

Passage: Revelation 4:8-11

Title: Casting Crowns

Summary: When we get to the “Throne of Grace”, we will be casting our crowns at His feet. What are these crowns? How do we receive them? Why do we cast them? And the biggest question for us today is..... will I have any to cast? Join us, as we study how we “receive” these crowns.

Revelation 4:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “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. ³ And 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. 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. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. 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. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. 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!” ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

John Sees – Describes Heavenly Scene / Imagine Renewal / Patmos – Boiled – Disfigured / Saw his own Reflection – 1 John 3

John is describing the heavenly scene, and I can only imagine how it must have renewed John. John is on the island of Patmos, banished for his testimony of God. Church history says that the Roman Emperor Domitian ordered for him to be put in a cauldron of boiling oil, but John did not die. Imagine the lifelong pain that he would endure living with 3rd degree burns over his entire body. One extra biblical legend grew from this occurrence, which said John saw his reflection in a river and was shocked by his own face; it was then that God told him to write:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

50 Miles Away his Church / Brethren Killed – Catacombs / Come Up Here – Sees Renewed

John in severe pain daily, banished to this rocky barren land forced into manual labor at the age of 90, knowing that 50 miles away his fellow brethren are being tortured and killed in some places, that the church is meeting in sewers and catacombs, and then God says come up here and let me show you a few things. How this must have renewed John.

We Have our Measure Earthly Struggles / Marriage – Kids - Health / Perspective

We have our measure of earthly struggles, with tough marriages, broken marriages – divorce, kids in rebellion, kids in general, personal illness, family illness, aging, jobs, finances, we need to be renewed, we need to have our hearts raised above this world so that we might be renewed, refreshed – to have life, and all the events of life, put into its proper perspective.

The Outline for this study:

- On the Throne (4:2-3)
- Around the Throne (4:3-5)
- Before the Throne (4:6-11)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

On the Throne (4:2-3)

(Revelation 4:1 NKJV) After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

(Revelation 4:2 NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

(Revelation 4:3 NKJV) And 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.

Rapture / No more Church / Twinkling / The One on Throne / Light & Love / Rainbow of Grace

After what things? The Church Period, the Rapture of the Church. The church wont be mentioned again for the rest of this book, the children of God will be referred to only as the saints. Immediately John was in the Spirit as we will too be, in a twinkling of an eye (an atomic second - 1/10,000/second) we will be changed and see the One seated on the throne. His appearance will be brilliant, like a diamond and ruby, representing His Light and His Love. The rainbow representing His grace (as with Noah), for as He looks at us He sees us in the Light and Love of the Cross.

Genesis 6:7–8 (NKJV)⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Invitation to Come and See

Here Jesus gives us all an invitation to "Come and See", come up here and let me show you some things that will change your life. I think of Resurrection Sunday, the invitation to see the empty tomb.

Matthew 28:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Around the Throne (4:3-5)

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Elders – Represent OT – NT Saints

These 24 elders are a representative of the all the saints of God, both Old and New Testament, for the saints are robed in white and are given crowns, and it will be the saints that can sing the song of Redemption (Rev 5)

Revelation 5:8–10 (NKJV)⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "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 and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Always a new song, never stale, when you are in the Spirit, and worshipping in spirit and truth.

John 4:23–24 (NKJV)²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Sadly No Judas

But sadly, speaking of the throne, Judas treated this present world for what is eternal glory. Could any of us being doing the same?

Matthew 28:16–17 (NKJV)¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Before the Throne (4:6-11)

(Revelation 4:6 NKJV) Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

(Revelation 4:7 NKJV) The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

Creatures – Cherubim's

These creatures are angelic beings, more specifically known as cherubim's. You can read more about these cherubim's in Ezekiel 1 & 10.

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Heaven is Real / Earthly Tabernacle a Shadow

Heaven is real, so much so that God says the earthly tabernacle is just a shadow of what heaven is:

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

(Hebrews 8:2 NKJV) a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

(Hebrews 8:3 NKJV) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Not in Material Sense / But look at Parallels

There is no temple in heaven in a material sense, but the parallels are as follows:

- Earthly temple / Heavenly sanctuary
- Holy of holies / The throne of God
- Seven-branched candlestick / Seven lamps of fire before the throne (7 Spirits of God)
- Bronze laver / Sea of glass
- Cherubim over the mercy seat / Four living creatures around the throne
- Priests / Elders (kings and priests)
- Brazen altar / Altar (Rev. 6:9-11)
- Incense altar / Incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5)
- Ark of the covenant / Ark of the covenant (Rev. 11:19)

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

Holy 3X – Triune God

They repeat “holy” 3 times for the triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Everything we read going forward, these great upheavals and judgements, The Great Tribulation, is because of His Holiness!

