

Spirit and Truth

Bible studies dedicated to helping the Bible student to know and worship God as he requires His followers to know and worship Him.

The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. John 4:23,24

Lesson 14

THE THRONE OF GOD

Speaking hypothetically, suppose that the Godhead is made up of three separate Gods, where each is defined as God in the same manner as the Father, Yahweh, is God. Each would be fully God in His own right; no one of the three being any more authoritative or eminent than the other two. Each would receive equal homage and acknowledgement. This being the case, it would then be consistent with their deity and entitlement to worship that, if any of them had a throne, all would have a throne.

The Bible talks somewhat on the throne of God. Would we find in such a study some distinct and conclusive indication concerning the structure of the Godhead? We have nothing to lose. Every ray of light from God's word holds the promise of fitting us to be more adapt, with a clearer focus, that we may worship God in spirit and truth. So let us begin....

1. Where is God's throne and what work is conducted from that place?

Psalms 103:19

Psalms 11:4

Psalms 89:14

Note: The throne of God is in heaven and from this sacred precinct He rules the universe, notices everything that happens and judges wisely with truth, love and justice (Heb.4:13).

2. Who occupies the throne of heaven?

Matthew 23:22; Revelation 7:10; 4:2,8; 19:4

Note: The record in Matthew 23 is that of Jesus' words; Revelation is the testimony of the Father, through His Son to the people of the earth and penned by the LORD'S servant, John. Jesus knows the Father, man has not seen Him and Jesus has declared Him (John 1:18).

From the mouth of Christ we hear that the One who sits on the throne of heaven is called "God." Note, that Jesus does not include Himself when it comes to defining the absolute God of the universe (John 17:3; 14:28; Luke 18:19; Mark 12:28-34).

3. What other Sovereign is depicted as seated upon a throne?

Matthew 25:31; Hebrews 1:8; Zechariah 6:12,13; Revelation 22:3

.....
 Note: These texts seem to indicate that Jesus has a throne as distinct from His Father's throne.

4. What message is conveyed in the given passages from Revelation in respect to who is on the throne of the universe?

Revelation 5:1-13 (note v.1,7,13); 7:10,11

Note: "Him that sits upon the throne," one Being, "and the Lamb," another Being. As seen from question 2, the One seated upon the throne of heaven is Yahweh, the ONE God.

Revelation 5:1,6,7,13 describes Jesus as being in the midst of the throne (v.6), suggesting that He shares the throne with His Father. He takes the book from the One called "God," His Father, who is seated upon the throne (Rev.7:10-12), thus reinforcing that God is not a triune Godhead. If He were a triune God, Christ would already be included in that Name, "God," but the Son is clearly mentioned separately to Him who is identified as the supreme, absolute God. While Jesus may occupy the same throne as the Father, these passages of Scripture leave no doubt as to who is the absolute God, above all.

5. What other expression is used in Scripture to denote Christ's authority and His regal relationship with the Father?

Matthew 26:64

Note: *Sitting on the right hand of power*, a position of great authority power and majesty (Heb.1:8; Matt.28:18). It is a position that can only be appointed by the One on who's right hand the Son of God doeth sit

(Ps.110:1; Heb.1:1-3; 8:1). In all probability it is the same seat as the Father, though it does not have to be. Notice the next question...

6. Describe the special situation with the thrones, and with who occupies them, as pictured by this verse in Revelation?

Revelation 3:21

Note: *Christ set down with His Father in His throne.* It would seem that Christ and the Father share an adjacent position on the one throne. Any confusion this may create will be exacerbated with the adjoining statement that includes the saints on Christ's throne, which, according to this text, appears to be also the Father's throne!?

A throne may refer to a specific seat and having a geographical location, or it may refer to a position of authority; for example, Jesus sitting on the *right hand of power* may be understood as an expression of His majestic position of authority next to the God of all the universe. Other Scriptural evidence supports Jesus having His own personal throne, as shown in question 3.

In a similar manner, the statement that Christ shares His throne with the saints does not have to mean that the saints will literally sit upon the throne adjacent to Yahweh. Notice that the saints have their own dedicated thrones (Matt.19:28; Rev.20:4; Dan.7:22). As Christ sits on the right hand of power, granted by His Father, so the Father has appointed His saints a position of authority with His Christ (Matt.20:21-23). He will establish them to reign as kings and priests unto God (Rev.1:5,6; 5:10). There is a position of great authority and power for God's people in the new earth implied by the above texts¹.

