

The Throne of the Most High God

Key Scripture:

*“Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of Grace,
So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb. 4:16*

Portion for the Journey:

There are many ways the Word describes the dwelling place for the Presence of the Most High God. It is referred to as “The Secret Place,” “The Council of God,” “Sanctuary,” “Holy of Holies” or “The Shadow of His Wings.” His Throne signifies that place where His presence dwells in the fullness of His glory. The throne room of God is where the glorious light of the Godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rules in majesty over His heavenly kingdom. The LORD gives us different words and different pictures so we can understand what would be incomprehensible to us without His help.

The “Inner court” or “Holy of Holies” in the OT tabernacle were said to be earthly representations of God’s throne room in heaven. The LORD provided us with great detail into understanding His Holy of Holies through the types and symbols of the tabernacle and temple. The priests were raised up to minister to the LORD in His temple with sacrifices, worship and incense. The High Priest entered this Holy of Holies only one time a year to make intercession for God’s people. It has been said that the High Priest wore a rope tied around his ankle so he could be pulled out of the Holy of Holies if he did not survive God’s presence. It was believed that no one could see the LORD’s face and live. A heavy veil separated the outer court from the inner court. This veil was said to be at least 4-6 inches thick with finely woven threads, yet when Jesus died, the veil separating man from God was rent from top to bottom. The rending started at the top, where no man could have reached and was torn in two allowing the way to come fully into His presence. Jesus is now our High Priests and without His perfect atonement, no man could stand in this Holy place and survive. This topic could provide years of study but the focus of this meditation is to look at the “Throne” or “Holy of Holies.” (See Heb. 8, 9:1-14)

Andrew Murray, in his exposition on the book of Hebrews, “The Holiest of All,” describes this Secret Place of the Most High, “The Holiest into which Christ entered, and into which He opened the way for us, is the inaccessible light of God’s holy presence and love, full of union and communion with Him. Into that Holiest the soul can enter by faith that makes us one with Christ. ...Oh the glory of this message, “Enter In! The veil is rent; the Holiest is open, God waits to welcome you into His bosom. Henceforth, you are to live with Him. This is the message of the Epistle: Child! Thy Father longs for thee to enter, to dwell, and to go out no more forever. Oh, the blessedness of a life in the Holiest! Here the Father’s face is seen and his love tasted. Here His holiness is revealed and a soul made a partaker of it. Here the sacrifice of love and worship and adoration, the incense of prayer and supplication is offered in power. Here the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is known as an ever-streaming, overflowing river, from under the Throne of God and the Lamb. Here the soul, in God’s presence, grows into a more complete oneness with Christ, and more entire conformity to His likeness. Here, in union with Christ, in His unceasing intercession, we are emboldened to take our place as intercessors, who can have power with God and prevail. Here the soul mounts up as on eagle’s wings, the strength is renewed, and the blessing and power and the love are imparted with which God’s priests can go out and bless a dying world.”

The Word has many pictures of those who witnessed the actual throne room of God. Some referred to it as a vision, or a revelation or dream. Paul referred to the vision or revelation of being caught up to the third heaven, saying he did not know whether it was in the body or apart from the Body, only God knows. 2 Cor. 12:1-4 Campbell McAlpine reminds us that “every time you pray, every time you whisper a prayer, every time you bend your knee, this is where you come.”

Take time to carefully read and meditate on each of the passages below and note what you learn about the throne of God and those who surround His throne.