Holiness – Set Apart / Simple Definition / Separate in Love – Giving – Forgiveness

Holiness means to be set apart, and God is Holy. I like the simple definition of holiness; “that which is God, and that which is not of God”. Only 2 things exist, the Creator, and those created: there is the Creator, and everything else is created – the angels, heaven and earth, the devil, and you and me. That makes Him separated, set apart, Holy. God is also separate from us by the way He loves; His love comes with no strings attached, unconditional. He loves us even when there was nothing worth loving – dead in trespass and sin. We love our spouse because we saw something in them that drew us to them. God loves even when there was nothing loveable about us, that makes Him separate from us. His giving is different from ours, He gives freely of Himself, as we look at what is in it for us (can’t believe I did all that for them and they didn’t say thank you) – that makes Him different, separate from us. His forgiveness is different from ours, He forgives and wipes it from His memory bank, we forgive but never forget, that makes Him different, separate from us.

We will be Here Worshipping / Didn't just Let In – Made us Son's & Daughters

We will be before this throne room scene, part of this scene, worshipping His holiness, His separate love, forgiveness, and giving; worshipping that He didn't just let us in, but made us sons and daughters, called us His own.

2X see Full of Eyes / They see Holiness – Causes them to Break forth in Praise

Verse 6, and again in verse 8 it is repeated that these cherubim's are full of eyes, for what they see is holiness, and that which they see causes them to break forth in worship, of praise and adoration. This same eyesight is what the Lord wants for us, unfortunately we only see with these two eyes what is immediately in front of us, and we miss what is all around us, which the presence and glory of the Lord, the holiness of the Lord. When we see the beauty of His Holiness we will be drawn into worship, as the Scripture says, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

(Psalms 29:1 NKJV) Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

*(Psalms 29:2 NKJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; **Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

Nothing as Beautiful as Holiness / Holiness Beauty never Fades / Attracted To

There is nothing as beautiful as holiness. People are attracted to purity. You young men and ladies, the world promotes the physical beauty, markets it and packages it; but let me tell you that beauty will fade quickly, literally overnight – wait till you see what they look like in the morning. But meet a man or woman of God, set-apart for God, and you will see beauty that never fades, a beauty that draws hearts. Guys and gals, if you want a spouse to be attracted to you, live a life of holiness, a life set-apart for Jesus, they will be attracted to you and you won't have to live a life under the pressures of Madison Avenue. How many unsaved men I have met who when referring to a godly woman they are attracted to will say, "there is just something about her". I'll say that's because she is godly, she won't want nothing to do with you:

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Imagine John

Again, John is on Patmos, imagine his spirit joining in this worship as well.

Make Worship Part of Devotion / Acknowledge – Lifted Up – Takes you to this Place - Throne

Verse 10 - the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever – Christian, make worship a part of your morning devotion. Listen to a worship song or two before you get into your prayer. Every prayer time I incorporate "Acknowledgement" into my prayer, I acknowledge who I am praying to and meeting with, and I then find myself being lifted up, lifted up and out of my circumstances, and I feel my spirit lifted up. When I dwell on His holiness it takes me to the same place these angels and elders are, there before the throne, before the presence of the "Great I Am". If you want heaven today in your life, than be a worshipper of God.

Us Casting / Just get me In / So Sorry – Wedding – Birthday – Christmas / Wise Men Came

Verse 10 - and cast their crowns before the throne, saying – The elders, a representation of us, so it us casting our crowns at Jesus' feet. "Just get me in, that's good enough for me", is the unexpressed attitude of many believers. As long as I get in I'll be happy – No you won't, you will be so sorry that you showed up empty-handed. Have you ever gone to a birthday party without a gift, didn't have time, said I'll mail you one later. Ever go to a wedding and it is an extravaganza, and then you feel silly that you cheap-ed out on your gift. Ever get a Christmas gift from somebody and you didn't get them anything. Just get me in, you'll be sorry that you didn't come with any gifts to present the King. The wise men came and laid gifts at the feet of baby Jesus, they laid them in adoration of who they were beholding – the Holy One, that is the scene going on here, and you will want to be more than an observer.

Only Chance we Get / Tachometer / Reading about Us Right Here / Imperishable Crown / Picture of Us – We Read of Others – Now Read of Self

This is the only chance to get crowns, here on this side of eternity. Time is running out, and that is if He should tarry, but need I mention that the tachometer is redlining, pegging out, and the engine is about to blow. What crowns will you have to cast? What crowns will you have going at your present rate? Don't let the triviality of the world cloud your eternal vision – what you read here, you will one day experience. As we study the Old Testament, the New Testament, we read of stories of other people, people just like us, but other people none the less. But here, we are reading of ourselves, a prophetic picture of a day yet future in our life.

