

## Message Seven

# The Highest Point in Our Spiritual Experience— Having a Clear Sky with a Throne above It

EM *Hymns: 372, 942*

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:22-28;

Rev. 4:2; 1 Kings 22:19; Isa. 6:1; Dan. 7:9-10

- 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 1:23 And under the expanse one pair of their wings went straight out, one toward the other; each had another pair covering their bodies on this side and on that side.
- Ezek 1:24 And I heard the sound of their wings, like the sound of great waters, like the voice of the Almighty, as they went; it was the sound of a tumult, like the sound of an army. Whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- Ezek 1:25 And there was a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads. When they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- 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.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- 1 Kings 22:19 And Micaiah said, Hear therefore the word of Jehovah, I saw Jehovah sitting upon His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him, on His right hand and on His left.
- Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
- Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.
- Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

### I. **“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. 1:22:**

- A. Over the heads of the four living creatures, there is the firmament, the expanse, which we call the sky.
- B. The sky above the living creatures is like a great expanse of awesome crystal, indicating that above them is a clear, open, and expanding heaven:
1. They have a thorough fellowship with the Lord vertically and also a clear fellowship among themselves horizontally; they have a wide and stable span of fellowship—1 John 1:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:9.
    - 1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
    - 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
    - 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
    - 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. When we reach the point of having a clear, open, stable, and expanding heaven, there will be nothing between us and God, and nothing between us and one another.
- C. The kind of sky we have as Christians depends on our conscience; our conscience is connected to our sky—Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:12:
- Rom 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,
- 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
1. We need to maintain a clear sky with the Lord, that is, have a clear fellowship with Him—1 John 1:3, 6.
 

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
  2. If we would have a clear sky, we need to deal with any offense or condemnation in our conscience—Acts 24:16.
 

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.
  3. When there is nothing between us and the Lord, our sky will be crystal clear, and we will have not only a good conscience but also a pure conscience—1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3; cf. Matt. 5:8; Prov. 22:11; 2 Tim. 2:22.
 

1 Tim 1:5 But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;

1 Tim 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;

1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day,

Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Prov 22:11 He who loves pureness of heart / And whose speech is gracious will have the king as his friend.

2 Tim 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

## II. “And under the expanse one pair of their wings went straight out, one toward the other; each had another pair covering their bodies on this side and on that side”—Ezek. 1:23:

- A. The four living creatures stretch out two of their wings for coordination; this indicates that if we are under a clear, open, stable, and expanding sky, we can have a coordination that is altogether straight, with nothing crooked.
- B. The four living creatures use the other two wings to cover themselves; this indicates that in the coordination we should not display ourselves but should hide ourselves under the Lord’s grace—2 Cor. 3:5-6; 12:9; Phil. 3:3.
 

2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God,

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

**III. “And I heard the sound of their wings, like the sound of great waters, like the voice of the Almighty, as they went; it was the sound of a tumult, like the sound of an army”— Ezek. 1:24a:**

- A. The voice is not that of an individual but is strong, like the sound of great waters:
1. The voice comes out of the wings that are joined together.
  2. The voice of the testimony of any local church should not be the voice of any individual believer; it must be the voice of a corporate, coordinated body, a voice that comes out of the proper coordination—cf. Acts 2:14.  
Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke forth to them: Men of Judea, and all who are dwelling in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.
- B. The voice of a corporate body becomes the voice of the Almighty, the voice of God Himself.
- C. The voice is also the voice of an army fighting the battle for God’s economy—cf. 2 Tim. 4:7.  
2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

**IV. “Whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings. And there was a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads. When they stood still, they dropped their wings”—Ezek. 1:24b-25:**

- A. When the living creatures hear a voice out of the clear sky above their heads, they stop and let down their wings:
1. This indicates that they know not only how to speak and sound forth their voice but also how to listen to God’s voice— 1 Kings 19:11-12; cf. Exo. 21:5-6; Isa. 50:4-5; Luke 10:38-42.  
1 Kings 19:11 And He said, Go out, and stand upon the mountain before Jehovah. And suddenly Jehovah passed by, and a great, strong wind rent the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before Jehovah-Jehovah was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake-Jehovah was not in the earthquake.  
1 Kings 19:12 And after the earthquake, a fire-Jehovah was not in the fire. And after the fire, a gentle, quiet voice.  
Exo 21:5 But if the servant plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free;  
Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.  
Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.  
Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.  
Luke 10:38 Now as they went, He entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her home.  
Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord’s feet and was listening to His word.  
Luke 10:40 But Martha was being drawn about with much serving, and she came up to Him and said, Lord, does it not matter to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to do her part with me.  
Luke 10:41 But the Lord answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things;  
Luke 10:42 But there is need of one thing, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.
  2. Whenever they listen to God’s voice, they stop moving, stand still, and lower their wings.
  3. They know how to give the voice by moving, and they know how to listen to God’s voice by stopping.
  4. In spiritual things, seeing depends on hearing; hearing is deeper than seeing and more

intimate than seeing—Rev. 2:7a; 1:10, 12; Isa. 50:4-5; Matt. 18:15-17.