7. Who is the Figure sitting on the throne mentioned in the following verses?

Revelation 20:11,12; 21:5,6

Note: "A great white throne and Him that sat on it." "All men stood

before God for the judgement." "It is God who dwells with men, wipes away all tears and is the Alpha and Omega." These are clear statements identifying God to be the One on the throne. Yet we recognise certain aspects of the description which are clearly functions relating to Jesus. Are these brief passages speaking of God, or of His Son? Consider the following...

❖ *Who is the judge of man?* -- Jesus, doing the will of the Father (John 5:22,30; Acts.17:31; Rom.14:10).

❖ *From whose face does the heaven and earth flee away?* -- He who sits on the throne and the Lamb - *Is this God plus the Lamb? Or, the One on the throne is the Lamb?* Notice that the Father is present with the Son at the second coming of Jesus [Titus 2:13; Luke 9:26; Matt.26:64]. From what we have observed in Scripture, the indication would be that God is on the throne and Jesus, the Lamb, is with Him, co-ruling with God and carrying out the will of God (Rev.6:14-16).

❖ *Who is the Alpha and Omega?* -- The Almighty God, and His Only-Begotten Son. Both have this title (Rev.1:8,17,18; 4:8; 11:17; 22:13,16).

The Father and the Son are one. They are of the same substance and both have the same mind-set. Both have part in creation, redemption, judgement, the eradication of sin and the establishment of the new earth. They even share the same name and worship; it would be fitting and consistent if they should both share the same throne. Both the Father and the Son are present in all the stated functions with Jesus presiding to carry out the will of the Father (John 5:19,20,30; 8:26-29). Note that the Father always remains over all. He is even the God of His Christ (Eph.4:6; lesson 4).

We have been discussing the throne of heaven and the Majesties who occupy the throne. The Holy Spirit was conspicuous by His

absence. In all of the Bible there is no mention of a throne for the Holy Spirit. There is no mention of One, called the Holy Spirit, dwelling with men in the new earth. Why!!?? Jesus, who fulfilled the function of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of men, now, after the glorification of the redeemed, continues in the Spirit form to discharge the executive will, or mind of God, in the management of the universe. Such a function does not constitute a third person. All of the Godhead is contained in the Persons of the Father and the Son. There has never been a third, individual God-person.

8. God, the Father, and His Son are both seated upon the throne of the universe. What worship is to be directed toward them and/or to anyone else, such as the Holy Spirit?

Revelation 5:11–13
 Revelation 7:10–12
 Revelation 19:10; 22:9
 Hebrews 1:6
 John 5:23
 Isaiah 42:8; 48:11

Note: Worship God, the Father -- one Person, Worship Christ, the Son of God, equally with God -- another Person. There is no mention anywhere in the Bible where we are directed to worship anyone other than the Father-God and His Son². To do so is forbidden by the first commandment (Ex.20:1–3). There is no throne of the Holy Spirit and we are not instructed to worship the Holy Spirit. Such an act of worship would be idolatry. When the Bible says to worship God it does not mean a threefold Godhead.

9. What other information is revealed concerning the thrones of the saints?

Revelation 20:4; Matthew 19:28; Daniel 7:22

Note: The saints are seen here sitting on thrones in heaven. The

judgement given to them is not the decision on the life or death of men, but to examine the judgement already proscribed by the Judge of all the earth. This way the redeemed will have no question over the decision Christ has made concerning any individual. All will see the equity, justice, mercy and love of God in how the sin problem was resolved.

GOD DWELLS WITH MEN

10. Whom, does the Bible say, will dwell with man in the new earth?

Revelation 21:3

Note: In all of the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is prolific and essential in His work for the final salvation of the repentant sinner. If the God referred to in this verse is a Trinity, then we may logically expect that the Holy Spirit, as the third member of the triune god, will be mentioned in respect to His part in the final set up of the kingdom of God. But what do we find??....

11. What throne/s of the Godhead will be established in the new earth?

Revelation 22:3

Note: The throne of God and the Lamb, relocated from heaven to forever be in the midst of them for whom the salvation was made!! Amazing love and honour God has given to men.

12. In the day that God remakes the earth, who shall be king over this beautiful dominion?

Zechariah 14:9

Note: The LORD is Jehovah, God the Father. Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD (Deut.6:4). This one God will rule the earth and the universe. And what of Christ's position? He is with the Father and rules with Him carrying out the Father's will. Examples of the unity of the Father and the Son may be seen in: creation,

redemption, judgement, priesthood of Melchizedek and the King of kings and Lord of lords.

If the definition of the one God of Deuteronomy 6:4 is a triune God, as the doctrine of the Trinity would have us believe, then where is the Holy Spirit as a third person when the thrones of the Godhead are arranged to seat only two Persons?

