

Connecting the Events on Earth to the Throne of God

The centrality of the throne

To gain the divine perspective of the events in the book of Revelation it is crucial to connect the events with *the throne of God*. Only the view originating from the throne gives meaning and understanding to the events in the last days. Indeed, the entire book of Revelation is composed of one scene after another taking place at the throne of God. Thus, a simple and objective way to read the book of Revelation is to inductively take each event and connect it with the throne of God. Chapter after chapter, event after event, scene after scene, simply ask the question, how is this related to the throne of God? You will quickly see that the throne is behind all that happens in the book. Consider the following facts and verses revealing the absolute centrality of the throne in Revelation:

1. The Spirit of God speaking to the churches begins His speaking *before the throne* – (1:4)
2. The unfolding of the events in Revelation come from *the throne set in heaven* – (4:1-2)
3. All the multitudes and worshippers are *around the throne* – (4:3-4, 6; 5:11; 7:11)
4. The judgments proceed *out of the throne* – (4:5)
5. All the activities and persons are *before the throne* – (4:6, 10; 7:9, 11, 15; 8:3; 14:3, 5)
6. The vision of Christ, the Lamb of God, is *in the midst of the throne* – (4:6; 5:6; 7:17)
7. The exclusive focus of all things taking place is toward *Him who sits on the throne* – (4:9, 10; 5:1, 7, 13; 6:16; 7:10, 15; 19:14; 20:11; 21:5)
8. The overcoming believers are *caught up to the throne* – (12:5)
9. The great voice declaring the finality of all things comes *from the throne* – (16:17; 19:5)
10. *The throne of God is in it* – that is, in the holy city, the New Jerusalem – (22:3)

The Greek word for “throne” (*thronos* – θρόνος) is used 61 times in the New Testament, of which 46 occur in the book of Revelation. Thus, we see the centrality of the throne in this book. By considering all the verses about the throne from Revelation, one controlling principle emerges — nothing happens on the earth apart from the authority and government of the throne of God. In describing the throne, one writer put it this way — “The heavens do rule, but it is in a hidden way. It has been said that God is behind the scenes, but that He moves all the scenes He is behind.” The throne of God is behind *all* the scenes and events in the book of Revelation. Now, we must learn how to connect these scenes and events with God’s speaking to us from His throne.

The scenes around the throne

The book of Revelation revolves around twelve scenes at the throne passing before our eyes in theater-like fashion. From these scenes we discover what is on God’s heart, what God values, and what God allows. The scenes at the throne give us the big picture. They also reveal the purpose of man’s existence on this earth. They give us understanding and bring us into the divine perspective of the events on the earth in the last days. We need to hear what God is saying to us from the throne. This hearing will impart faith into us and calibrate and preserve us from a life of vanity and hopelessness to a life of reality and purpose.

The apostle Paul also takes us to the throne in Colossians 3:1-2: ¹ “If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the

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things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.” Come up to the throne and out of all the earthly traffic that so possesses and preoccupies us — our world, our little things, our plans, our goals, our distractions. Stop yourself for a moment. Listen to what God is saying from the throne. Are there purposes unveiled by listening to the talk from the throne? Are there divine secrets uncovered by observing the scenes at the throne? Can we connect the events on earth to God’s speaking from the throne? What is God saying to us?

We can unequivocally declare that we will find our answers to our questions at the throne. There is a clear unveiling of the significance of the events happening on the earth. God did not leave us to wonder what we are doing here on the earth. He does not leave us to our imagination. He speaks — He speaks from the throne. He wants us to be controlled not by human thought, interpretation, philosophy, or speculation, but by *the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him* from the throne (Rev. 1:1). Let us now consider God’s speaking in the 12 scenes around the throne, and seek to connect the events on earth with this speaking.

THE 1ST SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 1—3 *Connecting our environments with the Lord’s speaking and judging*

The 1st scene from the throne in Revelation 1:4 is one of the Lord Himself walking in the midst of the seven churches with His specific speaking to His people. It is the Lord Himself speaking and judging in Revelation 1—3. The content of His speaking is the Spirit pinpointing the specific areas of our lives for His judging and dealing (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). A key verse in this section is Rev. 2:23, “All the churches shall know that *I am He who searches the inmost thoughts and hearts*. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

These penetrating words cause us to connect the inward and outward environments of our lives with His searching and speaking. The following are seven areas of His throne-speaking — may the Lord grant to us His mercy and grace as He searches our inmost thoughts and hearts:

1) *To Ephesus* (Rev. 2:1-7) – The Lord’s speaking here is about our hearts first love and spending time with Him as the priority of our lives. What has first place in our affections? The Lord or the world and other things?