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **an imperishable crown**.*

(1 Corinthians 9:26 NKJV) Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

(1 Corinthians 9:27 NKJV) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

5 Crowns – All Tested by Fire

5 Crowns spoken of in the Scriptures, all which would have gone through the testing of the fire, what was the heart and intent behind you works that you did, all your motives revealed:

(1 Corinthians 3:11 NKJV) For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 3:12 NKJV) Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

*(1 Corinthians 3:13 NKJV) each one's work will become clear; **for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.***

(1 Corinthians 3:14 NKJV) If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

(1 Corinthians 3:15 NKJV) If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

The beauty of the imperishable crown is the world can't take it away.

Crown of Righteousness / Love-Looking His Appearing / Hang Out – The Degree

The crown of righteousness is given to those who love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8). A person who lives in constant expectation of Jesus' return is going to live righteously (1 John 3:3) because one of the most purifying truths in all of the Bible is the fact that Jesus could come back at any moment. The person that is looking for His soon appearing is the one that is walking with Him daily – for how can you look for Him without thinking about Him. If you love the Lord, you're going to hang out with the Lord; and if you hang out with the Lord, you're going to have life abundantly. The degree to which you spend time with the Lord is the degree to which you'll have abundant life. Yes individually or coming together corporately to worship Him, to study of Him to know more of Him is part of the crown of righteousness, you're storing treasures every time you walk in this door, to enter into a time of prayer, because you are looking at Him: *(2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV) Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(John 10:10 NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The crown of righteousness is that we're right with God is man, and when we're right with God will be right with man. The love, the Lord our God and love our neighbors, and who are our neighbors? Your spouse, your children, your family, those around you, those who God puts before you.

Crown of Life / Trials & Temptations

The crown of life is given to those who with patience endures trials and temptations (James 1:12). Yes every time you endure a trial or temptation without reacting in the flesh, you are storing up a crown. Remember that next trial, hey I'm storing up some treasures. The carnal world we live in, there are plenty of opportunities every day to store some crowns up. Hey is your boss a jerk, thank him for the crowns. Every time you say no to your flesh, a lust, you are storing a treasure.

*(James 1:12 NKJV) Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

Martyr's Crown – also Called Crown of Life / A Life Laid Down

The martyr's crown is for those who lay down their lives (Revelation 2:10). It is my opinion that this refers not only to those who die a martyr's death, but also to those who lay down their lives in obedience to what they know is right. Martyr means witness, so it isn't that you died therefore you are a martyr, rather you were a witness for Christ, and that lead to you being killed. A person who witness so strong that people see that you deal with trials and temptations so differently from the rest of the world. How is your witness? Sure, it might seem easier to leave him, to walk out on the marriage, to do your own thing, but I believe those who say, "I'm going to die to self and do what the Lord would have me do even if it kills me," will receive a crown because they chose to lay down their lives rather than give in to their own fleshly inclinations:

(Revelation 2:10 NKJV) "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

The crown of life. Were choosing the kingdom. We're choosing the king over the temporal, fading world. We will not bow the knee to man, to the culture, and we'll have life in that more abundant, while the world has life and emptiness and lukewarmness

Crown of Rejoicing / Soul Winning

The soul-winners crown is given to those who share their faith (1 Thessalonians 2:19). The Lord says He who wins souls is wise – why because you are storing up crowns in heaven:

(1 Thessalonians 2:19 NKJV) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

(1 Thessalonians 2:20 NKJV) For you are our glory and joy.

(Proverbs 11:30 NKJV) The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."

(Philippians 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

The crown of rejoicing is will be when we look at others. You made it. And when we have the crown of rejoicing, winning souls, intercessor, prayer for them to come to the Lord, we take on the heart of God because we wish that none should perish. That all should seek repentance because he's a holy God. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty,

Crown of Glory / Servanthood / Get in the Game / Levites and Tabernacle

The crown of glory is given for servanthood (1 Peter 5:4). Another reason to get off the sideline into the game. Teaching Sunday School, picking that person up and taking them to the store or church, cleaning those dishes, the Soup Kitchen, Mission Trips. One experiences the glory, the weight, and the reality of God to the extent that one serves Him (remember the Levites (servants of God) camped around the tabernacle, the closet to the glory (kabod) of God):

(1 Peter 5:1 NKJV) The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

(1 Peter 5:2 NKJV) Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

(1 Peter 5:3 NKJV) nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

(1 Peter 5:4 NKJV) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

The crown of glory. My reward is his glory, that he's glorified by my life and the lives of others that he used me to be part of. My reward is to see his face. I don't know what that's going to look like, but I could see the Lord's face shining upon me in the Lord's face of glory, putting the crown upon my head.