13. The Sanctuary, or Temple in heaven is the location of the throne of God. What description is given of the temple of God located in His glorious kingdom set up on the new earth?

Revelation 21:22,23

Note: Only two Deities mentioned to dwell with men, and only two Deities named as having a throne on the new earth. Where is the Holy Spirit, as a third and distinct heavenly Sovereign?

This is an important question, for the Trinitarian doctrine teaches that the Holy Spirit is God in the same sense as Yahweh, who sits upon the throne, is God. Would such a God, having such a prominent part in the creation of, and the salvation of men, now be so totally removed from the consummation of the salvation plan as to not even rate a mention? Note the following questions showing the involvement of the Holy Spirit in the new earth...

14. What promise does the Spirit of God give unto the churches?

Revelation 2:7

Note: The Spirit promises that to him that overcomes his sin, he will be given access to partake of the *tree of life* (compare Rev.22:13,14). Will the Holy Spirit be there in the new earth to see the consummation of His work, that, of the recreation of the sinner?

15. What other invitation does the Spirit offer to the would be inhabitants of the new earth?

Revelation 22:17

Note: As with the *tree of life*, the Holy Spirit invites all to partake of the *river of life*? Of course, the Holy Spirit is Jesus and, He will not only be there, He will be serving the redeemed (Luke 12:37).

The book of Revelation is introduced to the reader as a revelation of the things God gave to man through His Son, Jesus Christ (Rev.1:1; Heb.1:2). In giving that information, one of the numerous descriptive names applied to Jesus in the Revelation is the "Faithful Witness" (Rev.1:5; 19:11). The Faithful Witness is represented as giving a true (faithful) testimony to the seven churches (e.g. Rev.3:14).

There is yet another name by which the *faithful and true Witness* is known. Apart from "Jesus," His name is "Spirit" (Rev.2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; John 16:13-15), which, of course, is the Holy Spirit. While revealing the truth, as a faithful Witness, Jesus is guiding into truth, those souls, who are willing to listen to Him.. We recognise this as the very work of the Spirit of Christ, strengthening a man to have the divine nature (Eph.3:14-19 note v.16; 2Pet.1:2-4).

CONCLUSION

The blessed and only Potentate, the one God and Father of all, who is above all, is seated upon His throne, in heaven. With Him is the Lamb, a symbolic title for the One slain to be the redeemer of the fallen race. This One is His Son, brought forth from His own Self and anointed to a position equal with Himself. Christ and the Father are one in appearance, in mental attitude, power and authority. Christ's equality of authority with the Father is with respect to creation; the Father always has authority over the Son.

Our study has revealed a reference to both God's throne, and Christ's throne. In some areas the conclusion may be -- two separate thrones. Other statements indicate -- one throne shared by both. From earlier lessons we

have seen titles particularly relevant to the Father also being applied to the Son to the extent that, at first reading, it can be difficult to distinguish who is specifically mentioned. Such is the oneness, or blending of the Father and the Son. It would seem that the one or two thrones question is another of these indistinct references to highlight the exalted station of the Son and how He merges with the Father, almost without a line of distinction. As they are one in every respect (except rank), it would be consistent with their universal integration that they occupy the same throne.

Another very important observation that has emerged from this lesson is that the Deity we shall see in the new earth, dwell with and commune with, is God the Father and His Son. They shall establish their throne on this earth! God shall dwell with men! In that context of God, there has been no mention of the Holy Spirit, or even the throne of the Holy Spirit.

The work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely indispensable, as is the death of Jesus, in the redemption of God's people. The saints are even baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in acknowledgement of the contribution that the three great Worthies of heaven make in the restoring of the soul to righteousness. When the Holy Spirit has been present at every stage in the history of man, and at every point in the spiritual growth of an individual, His absence at the consummation of the redeemed is a conspicuous indication of the fallacy of the Trinity.

Throughout this study course and in particular, this and the previous lesson, it should be observed that the Trinity cannot be proven from the Bible. Being a man made tradition, the Trinity can only be supported from non Biblical authors, or from credible authors who's writings have been misconstrued. Having said that, our next lesson will discuss the texts of Scripture frequently put forward in support of the Trinity doctrine.



... I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 7:9-12



Superscripts -- see Appendix.

Prophesy Again Australia



Website: www.prophesyagain.com.au

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar1jSxa_tu9HuSkyDcNsmA

Email : truevine@email.com

Address: PO BOX 644, Buninyong, Victoria, Australia,