Rev 2:7a He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ...

Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.

Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.

Matt 18:15 Moreover if your brother sins against you, go, reprove him between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Matt 18:16 But if he does not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matt 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector.

B. A clear and open heaven, speaking for the Lord, and listening to the Lord are all matters of fellowship—1 John 1:7:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1. Genuine fellowship is related to genuine coordination.

2. When we have fellowship with God and with one another, there will be genuine coordination among us; then we can speak for God and also listen quietly to His speaking.

## V. We need to see a vision of the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe—Rev. 4:2; 5:1; 6:16; 7:9; 8:3; 21:5; Dan. 7:9-10:

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 6:16 And they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits upon the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Rev 7:9 After these things I saw, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.

Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

A. The book of Revelation unveils God's universal administration; this book reveals that the universe operates according to God's administration— 4:2, 5.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

B. The throne in Revelation 4 and 5 is the throne of divine authority:

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

Rev 4:4 And around the throne there were twenty-four thrones, and upon the thrones twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and upon their heads golden crowns.

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Rev 4:6 And before the throne there was as it were a glassy sea like crystal; and in the midst of the throne and around the throne, there were four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

Rev 4:7 And the first living creature was like a lion, and the second living creature like a calf, and the third living creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

Rev 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings apiece, are full of eyes around and within; and they have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.

Rev 4:9 And when the four living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits upon the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 The twenty-four elders will fall before Him who sits upon the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever; and they will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven nor on the earth nor under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it.

Rev 5:4 And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it.

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.

Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

Rev 5:11 And I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and of the living creatures and of the elders, and their number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.

1. God's throne is related to His administration, which is a matter of His economy—Eph. 1:10; 3:9.

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,



2. God on the throne is behind the scene, ruling over everyone and everything—Isa. 6:1; 1 Kings 22:19.
  - Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
  - 1 Kings 22:19 And Micaiah said, Hear therefore the word of Jehovah, I saw Jehovah sitting upon His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him, on His right hand and on His left.
3. Everything in the world situation is decided on the throne; nothing can happen outside the rule of God's throne— Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Luke 22:31-32.
  - Job 1:6 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them.
  - Job 1:7 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.
  - Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.
  - Job 1:9 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Does Job fear God without cause?
  - Job 1:10 Have You not set a hedge around him and his household and all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his possessions are spread throughout the land.
  - Job 1:11 But stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.
  - Job 1:12 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here is all that he has, in your hand; only do not stretch forth your hand against him. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence.
  - Job 2:1 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them to present himself before Jehovah.
  - Job 2:2 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.
  - Job 2:3 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.
  - Job 2:4 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Skin for skin! Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life.
  - Job 2:5 But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face.
  - Job 2:6 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life.
  - Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has asked to have you all to sift you as wheat.
  - Luke 22:32 But I have made petition concerning you that your faith would not fail; and you, once you have turned again, establish your brothers.

## **VI. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it—Ezek. 1:26-28:**

- 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.
- A. The throne is the center of the universe, and it is where God is—Rev. 4:2:
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

1. The Lord's presence is always with the throne and can never be separated from the throne.
2. The Lord's throne is not only in the third heaven but also in our spirit; therefore, the Lord's throne is always with us—Heb. 4:12, 16 and footnote 1.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the <sup>1</sup>throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

note 1 Undoubtedly, the throne mentioned here is the throne of God, which is in heaven (Rev. 4:2). The throne of God is the throne of authority toward all the universe (Dan. 7:9; Rev. 5:1). But toward us, the believers, it becomes the throne of grace, signified by the propitiation place (the mercy seat) within the Holy of Holies (Exo. 25:17, 21). This throne is the throne of both God and the Lamb (Rev. 22:1). How can we come to the throne of God and the Lamb, Christ, in heaven while we still live on earth? The secret is our spirit, referred to in v. 12. The very Christ who is sitting on the throne in heaven (Rom. 8:34) is also now in us (Rom. 8:10), that is, in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22), where the habitation of God is (Eph. 2:22). At Bethel, the house of God, the habitation of God, which is the gate of heaven, Christ is the ladder that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth (Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51). Since today our spirit is the place of God's habitation, it is now the gate of heaven, where Christ is the ladder that joins us, the people on earth, to heaven, and brings heaven to us. Hence, whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder.

