

WEEK 8 —OUTLINE

The Man on the Throne

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:26-27; Gen. 1:26; Acts 7:56; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 2:9; 6:20; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 5:17, 21

<< DAY 1 >>

- I. In the Bible there is a mysterious thought concerning the relationship between God and man (Gen. 1:26; 1 John 3:2b; Rev. 4:3a; 21:11b):
- A. The Bible reveals the resemblances between God and man in their images and likenesses (Gen. 1:26; 18:2-13; Dan. 7:13-14; Acts 7:56; Rom. 5:14; 8:29; Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2b; Rev. 4:3a; 21:11b).
 - B. Man was not created according to his own kind; God created man according to God's kind (Gen. 1:26-27).
 - C. God became a man to produce God-man kind; as believers in Christ, we are God-man kind, God-men (John 1:1, 12-14; 12:24).
 - D. God's desire is to become the same as man is and to make man the same as He is (1 John 3:2b):
 - 1. God's intention is to work Himself in Christ into us, making Himself the same as we are and making us the same as He is (Eph. 3:17a).
 - 2. God's economy is to make Himself man and to make us, His created beings, God, so that He is God "man-ized" and we are man "God-ized."

<< DAY 2 >>

- II. In Ezekiel 1:26 the One on the throne has the appearance of a man:
- A. The One sitting on the throne is not only God but also man; He is the God-man, the man-God, the mingling of God and man (Acts 7:56).
 - B. There is a twofold significance to the fact that the One sitting on the throne has the appearance of a man:
 - 1. There is a connection between Ezekiel 1:26 and Genesis 1:26:
 - a. God created man in His image to express Him and with His authority to represent Him; this was according to His purpose (vv. 26-27; Eph. 3:11).
 - b. God's purpose in creating man in His image and according to His likeness was that man would receive Him as life and express Him (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:9).
 - c. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, to recover the earth, and to bring the kingdom of God to the earth (1:26, 28; Matt. 6:10, 13).

2.Through incarnation God became a man; He lived, died, resurrected, and ascended as a man; and now as the One on the throne He is still a man (John 6:62; Acts 7:56).

C.The appearance of the man on the throne has two aspects; His upper part, from the loins upward, looks like electrum, and His lower part, from the loins downward, looks like fire (Ezek. 1:27):

1.The upper part signifies His nature and disposition; according to His nature and disposition, the One on the throne looks like electrum.

2.The lower part is for moving; the appearance of fire from the loins downward signifies the Lord's appearance in His move.

« DAY 3 »

III. Through His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the Lord Jesus was brought to the throne (Acts 2:36; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9):

A.God has always been the Lord, but now a man is on the throne as the Lord (Rev. 4:2-3; 5:6).

B.After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Him the Lord of all the universe (Phil. 2:9-11):

1.As God, the Lord was the Lord all the time (Luke 1:43; John 11:21; 20:28), but as man, He was made the Lord in His ascension after He brought His humanity into God in His resurrection; in His ascension He was made the Lord of all to possess all (Acts 2:33, 36; 3:15; 10:36).

2.The God-exalted Jesus, the Ruler of the kings of the earth, is the Ruler over all the ones who are in power; He is the chief Ruler in the divine government for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan (Rev. 1:5).

C.As the Pioneer and Forerunner, the Lord Jesus cut the path to the throne and led the way to the throne (Heb. 6:20; 2:10):

1.He became a man, and as a man, He went to the throne (Rev. 3:21).

2.This indicates that He is not the only man destined for the throne; rather, He has cut the path so that we may follow.

3.God intends to bring us into glory and to set us on the throne (22:3-5).

« DAY 4 »

IV. God's intention is to work on man in order that man can be on the throne (Psa. 8:4-8; Rev. 3:21):

A.God's mind is on man; He wants man to express Him and to exercise His authority (Psa. 8:4, 6; Gen. 1:26).

B.God desires to manifest Himself through man and to reign through man.

C. God's goal is to bring us to the throne; His desire is to make us people of the throne:

1. God will not be satisfied until we are on the throne; He cannot receive the full glory until we are brought to the throne (Rev. 22:3-5).

2. God's kingdom cannot come in full until we are on the throne.

3. God's enemy will not be subdued until we are on the throne.

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

1. The greatest difficulty God faces in the universe is that His throne has been opposed and attacked by rebel forces.

2. In his rebellion against God's throne, Satan intended to exalt his throne and thereby to intrude upon God's authority.

