

Message Eight

The Man on the Throne

RK *Hymns*: 124, 132

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.
- Heb 6:20 Where the Forerunner, Jesus, has entered for us, having become forever a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedec.
- Rev 3:21 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.
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

- 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.
- 1 John 3:2b ... We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

- Rev 4:3a And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, ...
- Rev 21:11b ... Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

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.

- 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.
- Gen 18:2 And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and there were three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them. And he bowed down to the earth
- Gen 18:3 And said, My Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass on from Your servant.
- Gen 18:4 Please let a little water be fetched, and do wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.
- Gen 18:5 And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may sustain yourselves. After that you may pass on, since you have come to your servant. So they said, Do as you have said.

- Gen 18:6 And Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, Quickly prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it, and make cakes.
- Gen 18:7 And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.
- Gen 18:8 And he took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set them before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- Gen 18:9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, There, in the tent.
- Gen 18:10 And He said, I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and then Sarah your wife shall have a son. And Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind Him.
- Gen 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah according to the manner of women.
- Gen 18:12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?
- Gen 18:13 And Jehovah said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I indeed bear a child when I am old?
- Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him.
- Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.
- 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.
- Rom 5:14 But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
- 1 John 3:2b ... We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
- Rev 4:3a And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, ...
- Rev 21:11b ... Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- B. Man was not created according to his own kind; God created man according to God's kind—Gen. 1:26-27.
- 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.
- Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 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.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- 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.

- 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 John 3:2b ... We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
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.
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 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."

II. In Ezekiel 1:26 the One on the throne has the appearance 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. 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.
 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.
 - 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:

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.

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.

 - 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.
 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.
 - Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - 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.
 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.
 - Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - 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.
 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.

- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Matt 6:13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
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.
- John 6:62 Then what if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?
- 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.
- 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:
- 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.
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.

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:

- 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 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
- Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.
- A. God has always been the Lord, but now a man is on the throne as the Lord—Rev. 4:2-3; 5:6.
- 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 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.
- 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:
- Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

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.

Luke 1:43 And how has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

John 11:21 Then Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

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.

Acts 3:15 And the Author of life you killed, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Acts 10:36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel in announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (this One is Lord of all)

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.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

- 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:

Heb 6:20 Where the Forerunner, Jesus, has entered for us, having become forever a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedec.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

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

Rev 3:21 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.

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.

Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

Rev 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.

Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

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:

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

Psa 8:5 You have made him a little lower than angels / And have crowned him with glory and honor.

Psa 8:6 For You have caused him to rule over the works of Your hands; / You have put all things under his feet:

Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen, / As well as the beasts of the field,

Psa 8:8 The birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, / Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

Rev 3:21 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.

- 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.
- Psa 8:4 What is mortal man, that You remember him, / And the son of man, that You visit him?
Psa 8:6 For You have caused him to rule over the works of Your hands; / You have put all things under his feet:
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.
- 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.
Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
Rev 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.
Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
 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:
- 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. 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.
Rev 3:21 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.
 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.
Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
 6. We should desire to reign—to exercise authority for God— and to enjoy the blessing of reigning for God—20:4, 6.
Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony

of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

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

Rev 3:21 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.

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.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

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:

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

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

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

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

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

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.

Lev 2:9 And the priest shall take up from the meal offering its memorial portion and shall burn it on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev 2:10 And that which is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'; it is a thing most holy of Jehovah's offerings by fire.

- Lev 6:14 And this is the law of the meal offering: The sons of Aaron shall present it before Jehovah before the altar.
- Lev 6:15 And one shall take up from it his handful of the fine flour of the meal offering and of its oil and all the frankincense which is on the meal offering, and he shall burn it on the altar for a satisfying fragrance as its memorial portion to Jehovah.
- Lev 6:16 And what is left of it Aaron and his sons may eat; it shall be eaten without leaven in a holy place; in the court of the Tent of Meeting they shall eat it.
- Lev 6:17 It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of My offerings by fire; it is most holy, like the sin offering and like the trespass offering.
- Lev 6:18 Every male among the children of Aaron shall eat of it; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations from Jehovah's offerings by fire; whoever touches them shall be holy.
- Luke 22:19 And He took a loaf and gave thanks, and He broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

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:

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

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

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.

Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.

John 18:11 Jesus therefore said to Peter, Put the sword into its sheath. The cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

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.

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

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.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

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:
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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.
- Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- b. The more we receive the abundance of grace, the more we reign in life— John 1:16; Rom. 5:17, 21.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.