- **Hannah:** The first mention of God’s throne in the Word comes from the lips of a woman of prayer! Hannah’s prayer is called the Old Testament Magnificat. Her prayers were generated from a heart that longed for the LORD’s fulfillment of her deep longing to have a child. I believe that in Hannah’s yearning for a child and the pain and grief of being denied and shamed for her childlessness, she drew ever closer to the LORD in prayer. It is clear Hannah’s insight came from the Lord Himself when she recognized that God lifts us from the lowest places up to sit with Him in His throne room. “He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S, and he hath set the world upon them.” 1 Sam. 2: 1-10, esp. vs 8 (KJV)
- **Isaiah:** Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-13) Isaiah’s response to God’s holiness was to see his own unworthiness and the sin of his lips. Isaiah cried out that he was ruined and quickly confessed sin of unclean lips. A Burning coal was touched to his lips and he was pronounced clean from his iniquity and his sin forgiven. Commissioned to tell the people God’s words.
- **Joshua the High Priest** (Zech. 3:1-10) Satan stood to accuse him. The LORD rebuked Satan. Cleansing from sin: He removed Joshua’s filthy garments, clothed him with clean garments of righteousness. Commissioned to service. God told him what was to come. Zech. 3:1-10 “If you will walk in My ways and if you will perform My service then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing here.” Zech 3:7
- **Ezekiel:** (Ezekiel 1:22-2:10) Ezekiel fell on his face Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; 43:3; 44:47 The Spirit entered Ezekiel, lifted him to his feet. God commissioned Ezekiel to speak His Words to the House of Israel. God promised to make his face like emery, harder than flint so he would not be afraid or dismayed. Ezek. 3:8-9
- **Daniel:** (Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14; 26-17) The Thrones were placed. The scene is a heavenly courtroom. God Himself on the central throne. The Ancient of Days is the judge. His hair white representing wisdom that comes with great age. Clothing white, uncompromising radiant purity. Stream of fire flowed from throne. Myriads and myriads of angels worshipping.
- **John:** Revelations chapters 1-5, note especially 1:12-18; 4:1-11; 5:6-13

Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father, Who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done on earth, as it is in Heaven.” When we draw near to God, His Glory is revealed. We should pray for these same characteristics of His rule to be revealed on earth.

- **God’s Throne is Eternal:** He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the Ancient of Days. He is without beginning who will reigns for time without end. Ps 45:1-6; Dan. 7:9 (Amp); Deut. 33:27
- **God has all Dominion:** The Most High God: El Elyon, Lord of Hosts: Jehovah Sabaoth, King of Kings. His throne is the location from which God rules over all the heavens and the earth with absolute sovereignty. Our God reigns!! As El Elyon, He has the highest position and authority as sovereign ruler whose dominion is over all else. Isa. 46:8-10; Dan. 4:28-37; Rev. 1:6; Ps. 47:8; 103:19; Ps. 47:8; It was this position that Satan sought which led to his fall. Isa. 14:12-17
- **God is Exalted:** The throne of God was high and lifted up. The Western world does not have a lot of experience with thrones, but in the days of kings, the higher and greater the throne, the greater the personage who sat upon it. (See Isa. 6, Rev. 4) The word “exalted” means ‘To be raised up, lifted up, highest position.’ Idols in our hearts are those things that are exalted to a place higher than God. The more we see the LORD the less we will be tempted to follow idols. Jesus is exalted to sit on His throne at the right hand of God. When Jesus is revealed that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is LORD. Acts 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11
- **Filled with the Radiant Light of His Presence:** God’s light emanates from His presence. His light fills the tabernacle. His light reveals and casts out all darkness. If we walk in His light we will have fellowship with Him and with one another. Matt. 17:1-8 (Mount of Transfiguration); John 3:19-21; 1 John 1:5-7; 1 Tim. 6:16; Ex. 33:20; 1 Tim. 6:16;
- **Holiness:** The Inner Court was called “the Holy of Holies.” We see the LORD in His awesome holiness. The holiness of God predominates all other aspects of His character. Those who behold the LORD are first made aware of His holiness. His mercy seat was placed in the Holy of Holies. There are many manifestations of the Spirit, but His name is revealed to us as “Holy Spirit.” When we speak of the manifestations of the Spirit the first evidence of His Presence will be holiness. Holiness is more than the absence of sin, it is Godliness! Burning Bush. Ex. 3:1-6; Ex. 26:34; Ps. 11:4; Ps. 47:8
- **Glory:** God’s glory is the full manifestation of His innermost being. It is linked with the light or radiance of His presence. “Glory” in the NT is the Greek word ‘doxa’ (Strong’s 1391). This word speaks of the manifestation of God in all of His brilliance, majesty, and splendor. When His glory is revealed, He is truly and fully recognized for all that He is in perfection and excellence of divine nature. The more we truly know Him the more we will be filled with the sense of His glory. John 12:43; 2 Cor. 3:18; Matt. 25:31; John 12:43; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:4
- **Mercy and Grace:** the Mercy seat was located in the Holy of Holies. Over His Throne we see a rainbow, the symbol of God’s covenant with Noah, representing His mercy. The NT speaks of His Throne as a Throne of Grace! The word for “boldly” is “parresia” meaning ‘confident boldness, freedom, unreservedness of speech, the absence of fear when speaking boldly, hence, confidence and cheerful courage.’ Mercy is not giving us what we deserve. Grace is giving us abundantly beyond all that we could possibly ever deserve. Grace transforms us into His likeness. Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet 5:10; Heb 10:29