3. From the time of Satan's rebellion until now, there has been a dispute regarding authority; much of what is happening on earth today is an expression of Satan's resistance to God's throne.

4. God's intention is to cast Satan down and to redeem many of those taken captive by Satan and to bring them to His throne (Rev. 3:21).

5. There needs to be a people who have been gained by God so that through them the authority of God can be executed and the kingdom of God can come to the earth (11:15; 12:10).

« DAY 5 »

6. We should desire to reign—to exercise authority for God—and to enjoy the blessing of reigning for God (20:4, 6).

E. The overcomers will be on the throne with Christ as His co-kings (3:21):

1. Christ is on the throne, and they also will be on the throne.

2. Christ has all the authority, and the overcomers will share in this authority to rule over the nations (Matt. 28:18; Rev. 2:26-27).

V. In order to be brought to the throne, we need to experience the humanity of Jesus with its virtues and to reign in life (Eph. 4:1-2, 20; Matt. 11:29; Rom. 5:17, 21):

A. If we would have the proper human virtues, we need the humanity of Jesus (Eph. 4:1-2):

1. As believers, we have Christ with all His human virtues dwelling in us to be our humanity (Col. 1:27):

a. Every aspect of our daily walk should conform to the Lord's humanity in our spirit (Rom. 8:4).

b. As we live under the Lord's ruling and experience Christ's humanity, we will

never be out of balance; rather, everything will be properly proportioned.

2. We need to eat Christ as the meal offering to become the reproduction of Christ and to live the life of a God-man (Lev. 2:9-10; 6:14-18; Luke 22:19; John 6:57; 1 Cor. 10:17).

« DAY 6 »

B. God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness (Rom. 5:17, 21):

1. We have been regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life; this life enables us to reign as kings (John 3:3-6).

2. In practice, to reign in life is to be under the ruling of the divine life:

a. Christ is a pattern of reigning in life by being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father (Matt. 8:9; John 18:11; Phil. 2:8).

b. When we are under the ruling of the divine life, we have the sense that we are enthroned as kings to reign over all things (Rom. 5:17).

3. To reign in life is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the world, sin, the flesh, ourselves, all kinds of insubordination, and all the environmental circumstances (8:35, 37).

4. If we would reign in life, we need to continually receive the abundance of grace, the fullness of the enjoyment of God (5:17, 21):

a. We need to come again and again to the divine source and open ourselves from the depths of our being to be filled with God as grace (Heb. 4:16).

b. The more we receive the abundance of grace, the more we reign in life (John 1:16; Rom. 5:17, 21).

« WEEK 8 —DAY 1 »

Morning Nourishment

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

In the Bible there is a mysterious thought concerning the relationship between God and man. God's desire is to become the same as man is and to make man the same as He is. This means that God's intention is to mingle Himself with man and thereby make Himself like man and make man like Him. The Lord Jesus is the God-man; He is the complete God and the perfect man. We may also say that He is the Man-God. The One whom we worship today is the Man-God. Furthermore, to be a man of God, as Moses was (Deut. 33:1; Josh. 14:6; Psa. 90, title), is to be a God-man, a man who is mingled with God. It is a delight to God that all His chosen and redeemed people would be God-men. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 124)

Today's Reading

I would like to give a very brief word on the resemblance of God and man in their images and likenesses....In God's creation there was not such a thing as "mankind"...If God did not create "mankind," then after what kind was man created? Genesis 1:26 indicates that man is after God's kind. This verse says, "Let Us [the Divine Trinity] make adam [Heb. adam, denoting red clay] in Our image, according to Our likeness." Hence, what God made here was after His own kind, that is, God-kind.

The choosing God became a man. This God-man, through His death and resurrection, has made a mass reproduction of Himself. He as the one grain became many grains (John 12:24). The many grains are ground into fine flour and blended together to become one loaf (1 Cor. 10:17). The Lord Jesus as the only begotten Son of God was the one grain, and He made us the many grains, His many "twins," His many brothers (Rom. 8:29), to be blended into one loaf, one Body. Among us there is no difference in nationality, race, or social rank (Col. 3:11). We are a new kind, "God-man kind."

