

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

S04 PART THREE: THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS (REV. 4-22) – COREY STARK

I. PART THREE – THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS, WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE (REV. 4-22)

A. In *part three* of the book of Revelation, Jesus charged John to write the “*things which must take place after this*” (Rev. 1:19). The Spirit escorts John into the “*beauty realm*” surrounding the Father’s throne, where he sees the *eternal state* of the sovereign Creator, along with His *master plan of restoration* for the created order.

Rev. 4:1 “*Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.*” **2** *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne... 5:1* *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.*

B. Revelation 4-22 give us the clearest picture of the Father’s *master plan of restoration* to bring the mystery of God to full completion (Rev. 10:7), as seen in the New Heavens and New Earth (Rev. 21-22). It includes:

1. *Eradication of the mystery of iniquity* with its adherents and effects from the universe (Rev. 20:14-15).
2. *Creation of one new man* comprised of both Jews and Gentiles from every tribe and tongue (Eph. 2:15).
3. *Restoration of the created order* in preparation for the Father’s permanent descent to the planet when His eternal state in heaven (Rev. 4) is openly manifest upon the New Earth (Eph. 1:10; Rev. 5:13; 21-22).

C. In Revelation 5 Jesus takes the scroll of the master plan from the Father’s hand (Rev. 5:7). He is the *only* One found *worthy* to open the scroll, containing the “*title deed*” of the earth and “*battle plan*” of judgment necessary to remove everything that hinders love to establish His Father’s Kingdom upon the earth forever.

Rev. 5:1 *I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll... 2* “*Who is worthy to open the scroll...?*” **5** *Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah... has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seals.*

D. Revelation 5:1-7 give us the clearest picture of *Jesus’ authority, ability and resources*, followed by the Father’s progressive restoration plan of the created order, highlighted in three summary statements (vs. 8-14):

1. The song of the twenty-four elder’s with the prayers of the saints to initiate Jesus’ execution of the battle plan, beginning the Great Tribulation (Rev. 5:8-10).

Rev. 5:9 *They sang a new song... “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation...”*

2. The song of the angels, seraphim and twenty-four elder’s to initiate Jesus’ exaltation as King of Kings, beginning the Millennium (Rev. 5:11-12).

Rev. 5:11 *Then I heard the voice of many angels... seraphim and elders... 12* “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!*”

3. The universal song of creation to initiate celebration in the New Heavens & New Earth (Rev. 5:13-14).

Rev. 5:13 *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth... “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”*

E. Revelation chapters 6-22 more fully develop the details of the unfolding restoration plan for the created order (summarized in Rev. 5:8-14), including the chronological sequence of Jesus’ “*battle plan*” seen in *seven seals* (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1), *seven trumpets* (Rev. 8:1-9:21; 11:15-19) and *seven bowls* (Rev. 15:1-16:21).

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II. THE FATHER’S ETERNAL THRONE AND BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)

A. In Revelation chapter 4 the Holy Spirit escorts John into the “*beauty realm*” surrounding the Father’s throne, where he sees the eternal state of the sovereign Creator who is transcendent beauty. The Father is revealed as “*Him who sits on the throne*”, highlighting His sovereignty (Rev. 4:9, 10; 5:13; 6:16; 7:10, 15) and “*Him who lives forever and ever*”, highlighting His eternity (Rev. 4:9, 10; 5:14; 10:6; 15:7). Revelation chapter 4 gives us the greatest revelation of the Father’s person and surroundings found in Scripture.

Rev. 4:8 *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

B. One of the primary reasons the Father’s *eternity* and *sovereignty* were revealed to John, prior to the Father’s master plan of events was to convince John of the *absolute certainty* of Jesus’ success in securing our *sure victory* and preparing the nations for the Father’s permanent descent to the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-8).

C. Revelation chapters 4-5 are one scene, which highlights the *Father’s Throne* seventeen times. It gives us unprecedented insight into the throne room of God or “*Holy of Holies*”, which is the central reality and interior view of God’s heavenly temple (Heb. 8:2; 9:11; Rev. 3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 13:6; 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8; 16:1, 17; 21:3) at the height of the eternal celestial city, called the New Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 9, 22).

