

The Benefits of Salvation Series

Ruling Under the Living God

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Revelation 5: 9b-13“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom [kings] and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” Revelation 5: 9b-13 ESV

We worship the Lamb slain as Creator and Redeemer. Jesus Christ is God—God the Son, Son of God, King of kings, Lord of lords, Ruler over the kings of this earth. Jesus was slain and by His blood He ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and ethnic group and nation. The vanishing of sin means the end of Christ’s contested rule. Many believe that it would not be surprising to find that on the New Earth nations will exist and leaders will come and bring tribute to Christ as King of kings. (Revelation 21:22- 27)

²²And I saw no temple in the city [New Jerusalem], for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. Revelation 21:22-27.

In the Bible people own property, a place where they have dominion and rule **under God**. The earth belongs to God. He is worthy of worship by all creation. See Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:10, Colossians 1:16-20ff.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 1.20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ESV

In the Bible, those in Christ are not their own. They have been bought with a price. They have been given a sacred trust: the gospel of Jesus Christ, the preservation of truth, promoting justice, the Word of God, God's people, and rule over the Earth. This sacred trust flows from the holiness of the True God. See also Psalm 72, Daniel 7:14, Zechariah 9:9, 10; Zech. 14:9

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! ⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River [Euphrates] to the ends of the earth! ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! Psalm 72:1, 8, 11 ESV

Prior to Christ's return, His kingdom is intermingled with the world's cultures. (Matthew 13:24-30). This is our training ground for ruling with Christ under His headship and as co-heirs. Genesis 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 the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."; Psalm 8:6. ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

We have a spiritual inheritance to be embraced and not resisted by doubt, disbelief, disobedience, and defiance, but rather, with meekness. The meek will inherit the earth. And remember, God says, "The land is Mine." Leviticus 25:23, 24. See Leviticus 26 for failure consequences.

²³"The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. ²⁴And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land. Leviticus 25: 23, 24 ESV

Crowns will be given as rewards, not for meriting salvation, but for rewarding those "good works" which have been wrought in the life of the true believer during his life in Christ on this earth. It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.

²⁷And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Hebrews 9:27, 28 KJV

Crowns speak of ruling authority (*diadema*) and of rewards for accomplishments (*stephanos*).

Incorruptible crown – 1 Cor. 9:25
Crown of righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8
Crown of life – Rev 2:10, James 1:12
Crown of glory – 1 Peter 5:4; Proverbs 4:9; Proverbs 16:31
Virtuous woman is a crown (Proverbs 12:4)
Grandchildren are a crown to old men (Proverbs 17:6)
Crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
Crown of knowledge (Proverbs 14:18)
Crown of glory and honor (Ps 8:5, Hebrews 2:7)
Crowned with lovingkindness (Psalm 103:4)

Brethren in Christ a crown (Philippians 4:1)

(The Bible also mentions the crown of pride (Isaiah 28:1) and the crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29, John 19:2).

Other rewards for “good works” include:

Ruling over cities (Luke 19:17)

Judging angels (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3)

Reigning with Christ (2 Timothy 2:12)

Authority over the nations Revelation 2:26

Keep your crown. Revelation 3:11

Sit with Christ on His throne (3:21) (the place of judging and ruling)

We are made kings and priests (Revelation 5: 9, 10)

Everything subject to man (Hebrews 2:8)

The meek inherit the earth. (Matthew. 5:5; 1 Peter 1:3-5) Meekness: not resisting or resenting the will of God; surrendering to the heart, mind, and will of God without resistance, without rebellion, without resentment, without rebuttal, and without regret.

How we serve the Lord now will determine how we will be serving in Heaven.

Luke 14:11, Luke 16:10, Luke 22:29, 30, Matthew 25:23. Right now we are to rule over ourselves, over sin, over Satan, over the world system spiritually. We are to be salt and light, witnesses before the watching world. God is grooming us for servant leadership and watching to see how we demonstrate faithfulness to Him, to His Word, to His ways.

Queen Elizabeth II reigned just over 70 years before she died at age 96 September 8, 2022. She was the longest reigning British monarch. She is remembered for her strong faith in Christ, her sense of duty, her faithfulness to the task of being head of state over a Commonwealth of 14 nations. She reigned through the terms of 14 Presidents of the United States of America and 15 Prime Ministers, beginning with Winston Churchill and ending with the installation of Liz Truss. She kept her position and a vow she made when around 21 years old to serve. She had a rule for herself to never complain and never explain. She brought stability during troublesome times, and she left an example for all of servant leadership.

Do we have such a vision of servant leadership, of ruling within the bounds of the authority given to us? Do we have a vision of a redeemed Earth? Do we desire the restoration of all things, heaven and earth as God intends them to be? Do we pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

What might we do? We reject the sinful world. We embrace all the good that God has created. Embracing God’s good Earth means opposing fallen Earth, opposing domination, exploitation, harming the environment, misuse of animals and resources. James 4:4, Romans 12:2. This is a present evil age with its own wisdom and god, but this world in its present form is passing away (1 Cor. 7:31). Christ’s kingdom will never pass away.

Christ ruled in the midst of His enemies. He is alive forevermore. We are called to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We are to learn of Christ and take His yoke upon us that we might learn obedience in the things which we experience. The Lord reigns. He has all authority in heaven and on earth. We have delegated authority and must learn to stay within the bounds of the authority delegated to us. We are given

grace to obey through faith which works by love. The Lord desires supreme loyalty and attachment to Him. Keeping His commandments demonstrates loving Him.

Service to God is a reward. Revelation 7:14, 15. Worship is our reasonable service. God rewards us by giving us more responsibility, not by taking responsibility away from us. So as Charles Spurgeon exhorted, we are to “Look not to the honor, but tend to the responsibility.” If we cannot be faithful in the little things, like ruling our own bodies, souls, and spirits, how will we be able to be trusted to be faithful in the much?

True believers have been given the Holy Spirit; the intercessory work of Jesus Christ enthroned; and our adoption as children of God by the Father, along with all the benefits of our salvation. And don't let anyone or anything rob you of the opportunities to serve in the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12: 1, 2
KJV

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