The Crown of Thorns

We get these heavenly crowns because He took our earthly crowns:

(Matthew 27:29 NKJV) When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Why are we casting crowns? It's an acknowledgement. All my crowns are because of you, and where I cast is important because I cast him at the throne, the throne of grace. I only throw what has been graced to me for I only have what I have because of his great grace, my very life given because of his grace, my very salvation that I can stand before his throne is because his grace and by his grace, I only have a crown to give because of his grace and my reward is that I have a crown to cast, to see his face, to see me, as I say for you, Lord, because of you. Thank you.

Created for His Pleasure

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

OKJV

I like the Old King James Translation of this, we were created for God's good pleasure;

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Foundational Verse – Why Do I Exist – Meaning of Life / Genesis - Fellowship

This verse is a foundational verse for the all of mankind, it is the answer to "who am I", "why do I exist", "what is the meaning of life", and "what is my purpose in life". Every man was created by God, for God's pleasure. We have to go back to the beginning, in the beginning, to see that God's pleasure is to walk and fellowship with you, just as He did with Adam which means "man".

Verse 11, life will never make sense until this is realized. I've been created for his good pleasure, a personal relationship with him.

Picture the Day / All eyes on the Lord / Starts forming the dirt / The Animals watch

When I read the Bible I like to put myself in the story, like I was standing right there. So Picture the day in this tropical climate, the lush green garden, a cool mist coming out of the ground, and along comes the Lord. We know from Scripture that wherever the Lord is, all eyes are upon Him. When Jesus walked the earth everywhere He went all eyes were upon Him. When Jesus returns all eyes will turn to see Him, God is the center of His creation. So can you picture all the animals in the garden? When God passed every eye turned to Him, but He didn't just pass, He stopped and started to do something in the dirt. The attention of all the animals are locked in on what He is doing. A lion comes over cocking his head in wonderment, two beavers leave the water to get a closer look, a giraffe uses his height advantage to get a better look, some squirrels hang out on branches to get a bird's-eye view, and a few rabbits hop over to watch. They all watch in silence as God puts some dirt here, some dirt there, and begins to shape it.

Formed / Jeremiah 18 / Ish 64 / The Master Potter

The Hebrew word used here in Genesis 2:7 for "formed" is the exact same Hebrew word used for "potter" in Jeremiah 18. The picture it brings to mind here in the garden is God forming Adam just as a potter forming a piece of clay. God knew specifically what He was going to make when He started to form Adam:

(Jeremiah 18:1 NKJV) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

(Jeremiah 18:2 NKJV) "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."

(Jeremiah 18:3 NKJV) Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

(Jeremiah 18:4 NKJV) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

(Jeremiah 18:5 NKJV) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

(Jeremiah 18:6 NKJV) "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

(Isaiah 64:8 NKJV) But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

Rozelle / Finished Product

Mike Rozelle, who is considered to be a Master Potter, which is no small claim, in other words he is considered one of the best in the world in this field. He and his wife Pam do the "Potters Field Ministry", they go around the world ministering. Pam sings, and Mike gives a Biblical teaching about this verse,

while he gives a live demonstration on how to make a clay pot. One thing I'll never forget Mike saying was that every time he begins with that lump of clay, he doesn't even see the clay, but only the finished product, he sees that beautiful finished product. So too with God, for he is the Master of Master Potters.

Every Move shape takes place / Adams face - 930 / The Creator hands get Dirty / Chose Nails

Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God had as He formed Adam's face, the face He would look at and fellowship with for 930 years. Here is the creator of the universe getting His hands dirty to create man, the same hands that 4,000 years later would be blood soaked because He would choose the nails to ensure that this fellowship would never end – for all those who wanted to fellowship with Him.

Your body contains:

Enough iron to make a small nail,
Enough salt to fill an ordinary shaker
Enough sugar to fill a small bowl
Enough lime to whitewash a small chicken coop
Enough phosphorus to make a dozen matches
Enough fat to fill a twelve-pound pail

Recycle Yard / 3 Dollars

I think if you went to the recycle yard your body might be worth 3 dollars, but as we study through this Bible, we see the Scarlet Thread, that it cost God His only Son to buy us out of the prison of sin and death.

Shaping Done - God Leans Back / Animals Silent / the Breath

After all the shaping was complete I picture God leaning back to stop and admire what He had fashioned. All the animals remain silenced wondering what is it, and then the Creator of the universe leans forward, possibly chest to chest, and breaths life into the nostrils of Adam.

