

LIVING UNDER THE UNIQUE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST AND IN THE UNIQUE DIVINE FELLOWSHIP

(Friday—Evening Session)

Message Three

Subjecting Ourselves to Christ's Headship to Be under His Throne

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:22, 26-28; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17, 21; Rev. 3:21; 4:1-2; 22:1-2

- Ezek 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
- Ezek 1:27 Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.
- Ezek 1:28 Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.
- Heb 4:16 Let us therefore ^acome forward with boldness to the ¹throne of grace that we may receive ^{2b}mercy and find ^cgrace for timely help.
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rev 3:21 He who ^{1a}overcomes, to him I will give to ²sit with Me on My ^bthrone, as I also ^covercame and ^dsat ^ewith My Father on His throne.
- Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a ^adoor ^{1b}opened in heaven, and the first ^{2c}voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ^dCome up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these ^ethings.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in ^{1a}spirit; and behold, there was a ^{2b}throne set in heaven, and upon the throne *there was* ^cOne sitting;
- Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this ^aside and on that side of the river was the ^{1b}tree of life, producing twelve ^{2c}fruits, yielding its fruit ³each ⁴month; and the ^{5d}leaves of the tree are for the ^ehealing of the ^fnations.

I. “And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life”—Rev. 22:1-2a:

- A. The One sitting on the throne is the Lamb-God, our redeeming God, from whose throne proceeds the river of water of life for our supply and satisfaction:
1. This depicts how the Triune God—God, the Lamb, and the Spirit, who is symbolized by the water of life—dispenses Himself into us under His throne, His headship—v. 1; cf. John 4:14b.
Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.
John 4:14b ... but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into ^{1c}eternal life.
 2. The street of the holy city is pure gold, symbolizing the divine nature; that the river of water of life proceeds “in the middle of its street” signifies that the divine life flows in the divine nature as the unique way for the daily life of God’s redeemed people—Rev. 21:21; 22:1.
Rev 21:21 And the ^atwelve gates were twelve ^{1b}pearls; each ²one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the ³street of the city was pure ^cgold, like ⁴transparent glass.

Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.

3. Furthermore, Christ as the tree of life is the life supply available along the flow of the Spirit as the water of life; where the Spirit flows, there the life supply of Christ is found—v. 2a.

Rev 22:2a And on this ^aside and on that side of the river was the ^{1b}tree of life, ...

- B. The throne of the Lamb-God is for God's household administration, His eternal economy; God was the One who purposed, He became the Lamb who redeemed, and finally He became the life-giving, flowing Spirit—John 1:14, 29; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

John 1:14 And the ¹Word became ^{2a}flesh and ^{3b}tabernacled among us (and ^{4c}we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten ⁵from the Father), full of ^{6d}grace and ^ereality.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the ^{1a}Lamb of God, who takes away the ^bsin of the ²world!

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.

1. Whenever we subject ourselves to Christ's headship and are under His throne, we immediately sense something full of God's riches flowing within us.
2. Every morning after rising up, we need to say, "Lord, thank You for a new day for me to take You as my Lord. I subject myself under Your headship for the whole day. Lord, set up Your throne in my life. Set up Your throne in the center of my being. Lord, bring my whole day with my daily life under Your throne."
3. If we offer such a prayer to the Triune God every morning, from that moment we will have the living water flowing in us for us to drink; furthermore, we will enjoy the divine nature as our holy street, our unique way, and we will eat the tree of life for our life supply—Rev. 22:14, 17.

Rev 22:14 ^{1a}Blessed are those who ^{2b}wash their ^crobes that ³they may have ^{4d}right to the ^etree of life and may ^fenter ⁵by the ^ggates into the city.

Rev 22:17 And the ^{1a}Spirit and the ^bbride say, ^{2c}Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is ^dthirsty ^{3e}come; let ⁴him who wills take the ^fwater of life freely.

4. When we feel that we do not have the inner flow of living water, this is because we do not accept or recognize the lordship, the headship, and the authority of the Triune God in the center of our being.
5. In the place where the Triune God flows, we serve Him, we see His face, and we reign with Him—vv. 3-5.

Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be ^{1a}a ^{2a}curse. And the ³throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His ^bslaves will ^{4c}serve ⁵Him;

Rev 22:4 And they will ^{1a}see His ^bface, and His ^cname will be on their foreheads.

Rev 22:5 And ^{1a}night will be ^bno more; and they have no need of the ²light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the ³Lord God will shine upon them; and they will ^{4c}reign forever and ever.

- C. The throne of God and of the Lamb is the throne of grace in our spirit (which is the real Bethel, God's habitation); whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17, 21; Rev. 4:1-2; 22:1; Rom. 8:34, 10; Eph. 2:22; Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore ^acome forward with boldness to the ¹throne of grace that we may receive ^{2b}mercy and find ^cgrace for timely help.

Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a ^adoor ^{1b}opened in heaven, and the first ^{2c}voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ^dCome up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these ^ethings.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in ^{1a}spirit; and behold, there was a ^{2b}throne set in heaven, and upon the throne *there was* ^cOne sitting;

Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? ¹It is Christ Jesus who ^adied and, rather, who ^bwas raised, who is also ^{2c}at the right hand of God, who also ^{3d}intercedes for us.

Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.

Eph 2:22 In whom ¹you ²also are being built together into a ^{3a}dwelling place of God ^bin ⁴spirit.

Gen 28:12 And he dreamed: There was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Gen 28:13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed.

Gen 28:14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.

Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

John 1:51 And He said to him, ¹Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see ^{2a}heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the ³Son of Man.

- D. The One on the throne is the Lamb-God, with the Lamb being the lamp and with God being the light within the lamp; when we enthrone Christ in every part of our being and in all our living and work, we experience Him as the redeeming One, the shining One, and the reigning One to enjoy Him as the supply of life and the way of life in the fellowship of life—Rev. 21:23; 22:1-2; 21:21b.

Rev 21:23 And the city has ^{1a}no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the ^bglory of God illumined it, and its ^{2c}lamp is the Lamb.

Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.

Rev 22:2 And on this ^aside and on that side of the river was the ^{1b}tree of life, producing twelve ^{2c}fruits, yielding its fruit ³each ⁴month; and the ^{5d}leaves of the tree are for the ^ehealing of the ^fnations.

Rev 21:21b ... And the ³street of the city was pure ^cgold, like ⁴transparent glass.

- E. The One on the throne has the appearance of sardius (its red color signifying redemption) and jasper (its dark green color signifying life in its richness); thus, when we submit ourselves to Christ's headship and are under His throne, we are the beneficiaries of all that He is in His judicial redemption and organic salvation so that we may bear the same appearance of the God of glory in His rich life—4:3; 21:11.

Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a ^{1a}jasper stone and a ^{2b}sardius in appearance, and *there was* a ^{3c}rainbow around the throne like an ^{4d}emerald in appearance.

Rev 21:11 Having the ^{1a}glory of God. Her ^{2b}light was like a most ^{3c}precious stone, like a ^{4d}jasper stone, as clear as ^ecrystal.

II. Ezekiel 1 presents a picture of God's throne above the clear sky—vv. 22, 26:

Ezek 1 be omitted.

Ezek 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

- A. We should have a clear spiritual sky (a clear conscience) like the sight of awesome crystal, which means that there is nothing between us and the Lord and nothing between us and one another—Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3.

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also ^aexercise myself to always have a ^{1b}conscience without offense toward God and men.

1 Tim 1:5 But the end of the ¹charge is ^{2a}love out of a ^{3b}pure heart and *out of* a good ^cconscience and *out of* unfeigned ^dfaith;

1 Tim 3:9 ^aHolding the ^{1b}mystery of the ^cfaith in a ^{2d}pure conscience.

2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I ^{1a}serve ²from *my* ^bforefathers in a ^{3c}pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions ^dnight and day,

- B. The sapphire throne above the crystal clear expanse indicates that whenever we have a “clear sky” in our Christian life and in our church life, we will be under the ruling of the throne of grace and have the heavenly situation, atmosphere, and condition of the Lord’s ruling presence—Ezek. 1:26; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17, 21.

Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore ^acome forward with boldness to the ¹throne of grace that we may receive ^{2b}mercy and find ^cgrace for timely help.

Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with a throne above it; to reach this point means that in everything we allow God to have the preeminence and are completely submissive to His authority and administration.

- D. If we have the throne in our spiritual life, God will not only rule over us but will also fulfill His purpose in us, with us, and through us—Col. 1:18b; Ezek. 1:5, cf. v. 26.

Col 1:18b ... He is the ^cbeginning, the ^{1d}Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Ezek 1:5 And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.

Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

- E. The One sitting on the throne is Jesus Christ, the Man-God, the mingling of God and man—v. 26; John 6:62; Acts 7:56; cf. Phil. 2:9-11; Rom. 10:12-13:

Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

John 6:62 Then what if you saw the Son of Man ^{1a}ascending to where He was before?

Acts 7:56 And he said, Behold, I see the ¹heavens ^aopened up and the ^bSon of Man standing at the right hand of God.

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly ^{1a}exalted Him and ²bestowed on Him the ³name which is ^babove every name,

Phil 2:10 That ¹in the name of Jesus ^aevery knee should ²bow, of those who are ³in ^bheaven and ⁴on earth and ⁵under the earth,

Phil 2:11 And every tongue should ¹openly confess that Jesus Christ is ^{2a}Lord ³to the ^bglory of God the Father.

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between ^aJew and Greek, for the same ^bLord *is Lord* of all *and* ^{1c}rich to all who ^dcall upon Him;

Rom 10:13 For ^a“whoever ¹calls upon the name of the Lord shall be ^{2b}saved.”

