look at Jesus: [In the Midst of the Throne](#).

I. A Moment of Desperation (1-4) – As John stands before the throne, we discover a somber moment. Those around the throne give attention to the voice of the strong angel. Notice:

A. The Inquiry (1-2) – As the scene unfolds, John sees God seated on the throne, holding a book written within and without, sealed with seven seals. The angel asked who among those present was worthy to open the book and break the seals by which it was bound.

- In John's day, a Roman will or testament was sealed with seven seals. The seals could only be broken by the heir of the inheritance. As we will discover, Jesus is heir of all things. Most scholars agree the book contains the title deed to all Jesus acquired as He fulfilled the Father's will through offering Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin on the cross!

B. The Inability (3) – A search was conducted throughout the universe to find someone worthy to open the books and loose the seals. No one worthy was found. Bear in mind, the sainted dead are there – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, Enoch, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel,

Peter, Paul, Stephen, and the other apostles. None were considered worthy. This emphasizes our need for a Savior. We are unworthy! He alone is worthy!

C. The Uncertainty (4) – Finding no one worthy, John wept bitterly and uncontrollably. Why did he weep? W. A. Criswell explains why John wept:

[John's tears] represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. Those tears of the Apostle John are the tears of Adam and Eve, driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bowed over the first grave, as they watered the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel. Those are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried unto God in their affliction and slavery. They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cried unto heaven. They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they looked on their silent dead, as they stand beside their open graves, as they experience in the trials and sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable. Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that interloper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil. "And I wept audibly," for the failure to find a Redeemer meant that this earth in its curse is consigned forever to death. It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan. (Expository Sermons on Revelation [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1969], 3:69-70)

II. A Moment of Exaltation (5-7) – The scene quickly changes from a moment of desperation to a moment of exaltation, worshipping the Lord. Consider:

A. The Encouragement (5a) – One of the elders quickly consoled John. There was no need to weep. He would soon discover one worthy to take the book and open the seals. Jesus Christ the Lord is worthy!

- This also serves to remind us that heaven will be a place of joy and peace; tears and sorrow will not be welcome! The former things will have passed away. Death, suffering, sin, and sorrow will not be found in heaven. [Rev.21:4 – And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.](#)

B. The Announcement (5b) – [behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.](#) The angel wanted John to see:

- **The Lion of Judah** – He came the first time as a sacrificial lamb. He will return as the Lion of Judah, the righteous judge!
- **The Root of David** – The Sovereign of the Ages had prevailed to open the book! He will rule and reign as the Lord of lords and King of kings. Many deny and reject Him today, but all will bow before Him as King!

C. The Assessment (6) – *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.* Seeing the Lamb in the midst of the throne, John recognized the divine character He possessed. John saw Jesus as:

- **The Savior** – He was the Lamb slain. John the Baptist had proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God who had come to take away the sin of the world. Christ Jesus died in our place, offering Himself the atonement for our sin!
- **The Sovereign** – The description of John seems grotesque, but it beautifully portrays the divine character of our Lord as the Sovereign. The seven horns speak of His omnipotent power – He is Lord of all. The seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits speak of His omniscience – He sees and knows all things; there is nothing hidden from Him. That is our Lord and Savior!

III. A Moment of Jubilation (8-14) – In our closing scene, we come to a moment of jubilation and worship of the Lamb in the midst of the throne. Consider:

A. The Prayers (8) – The prayers of the redeemed of all ages are brought before the Lord as a sweet-smelling aroma. Consider the countless prayers that have been offered throughout the ages of time. Many suffering persecution have prayed for the Lord's return. Many have prayed for the suffering of God's people to end, for Satan to be defeated, and sin fully and finally removed.

- Jesus taught us to pray that prayer. *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* Every prayer the saints have prayed has entered the presence of God. He hasn't forgotten or ignored a one of them. *1 John 5:14 – And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.* The prayers for deliverance from evil will soon be answered in mighty power!

B. The Praise (9-10) – We find the host of heaven singing a new song. It is a new song in the sense that the heavenly choir has just assembled and begun to sing, but it is a song as old as time. It is the song of the old, old story that never loses its splendor. It is a song of praise lifted to magnify the Lamb who is worthy! This song comes from the hearts of those whose faith has ended in sight.

- It is there that the redeemed will fully realize their eternal redemption. We will understand, as never before, what the sacrifice on Calvary did for us. We will be completely aware that His blood made all the difference and redeemed us from sin.

C. The Participants (11) – John saw the angels, the four beasts, and the elders, all praising the Lord in unison. He saw an innumerable multitude. While the angels and the beasts can't praise the Lord for redemption, they praise their Creator, declaring continually – [Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come](#). Those who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb will join in the worship chorus for the one who took our place, bearing our sin, and enduring the judgment we deserved. The redeemed will praise the Worthy Lamb!

D. The Preeminence (12-14) – All the host in heaven above and the creatures, great and small in earth below will proclaim: Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy, Worthy, Worthy! [Phil.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ^{\[10\]} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ^{\[11\]} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.](#)

Conclusion: The Lamb is in the midst of the throne, and one day the saved by grace will enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. [Rev.19:5-9 – And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. ^{\[6\]} And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. ^{\[7\]} Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ^{\[8\]} And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ^{\[9\]} And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. I have made preparations to be there. Will you be in that number praising the Lord and enjoying the Marriage Supper? If so, rejoice for all you've received in Christ. If not, come while there is time and opportunity. Repent of the sin of unbelief, placing your trust and faith in the finished work of Christ for salvation!](#)