2) *To Smyrna* (Rev. 2:8-11) – The Lord’s speaking here is about being faithful to pass through our most severe tribulations by experiencing death and resurrection. How do we deal with our tribulations and problems? Do we find ourselves blaming God and others, or do we submit to what He allows while seeking to experience the cross to all our fleshly reactions?

3) *To Pergamos* (Rev. 2:12-17) – The Lord’s speaking here is about

the love of the world replacing the love for the Word. For example, does our desire for the TV possess our affections more than our desire for the Word of God?

4) *To Thyatira* (Rev. 2:18-29) – The Lord’s speaking here is about the evil we tolerate in our lives that leads us into the depths of Satan. Have you repented of the evil you tolerate in your life or are you procrastinating and going deeper into it?

5) *To Sardis* (Rev. 3:1-6) – The Lord’s speaking here is about obeying and cooperating with what God has already spoken to you in the past, but you have not obeyed. What are the things in your life that you already know God wants you to act on? Have you completed your obedience?

6) *To Philadelphia* (Rev. 3:7-13) – The Lord’s speaking here is about remaining dependent upon God by means of the Word of God and the Lord’s name. When you feel weak have you retreated to the Word and to His Name?

7) *To Laodicea* (Rev. 3:14-22) – The Lord’s speaking here is about listening to His voice through His discipline in your environment and circumstances. Have you heard from God speaking through your environment? Or, have you turned a deaf ear to what God might be speaking to you with His environmental chastening?

The first scene at the throne of God reveals Christ in the midst of His people speaking, searching, judging, purifying, and perfecting. The content of this scene is confirmed by the apostle Peter when he said, “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God” (1 Pet. 4:17). Thus, we need to connect the inward and outward events that God allows in our lives with what He is speaking to us.

So every little prompting in your life to turn off the TV, to turn off that music, to get out of that ungodly relationship, to break with the vanity of this world, to give up that sinful lifestyle is God’s move in you from the throne. He does not overwhelm you. It is just a small nudge — that still small voice. You can say *amen* to it and go along or ignore it. It makes all the difference in the world whether you say yes or you harden your heart. When you are under the vision of the throne, you realize that the details of your daily life is connected to the throne.

THE 2ND SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 4:1-11 *Connecting events with God’s will in creation*

What is significant in the 2nd scene at the throne is that it is connected with events that will take place on the earth. Thus, the trumpet voice declares in Rev. 4:1-2, ¹ “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this. ² Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.” Before the throne is a glassy sea (4:6), a sea mingled with fire (15:2), signifying God’s judgment. In other words, whatever judgments are coming on the earth in the form of 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls, it is imperative to connect these events with the authority of the throne.

God’s judgment is combined with three noticeable

things in this scene: *a rainbow* (4:3), signifying God's covenant, *4 elders* (4:4), signifying God's government, and *4 living creatures* (4:6-9), signifying God's will in creation. These all combine to send a message to the universe that *God's original will at the time of creation* will yet be fulfilled. The government at the throne declares in Rev. 4:11, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Despite the coming judgments on the earth, when we connect them to the throne, we discover that ultimately they become the background for God's original will in creation to be fulfilled. The Lord's prayer says it succinctly, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth..." The earth exists for God's will. Our life exists for God's will. Even the judgments in the last days must serve God's will. The revelation we receive at the throne of God keeps us focused and occupied with God's eternal will to conform us all to the image of His Son in His kingdom (Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:5; Col. 1:13).

THE 3RD SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 5—6 *Connecting events with God's overall plan*

In Revelation 5, the scene is a most glorious one of Christ as the Lion-Lamb standing in the midst of the throne. He is the only One worthy to take the scroll with seven seals out of the right hand of the One sitting upon the throne, and open it. When the scroll is opened in Revelation 6, we discover it contains not only a white horse signifying the preaching of the gospel, but a red, black, and pale horse signifying war, famine, and death. It contains a vision of martyred saints, and a description of the beginning of the judgments of The Great Tribulation. How do we understand these catastrophic events? Why does God allow this at the end of the age? Again, we must connect the events of the 7 seals with the scene around the throne of God.

Immediately preceding the opening of the 7 sealed scroll, we are connected to a scene around the throne including the following six items: 1] Christ as the overcoming Lion of the Tribe of Judah to defeat God's enemies (5:5); 2] Christ as the redeeming Lamb of God who purchased us with His precious blood (5:6, 9); 3] The sending forth of the Spirit of God inextricably bound up with Christ's person and redeeming work (5:6; cf. 4:5); 4] The fulfillment of God's purpose of making His people a kingdom, and priests to God (5:10); 5] The crucial significance of the saint's prayers (5:8); 6] The awesome release of universal singing, praise, and worship to God and to the Lamb from the great multitude (5:9, 11-14).

