

# 1.4

## HE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE

### LESSON BIG IDEA

I will worship the one God who sits on the throne.

### FOCUS VERSES

**Revelation 22:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

<sup>2</sup> In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.

### LESSON TEXT

**Revelation 21:1-5,  
9-13, 21-27;  
22:1-5**

### TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Throughout Revelation, God and the Lamb are identified as one and the same.



### Thinking about Last Week:

Have students refer to their Daily Devotional Guide to answer the following questions:

1. What most affected you as you read through the Bible Reading Plan, the Lesson Text, and the Biblical Insights?
2. How did it shape your prayers and thoughts throughout the week?
3. Do you feel you grew closer to the Lord this past week? Why or why not?

## LESSON CONNECTION I

### Teacher Option:

Show Image to help illustrate the Lesson Connection.

Throughout history, people have fought over the right to ascend to earthly thrones. They battle, play games, and engage in deception to win these seats of power. One of the most interesting wars for a throne occurred in the Persian Empire. Daniel 5 provides us with vital background information for this account by telling of the Persians defeating the Babylonians and setting up a vast kingdom. Cyrus the Great ruled over the Persian



Empire, and his son Cambyses succeeded him. However, the next succession proved more challenging. Although historians disagree on all the details, the following account preserves the key points.

When Cambyses died, Darius rose to power and defeated other contenders for the throne, killing Cyrus's son Bardiya. Despite Darius's authority, lack of knowledge caused problems for the new king because many people in the Empire did not know that Bardiya had died. As a result, a pretender to the throne named Gaumata proclaimed that he was Bardiya. (Gaumata was a *magus* like the wise men, or magi, who visited Jesus and His parents in the Gospel of Matthew.)

Because Gaumata looked like Bardiya, the scam proved effective at first. Darius, however, killed him. A stone carving known as the Behistun Inscription features Darius trampling the imposter. After the death of Gaumata, another man arose claiming to be Bardiya. After short-lived success, he died. While Darius stamped out these con artists, many have argued that Darius himself lacked a legitimate claim to the throne and that he invented the story of the usurper Gaumata.

In Heaven, only one sits upon the throne, reigning solely and unequivocally. While Satan once tried to achieve power, the Lord sent him hurtling to Earth, like lightning, to proclaim the Lord's exclusive right to the throne. While politicians and world leaders battle over earthly thrones, we rest secure in the knowledge that Jesus sits on the throne of Heaven. We owe the one true God our admiration, praise, and worship—for He is Lord of all.

## **SG** TEACHING OUTLINE

**Icebreaker:** Who is someone from history you would love to go back in time to meet?

**Lesson Connection:** Share the Lesson Connection on page 163. **I**

### I. THE THRONE

- A. He Who Sits on the Throne Is God, and He Is Also the Lamb
  - » *How difficult would it be to gain an audience with present-day king, president, or prime minister? Explain.*
- B. He Who Sits on the Throne Is the Alpha and the Omega
- C. We Know There Is Only One Who Sits on the Throne
  - » *Jesus identified Himself in many ways: Alpha, Omega, Bread of Life, and so on. What titles or attributes of Jesus have the most personal significance in your life?*

### II. THE TEMPLE

- A. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb Is Its Temple
  - » *What does it mean to you to dwell in Jesus since He is the temple?*
- B. The Lamb Is the Light
- C. The Lamb's Book of Life
  - » *What do you think it means to walk in the light?* **V**
- D. God Enters and Deletes Names from the Book of Life

### III. NO MORE CURSE

- A. They Shall See His Face
- B. His Name Shall Be on Them
- C. I Will Worship the One God Who Sits on the Throne
  - » *How is worship a gauge of our walk with God?*

### Internalizing the Message



### Prayer Focus

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- That we walk in the light
- That we live a lifestyle of worship of the one true God

## LESSON COMMENTARY

### I. THE THRONE

John wrote the Book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia Minor. As subjects of the Roman Empire, the members of these churches understood the power of the throne. Although none of them likely ever came close to Caesar, they recognized the force behind his commands, the imperial might of the army, and the wide reach of the Roman Empire. The throne represented power. The throne represented life and death. The throne stood as the ultimate authority throughout one of the world's greatest empires.

Roman power seemed unprecedented, for who could challenge Caesar? Yet a greater King, who humbly manifested Himself in flesh, rose to a throne greater than Caesar's. Caesar unwittingly followed His commands, building roads and creating security for the spread of the gospel. The lands Rome ruled represented future areas of conquest for a very different type of empire—the kingdom of God.