Ps. 11:4 *The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord’s throne is in heaven...*

D. The Father’s royal court is the *fullness and perfection* of all beauty, glory and majesty (Ps. 50:2; 96:6, 9; 119:96), adorned with seraphim, cherubim, elders, saints and angels as His fire, light, wind, music and fragrance flow across the crystal sapphire sea. What the beautiful God set around Himself is strategically designed to reveal specific aspects of His beauty, glory and majesty to the rest of the created order.

Ps. 50:2 *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.*

Ps. 119:96 *I have seen the consummation [fullness] of all perfection [beauty, glory and majesty]...*

E. The Father’s Throne is the *governmental epicenter* from which He rules the universe, changing the *times and seasons* (Eccl. 3:1-10; Dan. 2:21), and directing the course of *human history* (Job 34:21-30; Ps. 2:1-12; 94:10; 103:19; 119:89; Dan. 2:20-22; 4:17, 25, 34-37; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rom. 13:1-7; Rev. 6:1-8; 13:5-8), while effortlessly empowering and sustaining the *created order* (Isa. 40:12-17, 21-26; Mt. 5:45; Rev. 8:7-12). He does this in partnership through worship-driven prayer that is fueled by His own beauty (Rev. 5:8-9).

Dan. 2:20 *Daniel said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings...”*

F. When we pray we don’t verbalize ideas into the air, but speak to a *real Person* on a *real throne* at the height of the New Jerusalem (Ps. 102:19; 113:4-6). Why is this important? It gives us insight into our *home*, our *future inheritance* and the *place we appear* before God now, as we pray and worship (Eph. 2:6; Heb. 4:16). Jesus taught His disciples to pray with this understanding, giving a *focus to our faith* (Lk. 11:1-2).

Heb. 4:16 *Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace... in time of need.*

Lk. 11:2 *“When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...”*

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III. FIVE CATEGORIES OF GOD’S BEAUTY EXPRESSED IN FIFTEEN THEMES (REV. 4:1-7)

A. Revelation 4:1-7 outline *five categories* of God’s beauty, each having *3 specific themes* that give insight into God’s beauty. Each of the fifteen themes are like “doorways” that the Holy Spirit will use to escort us into the deeper things of God as He did for John (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; Eph. 1:17-19).

B. *The Beauty of the Godhead*: expressed in love, unity and order (Rev. 4:1-2). Together the *Father, Son* and *Holy Spirit* are the Godhead (Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:29; Col. 2:9). They are in perfect unity at all times (1 Jn. 5:17), being fully submitted to one another in eternal humility and love. To see them harmoniously operate together is inspiring, breathtaking and beautifully glorious. There is but *one God*, yet within this indivisible unity, there are *three distinct Persons*. The three are *never* separated or divided. They are *always* one.

**Rev. 4:1 And the first voice [Jesus] which I heard... saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things...”
2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One [Father] sat on the throne.**

C. *The Beauty of God’s Person*: seen in *jasper, sardius* and *emerald rainbow* (Rev. 4:3). Glorious light filled with various colors radiate from God’s presence including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and the various colors of the emerald rainbow. Jasper describes His brilliant splendor emanating from uncreated light. Sardius describes His fiery desires, and the emerald rainbow reveals His mercy.

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

D. *The Beauty of God’s Partners*: seen in twenty-four elders *enthroned, robed* and *crowned* in the immediate presence of God surrounding His eternal Throne (Rev. 4:4). These are the highest governmental leaders of the redeemed in eternity. Causing once weak and broken saints like us to be enthroned in glory before Him, robed in light and crowned with gold gives us insight into the *transforming power* of God’s redemptive genius, as well as His desire for *intimate partnership* with His people forever. The Father, who possesses all things, desires to share His authority with human beings, as He imparts the very beauty He possesses (Isa. 61:3).

Rev. 4:4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Isa. 24:23)

E. *The Beauty of God’s Power*: seen in glorious manifestations from His eternal Throne in *lightnings, thunderings* and *voices*, which include noises, sounds and music (Rev. 4:5a). God’s throne releases beautiful, glorious, and terrifying manifestations of His heart and mind. These power manifestations reveal His thoughts and emotions to the saints, which beautify His court, and charge the atmosphere around Him. Beginning at God’s Throne, these manifestations of power affect the rest of the created order, breaking out upon the earth at the close of each judgment series – *7 seals* (Rev. 8:5), *7 trumpets* (Rev. 11:19), *7 bowls* (Rev. 16:17-21).

Rev. 4:5a And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

F. *The Beauty of God’s Presence*: seen in His manifest presence of “holy fire” on the *sapphire sea, saints* and *seraphim* (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2). The saints abide in resurrected glory forever (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; Acts 2:3).

