WORD OF LIFE

Life Group Guide

Based on the Sermon: See The Throne

Overview

This sermon walked through four major throne visions in Scripture -- Psalm 110, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, and Daniel 7 -- to prepare us to understand what John sees in Revelation 4 and 5. The central message is that the throne of God is the preeminent reality in all of Scripture, and everything surrounding it -- the person of Jesus, his priesthood, his kingship, the forgiveness of sins, and coming judgment -- points to the fact that God is about to act on a legal matter affecting all of creation.

Key Takeaways

- The throne of God is not a background detail in Scripture. It is the central, recurring focus across centuries of biblical writing, and it always reveals something about the Father, the Son, and the nature of his kingdom.
- Jesus is both King and eternal Priest. Because his priesthood never ends, the work of atoning for sin is settled forever. He has sat down, which means the work is complete.
- Every throne vision in Scripture carries both beauty and judgment. God's holiness and his commitment to dealing with sin are inseparable from his love and his offer of redemption.
- Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension have not merely changed human history -- they have forever altered the cosmos. Sin's hold on creation has been broken at the deepest level.
- The danger of familiarity is real. Just as Israel became indifferent to the presence of God dwelling among them, we can normalize the extraordinary reality that the King of Kings lives within us and meets us in gathered worship.
- Your case has been settled in the courts of heaven. If you are in Christ, the accusations against you have been answered by the one who drank every last drop of the cup of God's wrath on your behalf.

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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you hear the word "throne," what comes to mind? Before this sermon, how did you picture the throne of God, if at all?
2. The pastor challenged the common question "How is this relevant to my life?" and suggested we should instead ask "Lord, what do you want me to see?" How does that shift in posture change the way you approach Scripture?

Digging Deeper

3. Psalm 110 shows Jesus as both King and eternal Priest who has sat down, meaning the work is finished. What does it mean practically to you that the issue of your sin before God has been permanently settled? Is that something you actually live as though it is true?
4. In Isaiah 6, the prophet sees the Lord high and lifted up, is overwhelmed by his own unworthiness, and is then cleansed and immediately volunteers to be sent. Have you experienced a moment like that -- where an encounter with God's holiness led directly to a willing response? What did that look like?
5. Ezekiel watched the glory of God depart from the temple because the people had become so accustomed to his presence that they lost their sense of wonder. The pastor said, "Do not normalize indifference to the presence of God." Where do you see that kind of indifference show up most in your own life?
6. Daniel 7 shows the Son of Man being brought before the Ancient of Days and receiving an everlasting kingdom over all peoples and nations. How does it change your perspective on current events, cultural pressures, or personal hardships to remember that all authority has already been given to Jesus and his kingdom cannot be destroyed?
7. The pastor made this statement: "Jesus has settled your account in the courts of heaven." He described Jesus as an undefeated attorney who has already satisfied the case against you. Is that image easy or difficult for you to receive? What makes it hard to let that fully land?

Bringing It Home

8. The pastor offered this practical challenge: "Build a life that does not normalize indifference to the presence of God." He gave examples like how we speak to our spouses, how we date, how we interact with others. What is one specific area of your life where you sense the Lord calling you to greater awareness of his presence?
9. The sermon noted that sometimes we place too much hope in political leaders to accomplish what only God can do. How do you personally navigate holding civic concerns seriously while keeping Jesus as the filter through which everything else is evaluated?
10. As this series moves toward Revelation 5 and the moment of the scroll, what questions are you sitting with? What aspect of the throne scenes we studied do you want to understand more deeply?

Practical Applications

This week, choose at least one of the following:

- Read through Psalm 110, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, and Daniel 7 on your own. Ask the Lord to show you something new in each passage, particularly about the person of Jesus.
- Identify one recurring situation in your life -- a relationship, a habit, a pattern of speech -- where you have been living as though God is far away. Write down one concrete step you can take this week to live with greater awareness of his presence in that area.
- Spend time in prayer specifically thanking Jesus for his priesthood -- for the fact that his work of atonement on your behalf is permanent and complete. If there is a sin or a shame you have been carrying, bring it before him and let the reality of a settled case sink in.
- If you are part of a local church, reflect on how you approach gathered worship. Do you arrive with expectation? Do you treat the gathering as ordinary? Ask the Lord to restore or deepen your sense of wonder at what it means that the King of Kings meets his people together.

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Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together around these themes:

- Gratitude for the finished work of Jesus as both King and eternal Priest
- A request for the Holy Spirit to awaken fresh awareness of God's presence in everyday life
- Intercession for anyone in the group carrying guilt, shame, or accusation -- asking them to receive the reality that their case is settled in Christ
- Anticipation and hunger for what God will continue to reveal as the group moves forward in this study

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"Build a life that does not normalize indifference to the presence of God."