

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE SCARLET THREAD IN SCRIPTURE

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PART 6: CHRIST IN REVELATION

THE THREAD REACHES THE THRONE

The Book of Revelation is often approached with a mixture of trepidation, speculation, and confusion. Many Christians read it looking for charts, timelines, and symbols, while missing its central purpose found in the opening verse.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ...” (Revelation 1:1a)

Despite what many think, the Book of Revelation is not primarily about the Antichrist, judgment, and the end of the world. It is about Jesus Christ in unveiled glory.

The scarlet thread that was promised, foreshadowed, proclaimed, manifested, and applied now reaches its final destination – the throne of God.

THE GLORIFIED CHRIST

The apostle John records what he sees in terms of the glorified Jesus in heaven who is so different from the man who was his best friend on earth.

*“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks **one like unto the Son of man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.” (Revelation 1:13-16)*

This is the same Jesus who walked the dusty roads of Galilee, but now He is revealed in majesty, authority, and holiness. Daniel foresaw this vision many centuries earlier.

*“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days [God the Father], and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)*

When confronted by the Son of God's glory, John's response is indicative of what anyone would do.

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.” (Revelation 1:17a)



Jesus reassures him that he has nothing to fear because the Son of God is in control.

*“Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”
(Revelation 1:17b-18)*

The risen Christ is not diminished by the suffering He endured while incarnated on earth; instead, He is exalted because of it.

THE LAMB IS WORTHY

The Lamb sits upon the throne and is worthy to redeem mankind. In Revelation chapter five, heaven pauses when a scroll, sealed with seven seals, lies unopened because no one is worthy until John sees the Son of God.

*“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain...**” (Revelation 5:6b)*

The same Lamb introduced in the four Gospels now stands at the center of heaven and the redeemed erupt in song for Jesus.

*“And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.**” (Revelation 5:9)*

This Lamb is worthy because:

He was slain.

“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: **he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)

“Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.” (John 19:18)

He has redeemed mankind by His blood.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

He purchased people from every nation.

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The work of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has achieved eternal and permanent redemption, something the Old Testament sacrifices could never do.

*“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by his own blood** he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” (Hebrews 9:12)*

The scars from the scourging and the nail holes from the crucifixion are not visible on Jesus' glorified body, but they are not erased in glory either. They are the reason for glory. The scarlet thread is visible even in heaven.

CHRIST'S SOVEREIGNTY

John sees heaven opened as Jesus returns as a victorious King. He judges with perfect righteousness. He has absolute authority over all nations. His word carries power to conquer and rule.

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

*And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God**.*

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

*And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.” (Revelation 19:11-16)*

This is not a description of a suffering Servant, but a conquering King, and His titles declare His authority:

- ❖ Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11)
- ❖ The Word of God (Revelation 19:13)
- ❖ King of kings, and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)

God the Father has appointed His King, to rule by divine authority. His reign is established in Zion – Jerusalem and God's chosen place of rule – and human rebellion cannot stop the divine plan. No matter the opposition, Jesus is King and His rule will prevail.

“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” (Psalm 2:6)

The Messiah who once wore a crown of thorns wears many crowns in the future. History is not spiraling out of control; rather, it is moving toward His reign.

THE JUDGE OF EARTH

Jesus is the judge of all the earth; His rule is righteous and true. The Bible affirms that God the Father has entrusted all judgment to Jesus Christ. He has complete authority over every person. This authority reveals His divine status, which calls people to honor Him because every person ultimately answers to Him.

*“The Father judgeth no man, but hath **committed all judgment unto the Son.**”*
(John 5:22)

A final judgment will occur with Jesus presiding as the righteous judge. God the Son’s presence is so holy that creation itself gives way; there is no escape or hiding place from this judgment.

*“And I saw a **great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.**”*
(Revelation 20:11)

God has appointed a specific day of judgment when the world will be judged with perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ is the appointed judge and the resurrection is the proof of this truth.

*“Because he [God the Father] hath appointed a day, in the which he [God the Father] will judge the world in righteousness by that man [Jesus Christ] whom he [God the Father] hath ordained; whereof he [God the Father] hath given assurance unto all men, in that **he [God the Father] hath raised him [Jesus Christ] from the dead.**” (Acts 17:31)*

The One who was unjustly judged by the ungodly Jewish religious leadership and Pontius Pilate will judge justly in the future from a Great White Throne. Justice delayed is not justice denied. Righteousness will ultimately prevail.

THE LAMB IS PREEMINENT

John sees the end of the story as Jesus personally brings comfort and healing. Death is completely eliminated as the old, broken sinful creation is dissolved and believers enter the new creation where sorrow and pain do not exist.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

The New Jerusalem needs no natural light because God’s glory provides perfect illumination. Jesus Christ (the Lamb) is the source and expression of that light.

*“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **the Lamb is the light thereof.**” (Revelation 21:23)*

Jesus Christ is the perfect image of the Godhead and the supreme ruler over creation. He is the Creator and sustainer of all things, the head of the Church, the first in resurrection, and the One who exerts absolute dominance in all things. God the Son is unmatched!

*“Who [God the Son] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him [God the Son] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him [God the Son], and for him [God the Son]: And he [God the Son] is before all things, and by him [God the Son] all things consist. And he [God the Son] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he [God the Son] might have the preeminence.**” (Colossians 1:15-18)*

The story that began in a garden, ends in a city, and Jesus Christ is at the center of both.

FROM PROMISE TO GLORY

The words of Jesus are a powerful declaration concerning the identity and supremacy of Jesus Christ. The Son of God is the beginning and end of all things. He is eternal and unchanging. He is matchless with absolute authority over history and creation. The thread is completed as Jesus declares:

*“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”
(Revelation 22:13)*

Where does that leave you? Fix your eyes upon Jesus since He is the source of your faith. He endured the shame and pain of the crucifixion for the glorious ending that would unfold. He reigns now in glory and authority, calling believers to follow Him with the same endurance.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Paul confirms His exaltation.

*“Wherefore God [the Father] also hath highly exalted him [Jesus], and given him [Jesus] a name which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the*

earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

The scarlet thread never breaks. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, it ends exactly where it began, with God the Son exalted.

THE LAMB REIGNS FOREVER

The Book of Revelation displays the following:

- ❖ Christ glorified
- ❖ Christ enthroned
- ❖ Christ worshiped
- ❖ Christ reigning
- ❖ Christ returning

The final passage of the Bible echoes across the ages:

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

There is no need to fear the future. You don't have to fear the end because the Lamb who was crucified reigns forever and His people reign with Him.