- **Judgment: His throne is founded on justice.** The Hebrew words for judgment and justice are interchangeable because they are identical in meaning. He judges the world from His throne and all mankind will stand before Him one day to be judged for their deeds. Ps. 9:7-8; 89:4, 14; 97:2; Dan. 7:9; Matt. 19:28
- **Living Water flows from His Throne:** Water is essential to all life and the water flowing from the Throne of God is eternal. Jesus calls us to boldly approach His throne for in His presence are times of refreshing in His Living Water. Rev. 22:1-2,17; Rev. 7:17; Jer. 2:13; John 4:10-11; John 7:38; Ps. 42:2; Ps. 1:3, Jer. 17:8; Isa 55 (entire chapter); Ps. 63:1-8 speaks of the refreshing that comes in His sanctuary and under the shadow of His wings.
- **Love**

What happens to us when we approach His throne?

- **Reverence** as defined by **the fear of the LORD** is demonstrated in those who approach the throne of God. The Seraphim who worshipped before God's throne covered their faces as a sign of reverence for God's holiness. There are two types of fear related to God in the Bible: 1) **Slavish fear is related to terror**, dread, and great trembling. This is the fear of punishment that causes one to flee away. This fear does not honor God because it is not joined with love or trust and produces terror and despair. The unbeliever will experience this fear when they face the LORD on judgment day. James described the demons fear of God--they shudder in fear because their fear is not united by love. James 2:19 2) **Childlike fear is the healthy fear of the LORD** experienced by believers and it includes an overwhelming sense of awe in the holiness of God, reverence and respect that demands worship, holy awe and trust because it is joined with faith in God's character through the Word and His promises. "Childlike fear...is not afraid of God's punishment only, but of sin itself, of the very idea of sinning against God, of grieving His heart." It includes a lively feeling that there is dangerous aspect of God was connected with His holiness, that is, His hatred of sin." ¹ We cannot water down the meaning of the fear of the LORD by removing it from the context of the original meaning which describes this fear as that which causes terror or trembling. The concept of "fear and trembling" in connection with God is not a popular concept today. Many teach sermons about Jesus' love and grace but skirt away from issues that relate to His judgment, sin, and hell. To assure unrepentant sinners they are safe in the hands of the living God is to damn them with a false sense of peace. Ps.25:14 Amplified; Ps. 89:7; Rom. 8:15; 1 Pet. 1:17; 1 Pet. 3:2, 15; Phil. 2:12. Read Heb. 10:26-3
- **We worship the Most High.** Seraphim stood above His throne calling out, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; The whole earth is full of His Glory! Worship caused the doorposts of heaven to shake! Angels numbering thousands upon thousands and ten thousands upon ten thousands sing and worship before His throne. Worship is pathway of coming into His presence. When we see Him in His glory we must worship Him! The pattern for entering into the Lord's presence is described in Ps. 100. The Greek word for "doxa" Isa. 6:2-3; Rev. 4:10-11; Rev. 5:11-14; Rev. 19:1-10

¹ "Under His Wings" by O.O. Hallesby, 1932, Ausberg Publishing House, p. 104

- **We are convicted of our sin.** Isaiah cried out “Woe is me, I am ruined. I am a man of unclean lips.” Woe is a word of conviction and confession. When we stand in the light of God’s presence, our unworthiness and sin is exposed. We must remember that He stands as our advocate, as He did with Joshua, the High priest. (Isa. 6:1-13)
- **We are cleansed and forgiven.** When we confess our sins before the LORD, cleansed from our sins. He cleanses us through Jesus blood, and as we saw with Joshua, the High Priest God provides us with robes of righteousness. Zech. 3, Isa. 6, 1 John 1:9
- **He brings us into His counsel and shares what He is planning to do. He will disclose to us all that is to come.** He shares with us what God is going to do. He warns and gives us discernment. 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:7,11,17;29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22; Amos 3:7; Isa. 46:9-10; Jer. 33:3; John 16:3; Prov. 3:32. Examples: Noah (Gen. 6:13); Abraham & Lot (Gen. 18:17); Joseph (41:30); Jonah 1:2 (Ninevah); Peter (Luke 22:30-32)
- **We are given authority:** We are given access to the angels in God’s court! We are actually seated with Christ in heavenly places. Zech. 3; Eph. 2:6; Matt. 28:18
- **We are commissioned to His service.** As we stand in His counsel, He speaks His word to us, so we can take His word to speak to others. This is really the definition of a prophet—one who speaks the word as it has been given to him by the LORD, not necessarily “telling the future.” Examples: Jeremiah (Jer. 23:18-29); Micaiah (1 Ki. 22:14); Elijah (1 Kings 17-18)
- **We intercede for others:** The bowls of incense before His throne are the prayers of the saints. As Jesus disciples, we are called to the royal priesthood. The priest represents the heart of God on moral matters. The priest’s function was to offer prayers and offerings on behalf of the people. Prayer and intercession are functions of the royal priesthood. To intercede means to stand in the gap, to stand between God and man, so that God does not need to bring judgment. Jesus is our advocate and ever lives to intercede for us. 1 Peter 2:9; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 5:8; 8:3
- **We will reign with Him in glory.** Eph. 1:20-2:6; 1 Cor. 6:2; Dan.7:18,22,27; Matt. 25:34; Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4; Phil. 3:20,21

