

Revive Teaching: Beholding the Beauty of Yeshua By Frank Curtiss

Week Four: The Beauty of Yeshua in the Throne Room of Heaven

Intro:

The last three weeks I've taught you about the beauty of Jesus as best as I knew how. But God reminded me that the mind and intellect can only take us so far. It's like trying to describe the Sistine Chapel to you if you've never seen it. Beauty has to be experienced firsthand. In the case of Jesus, where we cannot physically see him, we have to rely on the Holy Spirit, God's Word, and our holy, sanctified imagination ... the eyes of our heart.

Once you see him, you'll never be the same. I have sought his face. I have caught glimpses—I have encountered his presence—I know there is so much more—yet it has brought new levels of healing and wholeness to my life. It has made my love for him grow from embers to a roaring fire. And though it satisfies my deepest longings it also makes me desire more, and more. Quite often I have found myself on my face on the floor worshipping him.

Tonight, is about beholding. All I can do is set the table. It's up to you to partake of the bountiful fruit from the Tree of Life. Using the Word of God and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will enter the throne room of heaven to see God on his throne. Some of you have not understood the beauty of this place. I have had the same struggle. It is not a placid scene. It is full of mystery and awe. But if we examine it closely it shows us the beauty of Father God, Yahweh, and Yeshua, his Son, that undoes the heart.

Close your eyes and listen to a song that has undone my heart. The remainder of worship will take place at the end of the service.

PLAY AGNUS DEI

Heaven is no metaphor. It is a real place within a dimension we cannot see without the Lord's help. It is a place so glorious, so holy, so unique that it is difficult to describe. You will see that those who've entered the throne room before us often use words and phrases such as "looked like" and "as" to describe things for which we have no human language.

God gave his prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel visions of heaven which they recorded for us. John was taken there "in the Spirit." I hope to take us on this journey to see what they saw, hear what they heard, touch what they touched, to smell the aroma of the incense of our prayers, and to look into the eyes of Yeshua, afire with his passionate love for us.

***** Reader #1 *****

THE JOURNEY:

"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here." At once I was in the Spirit. (Rev. 4:1)

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands. Among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire (with the fire of his passionate love). His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword (the Word of God). His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (Rev. 1:12-16)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Rev. 1:17-18)

***** Reader #2 *****

In the year that King Uzziah died, I, (the prophet Isaiah) saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I answered, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-9)

***** Reader #1 *****

While I, (Ezekiel the priest) was among the exiles, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. The word of the LORD came to me, and the hand of the LORD was on me. (Ezekiel 1:1,2)

I looked, and saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning, surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. (Ezekiel 1:4-6)

Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like a vault, sparkling like crystal, and awesome. Under the vault their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings. (Ezekiel 1:22-24)

Then there came a voice from above the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. Above the vault was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. From his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire. From there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown. (Ezekiel 1:25-28)

***** Reader #2 *****

When I, John the Apostle, entered the door to heaven there before me was a throne with someone sitting on it. The one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. And from the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.

In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things, and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (Revelation 4, 5:1-5)

***** Reader #1 *****

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel, had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. It included a vision of four beasts, representing four future kingdoms that would rule the world. The final vision was of the antichrist, a horn which ruled over ten other horns. After this, the dream continued ...

As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne, (the great white throne of judgment) was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

“Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:1, 9-14)

***** Reader #2 *****

Some years later, Daniel was standing on the bank of the great river Tigris when he had a vision. Its description seemed very much like Christ but many believe to have been an angel. I include it here because of the response of he and those with him ...

"I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground." (Daniel 10:5-9).

***** Reader #1 *****

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"

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

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Rev. 5:6-14)

OBSERVATIONS:

Last week I stated that it was my goal to help you see ... see Jesus rightly, and see yourself rightly, as God's beautiful creation, dearly loved.

When we see the Father and Son in all their majestic beauty, holiness, and power, we begin to see who we are ... our royal heritage. We are adopted into the family, chosen by the King of the Universe. He places a pure white robe on us. And we will rule and reign with him.

My next observation is the worship. Everyone worships his holiness. The four cherubim, the seraphim, a host of angels and people from every tribe and language and people and nation. Over and over they sing to him that he is worthy. This worship is not like the forced worship which Nebuchadnezzar tried to force on his people. It is of completely free will!

The last time John had seen Jesus was in his humanity. They were friends. Then John watched him rise from the dead. Later he watched him ascend into heaven. Now he sees him as King of the Universe in all his glory.

Did you notice the reaction of John and the prophets?

- John fell at his feet as though dead.
- Isaiah cried "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."
- Ezekiel and Daniel fell facedown. Even those with Daniel who did not see God were overwhelmed and fled his presence.
- Yet to each one God said, "Do not be afraid."

The fear of the Lord is misunderstood. Healthy fear is a beautiful thing.

Psalm 34:9 (CJB), "Fear Anonai, you holy ones of his, for those who fear him lack nothing."

My favorite is Malachai 4:2,3 (NLT) ... "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies."

Healthy fear of a loving Father make us feel loved. We know if he disciplines us it is for our own good, to make us like himself. Healthy boundaries make us feel secure. We feel joy.

Notice Isaiah's response of repentance (read again). He repented not only for himself but for his people. Repentance is a healthy thing. It also brings joy. Our soiled robes are washed anew in his blood. Guilt and shame lose their grip on us. We can more clearly behold him and experience joy in his presence.

INVITATION:

Some of you tonight may want to respond to the Lord. I invite you to do so in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. You may just want to kneel before the throne to worship and behold his beauty. Some of you may want to repent.

- Some of you have been serving a lesser God. If this is you, come gaze upon the beauty of he who sits on the throne, who loves you with a jealous love..
- Some of you have been fighting a losing battle with sin in your life. You are caught in the web of addiction; alcohol, drugs, lust of the flesh, come look upon the beauty of the one who came to set the captives free, and the lure of sin will ebb away like the receding tide.
- If your garments are soiled, and you are stuck in a place of guilt and shame, look into the beautiful eyes of Jesus. Eyes filled with mercy, grace, and compassion. Eyes that see the beauty of the person he is re-creating you to be.
- If your trust has been shattered, if your faith has been shaken to the core ... turn your eyes upon Yeshua, who is beautifully faithful.
- If you feel weak, if your courage has failed you ... look upon the beautiful Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- If you need healing, physical healing, emotional healing ... look upon the stripes upon the back of Jesus. The beautifully ugly scars that heal.
- Some of you have a broken heart. Your world is full of sorrow; If you are feeling hopeless, discouraged, or depressed. Maybe you've even thought this world would be better off without you ... look into the eyes of he who gives exchanges your ashes for beauty and places upon you a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.