We need new terms and expressions to describe matters in our spiritual culture. God-man kind is such an expression. In Christ God and man have become one entity, the God-man. In God's creation there was no mankind; there was only man as God's kind. It was through man's fall that mankind came into existence. Eventually God became a man to have a mass reproduction of Himself and thereby to produce a new kind. This new kind is neither God's kind nor mankind—it is God-man kind. Today as believers in Christ, we are God-man kind; we are God-men. (Life-study of 1 & 2 Chronicles, pp. 85, 24)

God Himself became a man, and today on the throne He is still a man. People may want to be like God, but God wants to be a man. God's intention is to work Himself into us, making us the same as He is, and even more, making Himself the same as we are. Thus, God's intention is to have a man and to work Himself into man. We need to be deeply impressed with the fact that the Lord is still on the throne as a man. In the book of Ezekiel, the term the son of man is used more than ninety times. This indicates how much God desires to have a man. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 124-125)

God's economy and plan is to make Himself man and to make us, His created beings, "God," so that He is "man-ized" and we are "God-ized." In the end, He and we, we and He, all become God-men. Hence, it is not enough for us to be good men, spiritual men, or holy men. These are not what God is after. What God wants today is God-men. God does not expect us to improve ourselves, because God is not after our being good men. He wants us to be God-men. He is our life and everything to us for the purpose that we would express Him and live Him out. (A Deeper Study of the Divine Dispensing, p. 54)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 & 2 Chronicles, msgs. 2, 4

« WEEK 8 —DAY 2 »

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 1:26-27 ...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. Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire....There was brightness all around Him.

Acts 7:56 And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

We will go on to consider the One sitting on the throne (Ezek. 1:26-27)....[In verse 26b] we are told that the One on the throne looks like a man. This is absolutely different from the human concept and also different from the religious concept, including the concept widely held in today's Christianity. Mainly, our concept is that the One on the throne is the mighty God. Have you ever thought that the Lord on the throne is not only the mighty God but is also a man? Oh, the One who sits on the throne is a man! However, verse 28 speaks of "the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah." The One on the throne looks like a man, yet with Him there is the appearance of the glory of the Lord. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 123)

Today's Reading

How precious it is that the One sitting on the throne in Ezekiel 1:26 has the appearance of a man!...There is at least a twofold significance to the fact that the One sitting on the throne here has the appearance of a man. First, there is surely a connection between Ezekiel 1:26 and Genesis 1:26, which says that God created man in His own image and according to His likeness. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 124)

Created man was a duplication of God in God's image and likeness, but he did not have the reality of God or the life of God. Thus, he still needed to receive God as his life by eating of the tree of life so that he might have the reality of God to express Him (Gen. 2:9 and footnote 2). (Gen. 1:26, footnote 3)

God created a corporate man not only to express Himself with His image but also to represent Him by exercising His dominion over all things. God's intention in giving man dominion is (1) to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God; (2) to recover the earth, which was usurped by Satan; and (3) to exercise God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on the earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on the earth (Matt. 6:10, 13b). (Gen. 1:26, footnote 5)

In the incarnation God Himself became a man. Having the nature of man, He lived, died, resurrected, and ascended as a man, and now in heaven He is still the Son of Man (John 6:62; Acts 7:56).

Ezekiel 1:27 says, "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." Here we see that the appearance of the man on the throne has two aspects: From His loins upward He looks like electrum, and from His loins downward He looks like fire. Why does His upper part look like electrum, and why does His lower part look like fire? The upper part of a man, from his loins to his head, is the part of feeling, of sensation. This part signifies his nature and disposition. According to His nature and disposition the Lord Jesus on the throne looks like electrum. The lower part of a man's body is for moving. The appearance of fire from the loins downward signifies the Lord's appearance in His move.

