

THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

Session 16: 'Ruling Over Angels'

12 February 2023



Learning Objectives

- Know our new titles
- Train for our new activities
- Rejoice in our new privileges
- Live now in ways that matter

Lesson Theme

“We will be living the life Eden offered—we will be busy enjoying and caring for what God has made, side by side with the divine beings whom remained loyal to him.” Michael S Heiser, *Supernatural*, 160

Christian Believers' New Status

- Adopted children of God
- Co-inheritors with Christ
- Members of the new divine council
- Rulers over nations
- Exalted higher than angels
- Dwelling in the renewed Eden

Not

- Cloud floaters
- Harpists third class
- Choir singers without parole
- Chubby cherubim
- Lying down by still waters

1. We will judge angels

² The Lord's people will judge the world... You are to judge the world... ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

- You are to judge the world: Dan 7:22¹; Wisdom 3:8²; Jubilees 16:18³; DSS 1QpHab 5:4⁴
- We will judge angels: The very angels who judge the nations, now. Psalm 82:6-7⁵

2. A Kingdom and Priests

⁵ To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father —to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6. See Exodus 19:6⁶

- Kingdom: Yahweh's sovereign rule over creation; Christ's lordship over us; his future rule over earth.
- Priests: To serve between God and humans, explain God to humans, and representing humans to God.
- Serve God and Father: That is, the God who created us, and the Father who loves us.

3. Eat from the Tree of Life

⁷ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Revelation 2:7

- Victorious: Keeping loyal faith in Jesus. 1 John 5:4⁷; Revelation 15:2⁸
- Tree of life: God's provisions for everlasting human life. Genesis 3:22⁹
- Paradise of God: Ezekiel 28:13¹⁰; Luke 23:43¹¹; 2 Corinthians 12:2¹²

4. Life, our Victor's Crown

¹⁰ Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. ¹¹ The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2

- Life: Resurrection from death, with conscious, joyful, group activity forever. 1 John 2:25¹³

¹ The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:22 NIV

² They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Wisdom of Solomon 3:8 NRSVue

³ [Isaac's progeny] would become God's people sanctified out of all his nations; and that they would become a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jubilees 16:17-18 Vanderkam 1989

⁴ [God] He will give the power to pass judgment on the Gentiles to his chosen, and it is at their rebuke that 5all the wicked of His people shall be condemned. 1QpHab 5:4 *DDS :A New Translation*

⁵ "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler." Psalms 82:6-7

⁶ Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Exodus 19:5-6 NIV
A targum of this verse renders it "a kingdom and priests," as here (cf. Jubilees 16:18). *IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary*.

⁷ Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. 1 John 5:4

⁸ I saw ... those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. Revelation 15:2

⁹ "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." Genesis 3:22

¹⁰ You were in Eden, the garden of God. Ezekiel 28:13 ESV

¹¹ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

¹² I know a man in Christ who ... was caught up to the third heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:2

¹³ This is the promise that He has promised us — eternal life. 1 John 2:25

- Crown: Visible reward for having endured a humiliating death for one's loyal faith in Jesus.¹⁴
- Not hurt: Revelation 21:8¹⁵

5. The hidden manna

¹⁷ To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. Revelation 2:17

- Hidden manna: 2 Maccabees 2:4-8¹⁶ (2nd cent BCE); 2 Baruch 29:8¹⁷ (1st or 2nd cent CE)
- White stone: Favorable vote cast into an urn; vindication in court.¹⁸
- New name: The voter's name? Revelation 19:12-13¹⁹. See #8.

6. Authority Over the Nations

²⁵ 'Hold on to what you have until I come.' ²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations — ²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery' —just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. Revelation 2:25-28

- Authority over nations: Right to govern²⁰
- Will rule them: Literally, "shepherd"²¹.
- The morning star: Title of Jesus²² shared with us²³.

7. Dressed in White

⁴ They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Revelation 3:4-5

- Dressed in white: Purity, holiness, honor. *Anchor Bible*, 314.
- Book of life: Blot out = death. Our name are entered at birth, blotted out by betrayal.

¹⁴ "A wreath made of foliage or designed to resemble foliage ... award or prize for exceptional service or conduct, *prize, reward*... In 1 Cor 9:25 (ref. to incorruptibility)." BDAG *Lexicon*

¹⁵ As for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8 ESV

¹⁶ Jeremiah came and found a cave dwelling, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense; then he sealed up the entrance. ... declared, "The place shall remain unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy. 2 Maccabees 2:5, 7

¹⁷ The treasury of manna shall again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years, because these are they who have come to the consummation of time. 2 Baruch 29:8.

¹⁸ "A pebble used in voting: a black one for conviction, a white one for acquittal, voting-pebble, used in cases of injuries and in other circumstances ... cast a vote against Ac 26:10." BDAG *Lexicon*

¹⁹ He has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. Revelation 19:12-13

²⁰ "The right to control or command, *authority, absolute power, warrant*." BDAG *Lexicon*

²¹ "1 to serve as tender of sheep, *herd, tend, (lead to) pasture*... 2 to watch out for other people, *to shepherd*, of activity that protects, rules, governs, fosters ... in the sense of lead, guide, or rule." BDAG *Lexicon*

²² "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." Revelation 22:16

²³ "Because most of the Greco-Roman world believed that life was ruled by the stars, to be given authority over one of the most powerful of stars (a symbol of sovereignty among the Romans) was to share Christ's rule over creation (2:26-27)." *IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary*.

- Acknowledge that name: Matthew 10:32²⁴; 2 Clement 3:2²⁵

8. The New Jerusalem

¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Revelation 3:12

- Pillar in the temple: 1 Corinthians 3:16²⁶; 1 Enoch 90:28-29²⁷; DDS 4Q403 1 i, 3-4²⁸
- The New Jerusalem: Isaiah 65:18²⁹; Hebrews 12:22³⁰
- My new name: Revelation 19:13³¹

9. Sit with me on my throne

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Revelation 3:21

- The right: Literally, 'I will give to him/her to sit'.
- Sit with me: 1 Corinthians 6:4³². BDAG *Lexicon*³³
- On my throne: Luke 1:32³⁴; Acts 2:30³⁵

10. See his face

³ The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Revelation 22:3-4

- Serve him: That is, not to serve any lesser god, angel, alien or human being.
- See his face: Exodus 33:20³⁶. Access, freedom, family. No curtain, no veil, no embarrassment.
- His name on their forehead: Revelation 7:3³⁷. No other being will dare to mess with us.

²⁴ Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10:32

²⁵ I will acknowledge him before my Father in the heavens. 2 Clement 3:2b.

²⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

²⁷ The Lord of the sheep ... produced a new house, larger and higher than that first, and put it in the place of the first, which had been enveloped, and all its pillars were new. 1 Enoch 90:29

²⁸ He has established] utter holiness among the eternally holy, that they might become for Him priests [of the inner sanctum in His royal temple,] ministers of the Presence in His glorious innermost chamber. 4Q403, fragment 1, column I, verses 3-4 *DDS: A New Translation*

²⁹ Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. Isaiah 65:17-18

³⁰ You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven. Hebrews 12:22

³¹ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. Revelation 19:13-14

³² if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from [do you seat] those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 1 Corinthians 6:4

³³ 2 to put in charge of something, *appoint, install, authorize*. BDAG *Lexicon*

³⁴ He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. Luke 1:32 NRSVue

³⁵ Since [David] was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Acts 2:30 NRSVue

³⁶ "You cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." Exodus 33:20 NIV

³⁷ "We put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Revelation 7:3