(Genesis 2:7 NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

No Life until He Breaths

The breath of God breathed into man, and then he came alive. The Hebrew word "rauch" is used for breath, wind, and Spirit. Man doesn't become a living soul until God breathes into man. Every life today, still comes from the breath of God, whether you believe in Him or not, every life begins when God breaths into man:

(Job 12:10 KJV) In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

(Acts 17:24 NKJV) "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

(Acts 17:25 NKJV) "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

(Daniel 5:23 NKJV) "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

Root of Adam means Dust / Man Dust until God Breaths

Adam means man. The root of Adam means dust, coming from the ground. We are nothing but dust until the breath of God moves over us:

(Genesis 1:2 KJV) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

(Psalms 103:14 NKJV) For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Creator stands / Lifts His Creation / Animals erupt

The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts Adam to His feet and presents him to the rest of His creation. At this point the garden erupts into a euphoric cheer, lions are roaring, monkeys screeching

and shaking the trees, squirrels chattering, and birds singing. All of creation rejoicing, the animals in amazement at the beauty of God's creation, the crown of God's creation, MAN.

Very Good / Intensifier / Final Creation / Crown

At the end of every day of creation God said "it was good", until the sixth day, when God said "it was very good". The word "very" as used here is used often with other words to intensify them; in this case it would mean especially good, exceedingly good, great. Why did God say it was so good? Because in His final act of creation, He created man. Do you know what the Hebrew word for man is here "Adam", but it is used in its generic sense meaning "mankind". So here we see God is talking about all of the human race, and that includes me and you. And God said it was VERY good. The creation of man was God putting the crowning jewel on top of His creation. And He said, "It was VERY good". Adam was first, but it very well could have been us, for we, man, are created in God's image.

*(Genesis 1:4 NKJV) And God saw the light, **that it was good**; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

*(Genesis 1:10 NKJV) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw **that it was good**.*

*(Genesis 1:12 NKJV) And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good**.*

*(Genesis 1:18 NKJV) and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw **that it was good**.*

(Genesis 1:21 NKJV) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

*(Genesis 1:25 NKJV) And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good**.*

But things change on His last creation:

*(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

It is Good / Not Craving – but when Adam Bites into It

When God said it was good, It is not this watermelon is so good, or that God had a craving for some juicy watermelon, but that God would say this is good for when Adam bites into it he will enjoy it so much. When Adam takes its to his bride they will enjoy it together, to see their kids enjoy, it is good. How generation after generation will enjoy it. It pleases God's heart to please His children.

The Sun to Warm the Face / Stars – Vastness – Thinking of Me

When God created the sun He said it is good, how my children will enjoy the warmth of it upon their face. How they will marvel at stars at night, see the vastness of it yet know that I know exactly where they are at this moment, and that I am thinking of them, it is good.

Adam & God Walk in Coolness of Day / Walk and Talk / For Fellowship – Not Workers

Adam and God would walk together in the coolness of the day, they would fellowship together, they would walk and talk together. God created man for fellowship, not to have servants (even though service will naturally come forth from fellowship with Him, for every kids wants to be part of what Dad is doing).

God Chosen You for Fellowship – Desires to Draw You to Self

God has chosen you for fellowship and desires to draw you to Himself.

My Bride / Not to Cook – Companionship – Lover – Best Friend

I have a wonderful bride, have a license and all for her. I did not marry her for service, I can cook and clean just fine on my own, I married her for companionship, to be my lover and my best friend.

My Son / Not Cut Grass / To know his Creator – Watermelon – Direction – Guidance – Play Catch

I didn't have a son to cut my grass and clean my car, but to enjoy watching him grow into a man, to invest my life in his life so that one day he would know who his Creator was. To enjoy watching him eat that watermelon, and to walk together and him ask me questions, look to me for direction and guidance, to

catch ball together.

Created Fellowship – Crowning Jewel

We were created for fellowship with Him, we are the crowning jewel of His creation.

Can only Love to Extent Hurt / His Heart Broke – 6 Hrs / Yet for Good Pleasure / Die to Fellowship

A person can only love to the extent you are willing to be hurt. The Lord's love for us went to the extent of a broken heart as man would chose to walk elsewhere. His love went to the extent of grueling hours that Friday on hill in Palestine. We have the have the capacity to break His heart, yet the Sovereign Almighty God leaves Himself vulnerable to be hurt, and he says for his good pleasure thou was created. He demonstrated to us that He would be willing to die to fellowship with us.

Do You Know This God

Do you know this God?

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need