1. The man on the throne has the appearance of electrum and fire—electrum from His loins upward and fire from His loins downward—Ezek. 1:27-28.

Ezek 1:27 Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.

Ezek 1:28 Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

2. The upper part of a man, from his loins to his head, is the part of feeling, of sensation, signifying his nature and disposition; according to His nature and disposition the Lord Jesus on the throne has the appearance of electrum, the radiant expression of the redeeming God.
3. The lower part of a man's body is for moving; the appearance of fire from His loins downward signifies the Lord's appearance in His move with His burning and sanctifying power—cf. v. 4.

Ezek 1:4 And I looked, and there came a storm wind from the north, a great cloud and a fire flashing incessantly; and there was a brightness around it, and from the midst of it there was something like the sight of electrum, from the midst of the fire.

F. God's intention is to work on man in order that man will be on the throne—"he who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne"—Rev. 3:21.

G. As the Pioneer, the Lord Jesus cut the way to enter into glory and to sit on the throne, and we, His many brothers, are now following Him—Heb. 2:6-11; Rev. 22:5.

Heb 2:6 But one has solemnly testified somewhere, saying, ^{1a}What is man, that You bring him to mind? Or the son of man, that You care for him?

Heb 2:7 You have made Him ^{1a}a little inferior to the angels; You have crowned Him with glory and honor and have set Him ^aover the works of Your hands;

Heb 2:8 You have ^asubjected all things under His feet." For in subjecting all things to Him, He left nothing unsubject to Him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to Him,

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little ¹inferior to the angels because of the suffering of ^adeath, ^bcrowned with ^{2c}glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of ^{3d}everything.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting ^afor ¹Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading ^{2b}many sons into ^{3c}glory, to make the ^{4d}Author of their ^esalvation ^{5f}perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:11 For both ¹He who ^asanctifies and those who are being ^bsanctified are all ²of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them ^cbrothers,

Rev 22:5 And ^{1a}night will be ^bno more; and they have no need of the ²light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the ³Lord God will shine upon them; and they will ^{4c}reign forever and ever.

H. God desires to bring us to the throne because of the rebellion of Satan against God's throne—Isa. 14:12-14:

Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O Daystar, son of the dawn! How you have been hewn down to earth, You who made nations fall prostrate!

Isa 14:13 But you, you said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

1. Satan's throne is the world, which is constituted of ambition, self-exaltation, and opinions with concepts; when these three things result in division, the world becomes "the evil"—Rev. 2:12-13a; John 17:15.

Rev 2:12 And to the messenger of the church in ¹Pergamos write: These things says He who has the ^asharp two-edged sword:

Rev 2:13a I know where you dwell, where ^{1a}Satan's throne is; ...

John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them ¹out of the world, but that You would ^akeep them out of *the hands of the* ^{2b}evil one.

2. The way to be saved from the world and the authority of Satan is for us to move out of ourselves into the Triune God so that we can live under Christ's headship.

3. If we continually touch the Word and allow the Spirit to touch us day by day, we shall be sanctified; that is, we shall move out of ourselves, our old lodging place, and into the Triune God, our new lodging place—vv. 17, 21; cf. Rev. 2:17.

John 17:17 ^{1a}Sanctify them ²in the truth; Your ³word is truth.

John 17:21 That they all may be ^{1a}one; even as You, Father, are ^bin Me and I ^cin You, that they also may be ^din Us; that the ^eworld may believe that You have ^fsent Me.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ^aear, let him hear what the ^bSpirit says to the churches. To him who ^{1c}overcomes, to him I will give of the ^{2d}hidden ^emanna, and to him I will give a white ^{3f}stone, and upon the stone a ^{4g}new name written, which ^hno one knows except him who receives *it*.

4. Thus, the Lord will make His home in our heart, being enthroned in our heart and ruling over us in everything to make us transparent, bright, fresh, and living under His headship for the full and corporate expression of Christ in glory—Eph. 3:16-19; Rev. 22:1; 21:11.

Eph 3:16 ¹That He would grant you, according to the ^{2a}riches of His glory, to be ^{3b}strengthened with ^{4c}power through His ⁵Spirit ⁶ⁱinto the ^dinner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His ^ahome in your ¹hearts through ²faith, that you, being ^{3b}rooted and grounded in ^{4c}love,

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to ¹apprehend with ^{2a}all the saints what the ³breadth and length and height and depth are

Eph 3:19 And to know the ¹knowledge-surpassing ^alove of Christ, that you may be ^bfilled ²unto all the ^{3c}fullness of ⁴God.

Rev 22:1 And ¹he ^ashowed me a ^{2b}river of ^{3c}water of life, bright as ^{4d}crystal, ^eproceeding out of the ^{5f}throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its ^{6g}street.

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