When the Lord comes to us, He first comes as fire. When He stays with us, He becomes electrum. Furthermore, whenever the Lord moves through us, He moves like fire to burn, enlighten, and search. After this burning something will remain, and that will be the electrum—a mixture of gold and silver signifying the Lamb-God, the redeeming God. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 124, 129-130)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 & 2 Chronicles, msg. 13; The Vital Groups, msg. 10

« WEEK 8 —DAY 3 »

Morning Nourishment

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

Phil. 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

Through His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the Lord Jesus was brought to the throne. A real man whose name is Jesus is on the throne. This is why we declare, “Jesus is Lord” and why we call, “O Lord Jesus.” God has always been the Lord, but now a man is on the throne as the Lord. Through His resurrection and in His ascension, “God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus” (Acts 2:36). God has made Jesus, a Nazarene, the Lord, and now today the Lord of heaven and of earth is a man. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 129)

Today’s Reading

Do you really realize that the Lord of the universe today is a man? Hallelujah for this man! It would not seem strange to us to say that Jehovah Elohim is the Lord of the universe. But it is not easy for us to realize that a man who could be crucified and buried could be the Lord of the universe. When Judas and the multitude came to arrest Him, He did not run away. He willingly made Himself weak and allowed Himself to be arrested and crucified. In the words of 2 Corinthians 13:4, “He was crucified out of weakness.” But after He was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Him the Lord of all the universe. Today, the Lord of the universe is a man. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 129)

As God, the Lord was the Lord all the time (Luke 1:43; John 11:21; 20:28). But as man, He was made the Lord in His ascension after He brought His humanity into God in His resurrection. And as God’s sent and anointed One, He was Christ from the time He was born (Luke 2:11; Matt. 1:16; John 1:41; Matt. 16:16). But as such a One, He was also officially made the very Christ of God in His ascension. The Lord was made Lord, as the Lord of all (Acts 10:36), to possess all; and He was made Christ, as God’s Anointed (Heb. 1:9), to carry out God’s commission. (Life-study of Acts, p. 81)

In ascension Christ is also the Ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:5). As the Ruler of the kings He is far above all earthly rulers. Apparently the earth is ruled by kings and presidents; actually the Lord Jesus rules the whole earth through the earthly authorities. Even all the kings and presidents are under His rule. Today He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16). He is the Ruler of all the ones who are in power. He is the chief Ruler in the divine government for the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 338)

We also need to see that the Lord Jesus led the way to the throne. He was the Pioneer, the Forerunner (Heb. 6:20), cutting the path to the throne (2:10). This indicates that He is not the only man destined for the throne. He has cut the path and has taken the lead so that we may follow. He was the first one to the throne, and we will come after Him. Now we are marching to the throne, for God intends to bring us into glory and to set us on the throne.

In Revelation 3:21 the Lord Jesus says, “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.” The Lord Jesus seemed to be saying that He became a man, and as a man He went to the throne. God’s intention is to take us to the throne. His desire is to make us people of the throne. God’s kingdom cannot come in full until we are on the throne. Furthermore, God’s enemy will not be subdued until we are on the throne. God’s goal, therefore, is not merely to deliver us out of hell but to bring us to the throne. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 129, 127)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 123-131; Life-study of Acts, msg. 10

« WEEK 8 —DAY 4 »

Morning Nourishment

Psa. 8:4 What is mortal man, that You remember him, and the son of man, that You visit him?

6 For You have caused Him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under His feet.

God's intention is to work on man in order that man can be on the throne. Have you ever realized that this is His intention? We might be satisfied to go to heaven. This might satisfy us, but it would never satisfy God. God will not be satisfied until we are on the throne. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 126)

Today's Reading

Why does God want to bring us to the throne? God desires to bring us to the throne because of the rebellion of Satan against God's throne (Isa. 14). If we read the Bible carefully, we will see that the greatest difficulty God faces in the universe is that His throne has been opposed and attacked by rebel forces. God's throne is absolute, but one of His creatures has rebelled and seeks to exalt his throne to be equal with that of God. In his rebellion against God's throne, Satan intended to exalt his throne to the heavens and thereby to intrude upon God's authority. Isaiah 14:12-14 says, "How you have fallen from heaven, / O Daystar, son of the dawn!.../ But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne..../ I will make myself like the Most High." From the time of Satan's rebellion until now, there has been a dispute in the universe regarding authority. Much of what is happening on earth is an expression of Satan's resistance to God's throne. The crucial question is this: Who is actually reigning on earth—God or Satan?

When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was absolutely submissive to God's authority. To obey the Lord is to be a person under the throne. Because the Lord Jesus obeyed God the Father and submitted to God's authority in an absolute way, after He was resurrected from the dead, God gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18) and exalted Him to the throne. Now the One sitting on the throne is not only God but also man, for this One is the mingling of God and man. Therefore, after the ascension of the Lord Jesus, there has been a man on the throne.

