

## THE CROSS, THE CROWN, AND THE WRATH OF THE LAMB

THE GREAT BATTLEGROUND OF EVERYTHING IS THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE PERSON OF JESUS. METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING, I BELIEVE WE ARE IN A [REVELATION 5](#) MOMENT, MEANING [REVELATION 6](#) IS ON THE WAY: THE TRIBULATION BEGINS AND EVERYTHING BEGINS TO BARREL FORWARD TOWARDS THE DEFINITIVE END OF THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE.

### I. REVELATION 5

- A. The singular event that plunges human history into the darkest and the most glorious 42-month period the Earth has ever known - the period that literally transitions this present evil age into the age to come and the reign of Messiah on earth - is Jesus taking the scroll from the hand of His Father and tearing open its seals.
- B. From the posture of the saints in the throne room in [Revelation 5](#), we see many things emerging that can inform us of how we as the saints should posture ourselves on the earth before Jesus tears the seals from the scroll.
  - 1) Jesus takes the scroll in response to the intercessions of the church in splendor at the end of all things crying out for Him to take it. The maranatha church has a consciousness of what's about to happen and then saying, "Let it"
- C. We're looking at the centrality of prayer in the context of beholding Jesus. But if we haven't grappled with who He is, we're not going to pray those kind of prayers. The maranatha church at the end of the age is not going to be a church who prays. She will be a church who *is* prayer, one who walks in a consciousness of who Jesus is and what He's about to do, and whose intercession becomes an agreement with what He already has planned to do.
  - 1) prayer is not necessarily saying things to God and worship is not necessarily music. It's not as though I worship. I am worship: I live, I breathe, I die to worship Him. My life belongs to this great endeavor of beholding Him and breathing out worship, awe, adoration, and submission to Him. That's who I am
  - 2) the saints around the throne in [Revelation 5](#) are people who are prayer and who are worship because they behold Jesus. They see Him as He is. We need to see the relationship between this and the judgment events themselves being released onto the earth
- D. [vs 4](#) if your local judge is going to execute heavy judgments on people who are being tried, you want him to be someone whose judgment you can trust to be clean and pure, not too severe but not too merciful, either. A judge that's too merciful will offend those who have been wounded by

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the transgressor, and a judge who's too severe will offend those who do not warrant that kind of a penalty. The great debacle is this: who is gentle enough, merciful enough, compassionate enough *and* just enough and has the spine and character to actually execute these judgments in the seals?

- 1) right now, everyone on Earth is debating about their version of justice, and Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father with a scroll in His hand that is actual justice. Beloved, when He tears those seven seals open, everybody on every side of the debate about justice is going to tremble because His justice will be far more extreme than any of us could possibly imagine. The magnitude of the justice that's coming on the earth in the generation of the Lord's return is going to make men's hearts fail from fear ([Luke 21](#); [Luke 23:30](#))
  - 2) when the church at the end of the age comes into her maranatha calling and begins to cry out saying, "Lord, take the scroll and loose this justice, Your judgments, on the earth," the nations will be thrust into the most bloody season of history the earth has ever known ([Isaiah 24:1](#); [Isaiah 13:12](#)). And the Man with holes in His hands is the one who is going to execute it
  - 3) a justice movement that's disconnected from the scroll in the hand of the Father and the Son who will take it is actually injustice. There is no way of executing justice on the earth until Jesus takes the scroll
- E. [vs 8](#) at the heart of the maranatha vision is a vision for bowls full of incense, meaning a church who has become prayer. The maranatha reality coming to maturity is the church in intercession filling up golden bowls full of incense, those bowls being tipped out and, consequently, the judgment events beginning to unfold.
- 1) in much of the West, we have a weak understanding of what prayer is, as if it's just some kind of duty, obligation, or ritual. But prayer is unto being forged into someone who becomes the trigger of the end of the age. *You* are called to be a trigger for the end of the age
  - 2) God is calling the global body to be the thing that sets the judgments into motion. You are called to be the catalyst for this, and it's in the forging of communities and cultures of prayer - not where we have prayer meetings, but where we have *become* prayer and our lives are living expressions of the yearning and the ache provoking those around the throne to say, "Lord, now is the time..."
- F. [vs 9](#) the Lord is able to shed the blood *of* the nations because He shed His blood *for* the nations. He is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals because He was slain and by His blood He ransomed people. Because He gave His life, He has the right to take life.
- G. If our thirst for justice outweighs our understanding of God's nature and character towards sinful people, we get into very distorted places and misrepresent the gospel.
- 1) here are two fundamental misrepresentations of the gospel in our generation
    - a) a gospel of forgiveness that has no room for the judgments of God. That is a fake gospel, a gospel that only speaks in terms of grace and forgiveness and acceptance but does not speak in terms of the wrath of God or the day of judgment that is coming



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- b) a justice gospel that has no room for ransoming wicked men by the blood of the Lamb and incorporating them into the body of Christ, grafting them into the commonwealth of Israel where sinners become saints and sons and daughters by the blood of the Lamb and the spirit of adoption
- H. vs 10 the song that triggers the end of all things is about Jesus buying people with His blood and then making a kingdom out of them where they will reign on the earth after the judgment event. At the heart of the maranatha vision is an understanding that you and I are destined to reign on the earth with Jesus in a millennial kingdom.
  - 1) Jesus did not buy you with His blood so that you could be forgiven and take an invisible elevator to a cloud city. He bled for you so that He could incorporate you into His family so that, in the age to come when He restores all things from Jerusalem and heals the nations and brings them into submission, you would rule and reign with Him on the earth
  - 2) the cry for maranatha is a cry for our rule and our reign on the earth in the age to come in the dominion of King Jesus
    - a) this is not something ethereal. This is the grit of history. The soil will be affected by Jesus' return and establishment of His kingdom and government on the earth in Jerusalem
- I. In conclusion, beholding Jesus as He is causes us to become prayer. In becoming prayer, we become the maranatha cry, which becomes the catalyst for Jesus tearing open the seven seals and sounding the seven trumpets.