

THINGS UNSEEN: THE PROMISES OF GOD THROUGH THE KINGDOM (PALM SUNDAY)

God's Promise: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 NVI)

My Promise: I will seek the Kingdom of God

Do you remember when Jesus entered into Jerusalem, sitting on a donkey? Do you remember seeing anybody else sitting with Him? Nobody else right? Jesus was by Himself sitting on that animal. The people cried out to Him "Hosanna" and to nobody else. They extended their cloaks to Him and nobody else. I hope that you have been able to capture the idea. There is only one King. "The throne can only be occupied by one person and that person will not move." (Unshakeable Hope)

On this Palm Sunday, we can understand a few things about this King that does not share His Majesty with anybody. As we study the story of the Last Supper of the earthly life of Jesus we can see why. If we had known that the one who was sitting on that donkey was on His way to Calvary instead of to a throne, we would have not even considered it. The question is why did He remain sitting on that donkey knowing what was waiting for Him? The reason is simple, so that you and I could enjoy the benefits of His actions as King.

(Support the lesson with Matthew 21)

Bible Reading: Revelation 4:1-11

FROM THE DONKEY TO THE THRONE - Revelation 4:1-3

If, in the triumphal entry, the people who were shouting at Jesus "Hosanna", at that moment and then "Crucify Him" at another, could have seen who it was who was sitting on the donkey, it is possible that they would have changed their shouting. Jesus is the only one worthy to occupy the throne of His Kingdom. In the Revelation, John could see for an instant that reality. When he was introduced to heaven, he could see something – A Throne. That means that only one person can occupy it. In second place, he saw "someone sitting." The term "someone" could only mean one thing, Jesus is the

only King. Now the reference made in verse 3 is important. Since the Old Testament, God said that His “image” cannot be described. Instead of describing an “image” of the one sitting on the throne, John describes His “essence”. The elements of the precious stones or the rainbow that surrounds the throne are a declaration of our King as unmatched. Nobody can take His place! Even though He had been sitting on a donkey...

OTHERS AROUND THE THRONE-Revelation 4:4-7

In the scene of the entry into Jerusalem, there were many people around the donkey. People from the city, religious leaders, Roman soldiers trying to keep order, the followers of Jesus, etc... They all surrounded the donkey but did not occupy the donkey.

In the scene from Revelation, we also have a group of beings who surround the throne.

1. – Around the throne I saw twenty-four elders - 4a. – These elders were beings of authority, because they had crowns upon their heads. Have you heard of Michael, Gabriel, and other high-ranking archangels in the heavenly hosts? Many Bible students say that these 24 were an order of angelic beings that surround the throne of God – but – they do not occupy the throne.

2.- Lightning and thunder and voices - 5a – The effect of the one who was sitting on the throne was so wonderful that heaven became bright with light and sounded the announcement of the one who was sitting was great and worthy. Only He was worthy of occupying that throne.

3. - Before the throne there were seven lamps that burned with fire - 5b – The eternal and perfect presence of God is what covers that great throne. The perfect God (symbol of 7) lives in that place. That same one is the one who was sitting on that humble donkey. A throne made with the flesh of an animal.

4. – Next to the throne, and around the throne, four living beings - 6-7 – The four beings (similar to the ones described by Isaiah and Ezequiel) are those beings represented by the lion, the oxen, the man, and the eagle that are in charge of surrounding and being close to the throne and have impressive authority. – They surround and are next to the throne – but they are not sitting on the throne.

THE ONLY ACTION AROUND THE THORNE – Revelation 4:8-11

When Jesus came into Jerusalem, He was surrounded by acts of worship. The shouts of Hosanna, placing their cloaks before Him, and waving the palm leaves as He passed by. Everything pointed to the one who occupied the place upon the donkey, was worthy of special worship.

In Revelation, the image is unreal, majestic and overwhelming. The high-ranking beings and those of great splendor, and those who wore their crowns of authority and those who flew before the throne could only do one thing, “Declare that only that one sitting on the throne is the Lord God Almighty.” The reaction of the rest was to surrender their power and authority and place it at His feet, laying prostrate before the one who “is sitting on the throne.”

What an image! They throw their crowns before the throne! Everything has to do with the throne and of course upon the one who is sitting on the throne. The only exclamation that is directed toward the throne is what impulses us this Palm Sunday to say:

“Lord, you are worthy to receive the glory and the honor and the power; because you created everything, and because of your will, exist and were created.”

That last declaration reminds us why only one can occupy the throne. Because He is the only one who can occupy the throne, He is the only one that can cause “the rest of the things to be added” to those who have decided to seek first the kingdom and its justice according to Matthew 6:33!

Hosanna!