God's mind is on man (Heb. 2:6), and He wants man to express Him and to exercise His authority. Man has God's image and God's dominion with His authority. God desires to manifest Himself through man, and He desires to reign, to administrate, through man.

God's intention is to cast Satan down and to redeem many of those taken captive by Satan and bring them to His throne. God cannot receive the full glory until we are brought to the throne. One day we will be brought to the throne, and then God will be able to boast to Satan. He will triumphantly declare that His chosen ones, who had been taken captive by Satan, have been brought to the throne.

However, we need to realize that in our present condition we are not qualified to be on the throne. Do you look like a king? If you were weighed on the heavenly scales to determine your spiritual weight, how much would you weigh? I am concerned that many of us would weigh hardly anything at all. This is a very serious matter. We have been called to be sons of God, and we are destined to be kings, but we need God to work in us and on us to qualify us for kingship. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 127-128)

A Christian who is up to the standard has not only been delivered from sin, overcome the world, had his flesh dealt with and his natural constitution broken, been filled with the Holy Spirit, and is sitting in the heavenly realm, but even more he is reigning with Christ in all things. Whether in God's work, in the church, at home, or in any encounter in his environment, he can reign and rule over that which God wants him to rule. There must be such people gained by God so that through them the authority of God can be executed, and the kingdom of God can come upon the earth. (The Experience of Life, pp. 346-347)

Further Reading: The Experience of Life, ch. 17; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 414

« WEEK 8 —DAY 5 »

Morning Nourishment

Eph. 4:1-2 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love.

We must have the desire to reign. This means that we must positively and actively reign for God, ruling over all things.

In eternity all those who are saved will reign as kings forever and ever (Rev. 22:5). At that time we will truly and fully enjoy the blessing of reigning for God. (The Experience of Life, pp. 351-352, 346)

The overcomers will be on the throne with Christ as His co-kings (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). Christ is on the throne, and they also will be on the throne. He has the authority, and they also will have the same authority to rule over the nations. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 4218)

Today's Reading

First Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, and Ephesians 5:3-5 are verses that show us the humanity which is not fit for God's kingdom. I do not even like to mention all these things; they are the negative side of human virtues. These verses mean that if we do not have the proper human virtues, we are finished as far as the kingdom of God is concerned. If we mean business with God to participate in His kingdom, we must have the proper human virtues. It is impossible to have these virtues by ourselves. But thank God that we have One who is the proper, unique man dwelling in our spirit. Such a One with all His proper human virtues is in us to be our humanity.

May the Lord help us to realize how much we need His humanity. We need all the human virtues in order to put Satan to shame. Every bit of our daily walk must conform with the Lord's humanity in our spirit. If the Lord's humanity does not agree with what we are doing, we must say, "Lord, I will never go against Your humanity within me in this matter. I will simply give it up." If we do this, we will all have a proper daily life in the humanity of Jesus. Then we will have a proper church life, and this church life will be God's kingdom on the earth today. This will be a real shame to Satan and a real boast to God.

For God to have a kingdom on the earth among the younger generation, there is the need of a group of people to be redeemed and regenerated in order to take the humanity of Jesus. By this humanity they are balanced in all things. For example, not long ago the neckties were quite narrow. But today they are wider than ever. They look like a big fan. Do you not think that is rather extreme? Of course, outward adjustment will never work, but if we take the humanity of Jesus, I believe that we will not be that extreme. By taking the Lord's humanity, we will never be out of balance. We must be under God's heavenly ruling.

We must realize that the meal offering is mainly for us. Only a handful as a memorial is for God; all the remainder, the major part, is for the priests. "What is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'" (Lev. 2:3). This is the diet of the priests. The priests feed on Christ as the meal offering day by day. We are the priests, so we must eat Christ as the meal offering for our priestly diet.

The Lord Jesus said in John 6:57, "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me." If we eat the meal offering, we will live because of this offering. We are what we eat. What we eat eventually becomes our being. If day by day we eat Christ as our meal offering, eventually we will become Christ. "To me, to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). It is this kind of life that is adequate to serve God in the priesthood.