How Do We Enter The Throne Room Of God?

1. Jesus Has Made the Way for Us to Enter God’s presence through His blood. He is the Lamb of God, the one perfect sacrifice to atone for our sin. There is only one way to enter God’s presence: Jesus!! Christ in His glorified form. Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory, the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by the Word of His power. Jesus, our High Priest Heb. 7:25; Heb. 8:1-2; Ezek. 1:26-27; Heb. 1:3; Heb. 9:11-12; 10:19-22

2. We enter by faith: We need to believe Him! We need to that the Father is on His throne in the heavens, in a place more real than the material world around us. We need to humble ourselves to receive and believe His Word regarding our salvation. Heb. 10:22; Eph. 3:12; 1 John 3:21

3. We choose to Draw Near: To enter the Secret Place is a choice: The Lord invites us to Draw Near and He promises to draw near to us! Heb. 10:19, 22, 38-39; James 4:8,10; Heb. 4:16; Eph. 3:9-12; 1 John 2:8; Rev. 3:20

4. There are those who shrink back, because they do not want their deeds to be exposed. Ask God to make your heart willing to enter fully into the LIGHT, allowing all your deeds to be exposed to His light. John 3:17-21; Eph. 5:8-13; 1 John 2:28; Heb. 10:38

Digging Deeper in the Word:

Descriptions of the Throne Room: Use a Concordance to look up verses related to God's throne. Note everything you can learn about God's Throne Room.

1. What are the Seven Spirits that are before His Throne: Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; Isa. 11:2
2. Describe the various sounds one hears before the Throne: Ps. 46: 1-7; Isa. 6:4; Ezek. 1:24; Job 40:8-14;
3. The Angels in the throne room: Ezek. 1:5-22; Rev. 4:8; Isa. 6; Zech. 3, Matt. 25:31; Job 1,2
4. What does the Rainbow around God's throne signify? Ezek. 1:28; Rev. 4:3; Rev. 10:1
5. Where is God's Throne? ("firmament" or "the heavens" used Gen. 1:6-8; Ezek. 1:22
6. Golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Rev. 5:8; Rev. 8:3,4
7. Why would Satan be in God's Throne Room? In what ways do you see God's sovereignty displayed over Satan? Zech. 3; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; 1 Kings 22:19-23; Eph. 6:12
8. How do the items placed in the Holy of Holies demonstrate the characteristics of God's throne room? i.e. Aaron's rod, manna, etc. Heb. 9:1-14

What is the LORD speaking to your heart?

Lord, I am overwhelmed with awe that You would so freely share Your thoughts and wisdom with Your children. Please help me never to dishonor You or handle carelessly what You have given to me. I cherish Your words to me, please teach me how to care for them with tenderness and humility. Most merciful Father, keeper of my soul, please do not let me think lightly of the riches of Your kindness and forbearance, and patience, remind me always of Your kindness which leads me to repentance. Rom. 2:4

Responding to the LORD

To apply this message, set aside time to be alone with the LORD. Ask the LORD to help you plan a retreat of prayer and fasting... give Him as much time as you are able at one time... an hour, a day or more. Set apart a time to be alone with God. Literally close the door to all other distractions. Bring only your Bible and a notebook, materials to help you study and meditate on the Word. Meditate on the verses related to God's throne. Make notes regarding what the LORD is showing you. Pour out your heart to Him before His throne. Matt. 6:6; Mark 4:24-25; Ps. 27; 77:6; Jer. 29:13