#### A. He Who Sits on the Throne Is God, and He Is Also the Lamb

In Revelation, the great King who sat on the throne of Heaven appeared both all-powerful and humble because the one who sat on the throne was the eternal God as well as the Lamb sacrificed for the sin of the world. Although those who worshiped Jesus might never gain an audience with Caesar, they could come boldly unto the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). The mighty throne was also the throne of grace because Jesus had experienced the weaknesses of humanity and had overcome them. The King sits on the throne as ruler of Heaven and Earth because He has conquered both.

#### B. He Who Sits on the Throne Is the Alpha and the Omega

The majesty of the one on the throne cannot be understated. He is the Alpha and the Omega. As the beginning and the end, He represents a being who transcends time and human comprehension. Yet this same one chose to come to Earth, trading a robe with a glorious train that filled the Temple for swaddling clothes and the attire of a common carpenter.

The power of the one who sits on the throne can be seen in the fact that the Alpha and Omega not only wanted to be the beginning and the end of all things, but He also desired to be “the author and finisher of our faith.” Therefore, He “endured the cross, despising the shame.” As a result, He “has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

#### C. We Know There Is Only One Who Sits on the Throne

The one who sits on the throne in Revelation gave some hints to His identity. He said, “It is done” in Revelation 21:6, reminiscent of the way Jesus said, “It is finished” in John 19:30 when He

*How difficult would it be to gain an audience with a present-day king, president, or prime minister? Explain.*

*Jesus identified Himself in many ways: Alpha, Omega, Bread of Life, and so on. What titles or attributes of Jesus have the most personal significance in your life?*

was dying on the cross, paving the way for all things to be new. The proclamation of Revelation 21:6, “I am Alpha and Omega,” brings to mind all the times Jesus said, “I am”—“I am the bread of life” (John 6:35), “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11), “I am the true vine” (John 15:1). Jesus consistently identified Himself as the I AM, directing believers back to Moses’ encounter with the burning bush, where he learned the name Jehovah. The one on the throne identifies Himself as Jesus, a name meaning “Jehovah Savior.”

## II. THE TEMPLE

Despite Jesus providing signs to identify Himself throughout history, many people missed them. In the first century, the Jews made this mistake when Jesus boldly stated, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). The Jews erroneously thought Jesus was speaking of the Temple where they worshiped. He spoke of the “temple of his body” (John 2:21). Jesus would be crucified. His body, His physical temple on this Earth, would be destroyed. But Jesus would rise from the dead after three days. Jesus would ultimately show that He was the only temple the Jews or the world would ever need.

### A. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb Is Its Temple

When the Lord showed John the New Jerusalem, the revelator saw the city’s incomparable foundations, the beautiful walls, the pearly gates, and the golden streets. In the midst of seeing all this splendor, John saw no temple. He reasoned that the city had no need for a temple because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were its temple.

Baptized believers needed to be able to look forward to a city with an enduring temple. The Romans sacked Jerusalem in AD 70 and destroyed the Temple. The writing of Revelation likely occurred after these events. Perhaps some Christians joined with their Jewish brethren in hoping the Temple would be rebuilt. John revealed that this reconstruction was not necessary because Jesus is the temple for all believers.

### B. The Lamb Is the Light

In Revelation, the Lamb also serves as the light of the city, negating the need for a sun or moon. When John recognized the illuminating power of the Lamb, he likely remembered Jesus’ proclamation, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Those who walk in the spiritual light of Jesus will one day walk in the light of the Lamb. In a sense, those walking in the light of Jesus on this side of glory partake of glimmers of Heaven and get a taste of what the New Jerusalem will be like.

### C. The Lamb’s Book of Life

Those who desire to partake of the light of the Lamb must have their names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. The city will have

*What does it mean to you to dwell in Jesus since He is the temple?*

no night, no darkness, and no sin. Anything defiled will not be included in the Book of Life. Anything that works abomination will not be found written there. Anything that makes a lie will not appear in this great book.

The light of the Lamb reveals our sinful nature. First John 1:6-7 declares, “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” If we want to have fellowship with Jesus throughout all eternity, we must walk in the light with Him while we live on this Earth.

*What do you think it means to walk in the light?* **V**

#### **D. God Enters and Deletes Names from the Book of Life**

God writes our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Many names have appeared in the book, but we must avoid the deletion of our names. Just as God enters names in the book, He can also take them out. When we repent, are baptized in the name of Jesus, and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. The angels rejoice at our salvation and look forward to seeing us in Heaven.