Rev. 4:5b Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal [mingled with flaming fire Dan. 7:9; Rev. 15:2]. And around the throne, were four living creatures [seraphim, meaning “burning ones”] full of eyes in front and in back.

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IV. WHO IS WORTHY? UNDERSTANDING HUMANITY’S DILEMMA

A. Revelation 5 highlights the Father’s plan to exalt Jesus, as a *resurrected human King* over all the nations of the earth (Ps. 72:8-11; Dan. 7:13-14; Zech. 14:9). This is the *main theme* and “good news” of Jesus’ victory over all the enemies of God when He returns on the Day of the LORD to establish His Father’s Kingdom forever (Rev. 1:5, 7; 2:26-27; 7:9-10; 11:15-19; 12:5; 15:4; 19:11-16; 20:4-6; 21:24-26; 22:7, 12, 20).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!... 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

B. Revelation 5:1-4 opens with the great question of qualification, “*Who is worthy to open the scroll?*” In essence, “Who can be entrusted with the authority, manifest power and infinite resources necessary to execute the Father’s master plan of bringing the “mystery of God” to completion?” To understand this question and the Father’s answer to it, we must first understand humanity’s dilemma concerning our forfeited authority.

Rev. 5:1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll... sealed with seven seals... 2 “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able... 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll, or to look at it.

C. God has always governed the heavenly realm directly, but He joyfully chose to govern the earthly realm through the *intimate partnership* of His covenant people who would do *His will* on the earth as it is in heaven (Ps. 115:16; Mt. 6:10). God then chose Adam, the first man as the corporate representative of the entire human race to whom He would grant authority over the earth for an *eternal stewardship* that He would never rescind (Gen. 1:28). To override this decision later would be a failure to keep His word and a violation of His justice.

Ps. 115:16 Heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.

Gen. 1:28 God said, “fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over... every living thing that moves...”

D. After Adam sinned in disobedience to the Father’s will, he *forfeited* his earthly dominion, delivering his authority to Satan, which gave him the primary governing role and influence over the nations (Gen. 3; Lk. 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:4). Therefore, to give back the authority over the earth to the human race, it had to be legally obtained by a sinless human being who could be entrusted with the authority to govern it for the glory of God forever.

Lk. 4:5 The devil... showed Him all the kingdoms of the world... 6 and said... “All this authority I will give You... for this has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I wish.”

E. Jesus, the “*Second Man*”, came to fulfill that which Adam failed to accomplish during his earthly tenure (1 Cor. 15:47). He was born as a *sinless* human being who always lived in *perfect unity* with the Holy Spirit and in *absolute obedience* to the Father’s will. He was unjustly condemned to death and died sacrificially at the hand of sinner’s and by an act of God’s justice, paid the full penalty for man’s sin at the cross. He was raised from the dead and exalted to the Father’s right hand, where He now holds *all authority* in heaven and on earth.

Mt. 28:18 Jesus... spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

F. As the “*Last Adam*”, Jesus will finally and ultimately fulfill all of God’s original design and intention for man to be created in His image and likeness by *subduing* the earth unto the Father’s will and taking *global dominion* with His Bride [the Last Eve] for the glory of God forever (Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 15:45).

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V. JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD, IS THE ONLY MAN FOUND WORTHY!

A. John sees the *Lamb of God* taking the scroll from the Father. The title “Lamb” is used of Jesus more than any other in Revelation (28x total). It reveals His *qualification* as a fully submitted and sinless human (Isa. 53:7), His *motivation* of love that compelled Him to go to the cross as the same love that now compels Him to remove everything that hinders it (Heb. 12:2) and gives a deeper *revelation* of the Lamb’s role at the end of the age to complete the Gospel mission He began at His first coming. The Lamb wasn’t finished at the cross!

Rev. 5:5 “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain... 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

B. Revelation 5 magnifies Jesus’ choice to embrace the *fullness of humanity forever* (Rev. 5:13). Jesus’ humility is far beyond our natural comprehension. This core trait of His eternal nature is the very foundation upon which the Father exalts Him as a resurrected human King over all the nations of the earth forever!

Rev. 5:13 “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to... the Lamb, forever and ever!”