- B. If we have a clear sky, the throne will be present, and we will spontaneously be under the ruling and reigning of the throne.
- C. For God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us.
- D. To have the throne above a clear sky is to allow God to have the highest and most prominent position in our Christian life.
- E. In our spiritual experience, to reach the point of having the throne above a clear sky means that in everything we are completely submissive to God's authority and administration.
- F. The clearer our sky is, the more we are under the throne; the more we have clear fellowship with the Lord, the more we will be under His authority—cf. Rev. 22:1.  
Rev 22:1 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.
- G. If we have the throne above the clear sky, we are greatly blessed, and we should worship God for this blessing.
- H. Today there are not many believers who are living completely under the ruling of God:
  1. The goal of dealing with the conscience is to recover us from human rule through self-rule to God's rule so that we may be directly under His control.
  2. In His complete salvation God desires to recover us to divine rule so that we may live before God in simplicity and under His direct authority.
  3. To be under God's rule means that we live by the intuition of the spirit.
  4. The more we are ruled by God, the more weighty and noble we become.

## **VII. The throne is not only for God to reign over us but also for Him to accomplish His eternal purpose—4:11; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:11:**

Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- A. God is a God of purpose, having a will according to His good pleasure—1:5, 9.
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- B. In His economy God administrates the universe to fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11.
- Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- C. If we have a 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—2 Tim. 1:9.
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- D. If we want God's purpose and plan to be carried out in us and with us, we must submit to the throne.

### **VIII. The only authority in the church is the throne above the clear sky—Matt. 28:18-19; 20:20-28:**

- Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matt 20:20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, worshipping and asking something of Him.
- Matt 20:21 And He said to her, What do you want? She said to Him, Say that these two sons of mine will sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your kingdom.
- Matt 20:22 But Jesus answered and said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I am about to drink? They said to Him, We are able.
- Matt 20:23 He said to them, My cup you shall indeed drink, but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.
- Matt 20:24 And when the ten heard this, they were indignant concerning the two brothers.
- Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them.
- Matt 20:26 It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,
- Matt 20:27 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;
- Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
- A. In the church there is no human authority—23:11; 20:25-27.
- Matt 23:11 And the greatest among you shall be your servant.
- Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them.
- Matt 20:26 It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,
- Matt 20:27 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;
- B. Instead of trying to rule over others, we should humble ourselves and remain under the throne above the clear sky.
- C. If we are under a clear sky with the throne above it, genuine authority will be with us—2 Cor. 10:8; 13:10.
- 2 Cor 10:8 For even if I should boast somewhat more abundantly concerning our authority, which the Lord has given for building you up and not for overthrowing you, I will not be put to shame.



2 Cor 13:10 Therefore I write these things while being absent in order that when present I would not have to use severity, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for building up and not for overthrowing.

- D. Our weight before God depends on the degree of our subjection to God's authority; the more we submit to the throne, the weightier we will be.

### **IX. In Ezekiel 1:26 “the likeness of a throne” is “like the appearance of a sapphire stone”:**

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. A sapphire stone is blue in color, and blue is a heavenly color indicating the situation and condition of God's presence— Exo. 24:10.

Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.

- B. The throne being in the likeness of a sapphire stone indicates the presence of God in a heavenly situation.

- C. If we have God's throne above the clear sky, we will be in a heavenly situation, having the appearance of a sapphire stone with the heavenly situation, atmosphere, and condition of the Lord's presence.

- D. We should care only for the presence of the Lord, not for anything else; in other words, we care only for the clear sky with the throne above it.

### **X. The throne in the heavens is transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures—Ezek. 1:5, 26:**

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.

- A. Wherever they are, the throne is there, and wherever they go, the throne follows them.

- B. In this way the throne in the heavens becomes one with the earth, for the throne is transmitted to the earth—Matt. 6:10; 16:19; 18:18.

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt 16:19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

- C. This needs to be the situation among the local churches today, the situation among the overcomers, and the situation and condition of our daily Christian life.