The more we enjoy Christ as such a diet, the more we will be nourished, qualified, strengthened, and supported to serve God in a priestly way. This is why we need to experience such a Jesus daily. (CWWL, 1971, vol. 2, "Christ as the Reality," pp. 142-143, 140-141, 34)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1971, vol. 2, "Christ as the Reality," chs. 4, 6, 8-9, 15-17

« WEEK 8 —DAY 6 »

Morning Nourishment

Rom. 5:17 ...Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The grace of God and the gift in grace of Christ abounded to the many unto justification of life to all men that many would reign in life through Christ [cf. Rom 5:17]...The goal of being justified is to have life and reign in life. We are saved in life to the extent that the life we have received enthrones us as kings to reign over all things. God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace—God Himself as our all-sufficient supply for our organic salvation—and of the gift of righteousness—God's judicial redemption applied to us in a practical way. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 3042)

Today's Reading

We are saved in the divine life of Christ, by reigning in the divine life, from all kinds of insubordination. To be saved in life causes us to reign as kings. According to Romans 5:17, those who receive the abundance of grace and the abundance of the gift of righteousness, those who are justified, shall reign in life. A justified person should reign because he has the divine life, a kingly life, with which to reign. Without the kingly life, no one can reign. When we were redeemed by Christ, forgiven of our sins, and washed by the blood of Christ, we were justified. In addition, we were regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life. Thus, we are now able to reign in life as kings. (To Be Saved in the Life of Christ as Revealed in Romans, p. 9)

To reign in life is to be under the ruling of the divine life. If we look at the life of the Lord Jesus as the God-man in His humanity on the earth, He was absolutely under the ruling of the divine life of the Father. Everything He did was under the Father's ruling. As a man, He rejected His natural humanity and lived a human life under the restriction of the divine life of His heavenly Father. By practically being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father, He was reigning in life. This is the pattern we should follow. (Crystallization-study of the Complete Salvation of God in Romans, p. 42)

To reign is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the world, sin, the flesh, ourselves, and all our environmental circumstances....Instead of waiting for the millennium in order to reign with Christ, we should desire to reign in life as kings today.

Those who receive the abundance of grace are able to reign in life, for life issues out of the abundance of grace. We have received righteousness objectively, but we still need to continually receive the abundance of grace so that we can reign in life subjectively. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 3043, 3042)

In Romans 5:17 Paul speaks of our receiving the abundance of grace. We need to come to the very God who is grace and receive grace again and again until we are filled with grace. Only when we are filled with grace can we experience the reigning of grace. When grace is allowed to fill us, it abounds in us and then reigns in us. The reigning grace always follows the abounding grace.

The only thing that works is to come to the divine source and open ourselves from the depths of our being to be filled with God as grace. In order to be filled, we must ask the Lord to remove all insulation and frustration. We need to pray, "Lord, I am willing for every hindrance to be removed. I want to keep myself directly open to You. Lord, fill me completely with Yourself as grace." Wherever you are, at work, at school, or in your car, stay open to the Lord to be filled with Him as grace. This is what it means to receive the abundance of grace. As you receive grace in this way, you will be filled with grace and eventually grace will overflow from within you. Then you will reign in life by grace over sin, death, and Satan. (Life-study of Romans, pp. 509-510)

Further Reading: Crystallization-study of the Complete Salvation of God in Romans, msgs. 4-6; Salvation in Life in the Book of Romans, ch. 7; Life-study of Romans, msgs. 46-47

Hymns, #505

There's a Man in the glory

Experience of Christ — As Life

505

1. There's a Man in the glo - ry Whose Life is for
 me. He's pure and He's ho - ly, Tri - um - phant and free.
 He's wise and He's lov - ing How ten - der is He! His
 Life in the glo - ry, My life must be; His Life in
 the glo - ry, My life must be.

2. There's a Man in the glory

Whose Life is for me.
 He overcame Satan;
 From bondage He's free.
 In Life He is reigning;
 How kingly is He!
 His Life in the glory,
 My life must be;
 His Life in the glory,
 My life must be.

4. There's a Man in the glory

Whose Life is for me.
 His peace is abiding;
 How patient is He!
 He's joyful and radiant,
 Expecting to see
 His Life in the glory
 Lived out in me;
 His Life in the glory
 Lived out in me.

3. There's a Man in the glory

Whose Life is for me.
 In Him is no sickness;
 No weakness has He.
 He's strong and in vigor,
 How buoyant is He!
 His Life in the glory
 My life may be;
 His Life in the glory
 My life may be.