

STEWARD OF THE KING—WEEK 5

Revelation 5:9-10

February 4, 2024

1. Introduction

- a. Welcome—Guests—Mission & Vision—Husbands
- b. Today—Elder Election: David Robinson—paper or online (email)
- c. Upcoming—Vision Sunday, February 25—LNB Stewardship
- d. Series—Steward of the King: God’s Resources in Your Hands

i. Today: Final Week—Stewards for Eternity

- 1. **John 14:1-3.** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

2. Time

- a. Measuring our days on Earth.

i. ILLUS. Tape Measure

- b. Measuring our days in Eternity.

i. We’ll be on God’s time.

- 1. **2 Peter 3:8b.** With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

ii. Time will be endless.

1. **Psalm 90:2.** Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
2. **John 3:16.** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
3. Eternity for those who turn to Jesus & follow him.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:17b. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
4. Eternity for those who will not turn to Jesus & follow him.
 - a. Matthew 25:45-46. “Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”
 - b. Hebrews 4. Today is the day of salvation. If you hear his voice, do not harden your heart.

3. Talent in Heaven

- a. **Revelation 5:9-10.** 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.”

i. Serving

1. **Matthew 25:23.** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

a. God loves to work.

i. Psalm 111:2. Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

b. God has work prepared for you to do.

i. Ephesians 2:10. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

ii. EXAMPLE. What if there was no work for you to do at your job? Maybe it sounds good at first, but it would be awful watching the minutes crawl by. Like watching the clock in a boring class.

iii. Time flies and we feel productive when there’s work for us to do. It’s satisfying.

2. **Service is a reward, not a punishment. ... more work, more responsibilities, increased opportunities, along with greater abilities, resources, wisdom, and empowerment. We will have sharp minds, strong**

bodies, clear purpose, and unabated joy. The more we serve Christ now, the greater our capacity will be to serve him in Heaven. Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*.

ii. Reigning

1. We were created to reign over God's creation on earth.

a. **Genesis 1:28.** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

b. **STORY.** As adults we often shy away from authority, but as children I think this creation mandate shows up instinctively. "You're not the boss of me!" I would say to my son, "one day you'll be in charge, but not today."

2. Jesus will reign over the world forever.

a. **Luke 1:32-33.** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

3. If you follow Jesus, you will reign with him.

a. **2 Timothy 2:11-12.** Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; If we disown him, he will also disown us.

4. Reigning is what you'll do forever.

a. **Revelation 22:3-5.** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

iii. If serving & reigning forever doesn't sound good. Consider the feeling of getting a job when you've been out of work. Consider the feeling of being in your element or experiencing someone in their element.

1. STORY. I heard Pavarotti on the radio the other day and started to cry. I want to sing like that! I had a chainsaw in my hand yesterday and didn't want to put it down. My job will probably be obsolete in heaven, so maybe I can sing opera and run a tree-trimming service organization for a few hundred years as part of the creation care industry. Then maybe I could be a chef for my next career.

2. ILLUS. I imagine the satisfaction of doing what you love to do with people you love working with, and no toxic workplace culture. No drama, just meaningful, fulfilling, life-giving use of the passions and abilities God has given you.

4. Treasure

a. Matthew 6:20. Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

- b. Eternal treasures are things like authority, possessions, relationships, and life with God. No mention of money.
 - i. Perhaps all we need is provided in the economy of heaven.
 - ii. Perhaps we work for the joy of giving to others, not for receiving compensation.
 - iii. It would be fitting for heaven to be a perfect reflection of the generosity of God who exercises his ownership of all things by giving—a perfect cycle of everyone exercising their stewardship by giving others what they need.

5. Invitation

- a. **Revelation 22:12.** Jesus says, “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”
 - i. **What you do today will shape your eternity.**
- b. God has put his resources in your hands. What will you do with them in the time you have left on this earth?
 - i. **Does your stewardship reflect God’s ownership?** He owns by giving—out of freedom, love & generosity. Not by taking or keeping.
 - ii. **Have you learned the stewardship lessons of the Old Testament?** Requirements of the Sabbath, Skilled Labor, Tithes & Offerings. God’s people must grow from students to stewards.
 - iii. **Are you storing up more treasure in heaven than on earth?** You can’t take treasure with you, but you can send it ahead.

Jesus *wants* us to store up treasure where it will benefit us for eternity. God wants your heart, and your heart follows your treasure. If you want to grow your heart for God, give with the heart of God.

iv. **Have you made a plan for how and when to give your time, talent & treasure?** Are you following it?

c. Why give?

- i. It's what God does.
- ii. It brings God's blessing.
- iii. You gain treasure in heaven.
- iv. It changes your heart.