**Teacher Option:**  
*Show Video to either take the place of the question or to help illustrate it.*

We, however, cannot neglect our great salvation. If we defile ourselves, act abominably, or create lies, then we will find ourselves blotted out of the book. Jesus promised, “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5). We must be overcomers to remain in the Book of Life. When we are overcomers by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11), God brings us back to an Eden-like Paradise in the New Jerusalem.

### **III. NO MORE CURSE**

The revelator described this new Eden as a place with a Tree of Life bearing fruit and no more curse:

*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. (Revelation 22:1-3)*

In the New Jerusalem, believers will have eternal life and healing. Only blessings flow because the Lamb has destroyed the curses of the world.

### A. They Shall See His Face

While the redeemed will marvel at the unimaginable brilliance of the New Jerusalem, nothing will compare to seeing Jesus face-to-face. In the Old Testament, the priest said a blessing over the people that we often hear in Christian weddings today: “The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: the LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace” (Numbers 6:24-26). In the New Jerusalem, this blessing will annihilate every curse placed on humanity. Believers will bask in the light of the Lamb as His face shines on them for all eternity.

### B. His Name Shall Be on Them

The redeemed will easily be identified because the name of Jesus will be on them. Those baptized in the name of Jesus have taken on the name of Christ. Therefore, baptism in Jesus’ name is essential to being part of the amazing redemption story in the Book of Revelation. In Galatians 3:27, Paul wrote, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” We must remain in Christ and stay away from our old nature in order to walk in newness of life and one day walk the streets of gold in the New Jerusalem.

### C. I Will Worship the One God Who Sits on the Throne

Thinking about all the wonderful promises the Lord has for us should compel us to worship the one God who sits on the throne. Our worship of Him reveals His sovereignty. We know He is Lord of all, but we must proclaim Him Lord of all. We cannot sit idly by and become stagnant in our worship when we have such great joy set before us. We must lay aside all weight and sin. We must have a heart of worship.

If we find ourselves not worshiping like we should, then we have lost sight of the one on the throne. We are not allowing His light to shine as brightly in us as it should. But if we have a true vision of our heavenly Father and our heavenly home, then we put our all into worshiping the one on the throne.

*How is worship a gauge of our walk with God?*

## INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

**T**he taste of a milkshake at the roadside diner on Route 66 brought back a lot of memories. Recalling a first date at “their place” after fifty years of marriage brought a smile to their faces. The scent of her perfume years after she had passed away brought a strange mix of joy and sadness as a broken heart beat a bit stronger and tears flowed down a weathered face.

The power of nostalgia cannot be overstated. As much as we love moving forward into the future, we often find ourselves looking back to the past, trying to recapture magical memories. Our hopes, longings, and desires do not exclusively rest in the future; they also live in our pasts.

In the Book of Revelation, we see the Lamb bringing the world back to an Eden-like state. God does not merely reset the clock; He destroys time, allowing us to live with Him for all eternity. The one who sits on the throne shows His mighty power. We all long to be there with Him in that blessed day when He calls us home or raptures the church away.

Sometimes, however, we look too much into the past instead of anticipating this glorious future. As positive as nostalgia is, it can also get in the way. We can put too much focus on what our walk with God used to be like. We remember the first time we prayed and God answered. We remember receiving the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues as tears flowed down our faces. We remember the Lord giving us a much-needed word and inspiring us.

Somewhere along the way, however, we allowed the light of the Lamb to grow dim in our eyes because we put things in front of God. He still shone just as brightly as always, but our blinders prevented us from truly seeing Him. We must make a conscious effort to put the Lord back on the throne of our lives. For even though He reigns supremely as the God of the universe, we alone decide whether we will accept His rule in our hearts.

To return to the light, we must worship the one who sits on the throne. True worship removes everything else from the throne of our hearts. We must remove the idols that sometimes take Jesus’ place. We must remove the distractions that clutter up the throne. Most important, we sometimes have to remove ourselves from the throne by humbly inviting Jesus back onto the throne of our lives.

We can coronate Jesus as the King of our lives and put Him back on the throne through worship. Worship removes idols and distractions and allows us to focus on our King. Worship cleanses us of pride and selfishness as we abdicate the place of power and return the throne to the one who alone deserves the honor of sitting upon it.