C. Jesus is the *only Man worthy* to be entrusted with the authority, manifest power and infinite resources necessary to execute the Father’s master restoration plan with flawless precision, releasing judgment in a way that produces truth, humility and righteousness throughout the nations of the earth (Ps. 45:4; Isa. 26:9).

Rev. 5:9 They sang... “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain...”

D. *Qualified* – Jesus is fully God, yet He is *fully Man*. He’s the “second Man” who was born *sinless* and lived in *complete unity* with the Spirit and *fully submitted* to the Father’s will at all times (Ps. 40:6-8; Heb. 10:5-7).

Jn. 1:14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... the only begotten of the Father...

E. *Confirmed* – Jesus confirmed He is “*trust-worthy*” by laying down the power of His deity in humility by embracing humanity for the sake of love. He has a proven history of using His strength in righteousness for the sake of others welfare and wellbeing (2 Cor. 8:9). In Gethsemane Jesus proved faithful in testing (Mt. 26).

2 Cor. 8:9 He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich.

F. *Capable* – Jesus is not only a *qualified Man* that’s *confirmed* in faithfulness, but He is *fully capable* to execute the Father’s master plan with flawless precision (Rev. 6-22). He has the *fullness of the Godhead* (Col. 1:19; 2:3, 9), is *fully anointed* by the Spirit without measure (Isa. 11:2; Jn. 3:34; Rev. 3:1; 5:6) and is *fully endorsed* by the Father with unlimited access to all of the *infinite resources* of heaven at His disposal.

Rev. 5:6 Behold... a Lamb... having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God...

G. *Committed* – Jesus commitment has already been displayed in His decision to become a *Man forever* and *lay down His life*, even unto death for the sake of His enemies (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21). However, by taking the scroll Jesus is accepting the full responsibility of bringing the mystery of God to completion (Rev. 10:7).

Isa. 42:1 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him... 4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth...”

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VI. JESUS' SEVEN-FOLD MILLENNIAL EXALTATION (REV. 5:11-12)

A. Revelation chapter 5 reveals the height to which God exalts Jesus as a *resurrected human King* upon the earth, giving context for the unfolding master plan to make sense (Rev. 6-22). Right now, Jesus is seated at the Father's right hand (Eph. 1:20), but the future events described in the book of Revelation are the Father's "action plan" that makes provision for His Son to *announce* and *assert* His authority in a manifest way to eradicate evil forever, restore the entire created order and receive His full inheritance of the nations as His rightful possession forever during the Millennium (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2; 7:13-14; Rev. 1:5, 7; 11:15-19).

Ps. 2:6 "I have set My King [Jesus] on My holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem]... 8 and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."

B. In the Millennium Jesus will receive an unprecedented measure of favor in 7 specific spheres of life. The key to understanding this passage is in Jesus' ability, as a *resurrected human King* to "receive" this directly from the Father and through the collective grace of the Holy Spirit upon His people. The Lamb who was "worthy" to *give everything* for the sake of all is now "worthy" to *receive everything* for the sake of all.

Rev. 5:11 I heard the voice of many angels around the throne... 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb... to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

1. *Power* - all of the political power and authority to govern every national government.
2. *Riches* - all of the financial wealth and resources of both heaven and earth to execute His plan.
3. *Wisdom* - all of the wisdom of the Spirit and collective insight of His people for His purposes.
4. *Strength* - an infinite supply of spiritual and emotional stamina, as He directs the strength of nations.
5. *Honor* - the most sought out Man throughout the nations as He receives the utmost relational honor.
6. *Glory* - every knee will bow and every tongue confess, as He receives all of the glory due His name.
7. *Blessing* - an unprecedented blessing from the Father and all the people for His purposes and plans.

C. Jesus' *primary mandate* in the Millennium is to *prepare the earth for the Father's permanent coming* by bringing the nations into a voluntary righteousness that's grown, matured and been tested (Rev. 20:7-10).

1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

D. Revelation 5 ends with the universal response of creation to Jesus' successful execution of the Father's master plan, making way for His eternal state in Heaven to be openly manifest on the New Earth (Rev. 21-22).

Rev. 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth... I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever!"

E. The height of Jesus' exaltation in the Millennium is directly related to the depth of His humiliation as a Man. Even the wicked are compelled to acknowledge the truth concerning Jesus' identity (Isa. 45:22-23; Rom. 14:9-12; Phil. 2:5-11; Rev. 5:13-14). Our humiliation is directly related to our future exaltation as well.

Phil. 2:8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death... 9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.