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In whatever way we interpret and apply the events on the earth, it cannot be denied that they are connected to the overall plan of God. And the heart of this plan is Christ's redemption for the sending forth of the Spirit to fulfill God's purpose of producing a kingdom where prayer and praise become the main activity of the universe!! This is our destiny. Thus, we see in this 3rd scene what the throne is occupied with — the Lamb's redemption and the consummation of history into the kingdom of God. The events on earth contained in the 7 seals must be connected with God's plan revealed at the throne.

THE 4TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 7:9-17 *Connecting with the supply from the throne*

The 4th scene at the throne immediately precedes the opening of the 7th seal which contains the 7 trumpets. The 7 trumpets are composed of the events of The Great Tribulation. This all means that God wants His people to remain focused upon the throne while passing through catastrophic events on the earth.

The message God sends just before judgment is one that connects us with the throne. Look at the great raptured multitude standing before the throne out of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue! Look at the angels, elders, and four living creatures prostrate before the throne! Then look at how God is supplying His people! They are washed in the blood of the Lamb (7:13-14). They are before the throne day and night serving in His temple (7:15). They are completely protected by God hovering and tabernacling over them so that their every need is bountifully supplied — no more hunger, thirst, heat, tears (7:16-17). The Lamb in the midst of the throne is shepherding and leading them to be supplied at the springs of waters where God personally wipes away every tear (7:17). What a supply!

The hunger, thirst, heat, and tears represent our fears, failures, weaknesses, problems, pressures, trials, and sorrows. The way God delivers us out of all these conditions is by bringing us to the fountain of the water of life to be supplied. It is in the supply of this fountain that God Himself does the work in us to wipe away *every* tear! This teaches us that to live on the earth at the end of the age, we need to spend quality time at the throne of grace letting God supply our every need, every step of the way.

THE 5TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 8:1-6 *Connecting events with the prayers of the saints*

The 5th scene at the throne reveals the awesome significance of the prayers of the saints in relation to the

events on the earth. Listen carefully to Revelation 8:3-5:
³“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.” This scene at the throne teaches us that the events on earth are directly connected to the effectiveness of the prayers of the saints.

Although we can’t fully comprehend it, God’s administration on the earth with His judgments in the last hours are executed by the prayers of the saints. As we pray day by day, we align ourselves with the government of the throne! This 5th scene before the throne shows us how utterly crucial our prayers are to God. It is by a praying life that we can enter into the events taking place on the earth from the divine perspective.

THE 6TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 11:15-18
Connecting the 7th trumpet with the kingdom

At the time of the 7th trumpet including the 7 last bowls of God’s judgment on the earth, we are once again connected to the throne of God. In Revelation 11:15-18, the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and the twenty-four elders before the throne fall on their faces and worship God. From man’s point of view, it is the worst time in history. From God’s point of view, it is the consummation of history and the coming of His kingdom.

THE 7TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 12:5
Connecting war in heaven with the throne

In Revelation 12:5 there is a rapture of overcoming believers, identified as a man-child, to God’s throne (cf. Rev. 12:5 with 2:26-27). This rapture takes place at a time when Satan is seeking to wreak his worst destruction on the earth (Rev. 12:3-12). Thus, Satan’s worst becomes an occasion for overcoming believers at the throne to overcome him and usher in the power and authority of the kingdom (Rev. 12:10-11).

THE 8TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 14:1-5
Connecting the final events with the throne

Before the worship of Antichrist, the battle of Armageddon, and the rise and fall of Babylon, we are once

again taken to the throne and Mt. Zion with 144,000 overcoming firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. Throughout the book of Revelation, the earthly events are always viewed from the vantage point of the throne of God. Should we view them differently?

THE 9TH SCENE AT THE THRONE — REV. 16:17-21
Connecting the greatest earthquake to the throne

The 9th scene at the throne is a loud voice saying, “It is done!” The earth may shake at the time of its greatest earthquake, but the throne and God’s kingdom will never be shaken (Heb. 12:27-28). The throne declares to us that according to God’s timetable His eternal purpose is done!

THE 10TH, 11TH, & 12TH SCENES AT THE THRONE
The marriage supper of the Lamb — Rev. 19:1-10
The holy city, the bride, the Lamb’s wife — 21:1-10
The river of the water of life — 22:1-4

The last 3 scenes around the throne are the ones that consummate the revelation of the whole Bible. They include the final conflicts of the ages, including the judging of Babylon, the battle of Armageddon, the defeat of Antichrist and the False Prophet, the binding of Satan, the rebellion of the nations, etc. Nevertheless, through it all, when we connect with the throne we shout “Hallelujah!” while beholding a bride for the Lamb, a new heaven and a new earth, and a throne flowing out the water of life to supply God’s people for eternity.

I close with the following questions. In light of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 in New York City, Should we not connect the events on earth with the throne of God? Should we not seek to hear what God is saying to us individually and as a nation? — *Bill Freeman*

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