



True Worship of the Trinity

LECTURE 6. INTRODUCTION TO THE TRINITY

ALEC & BELLE WATERHOUSE LECTURES

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A Door Standing Open into Heaven

- We are given an unusual and great privilege here in the Book of Revelation. John is allowed to peer into the very eternal throne room of God.
- He is overwhelmed by the power of the experience. And the language he uses can barely keep up with the reality of that which he tries to convey to us.
- Remember two great truths as you read Revelation:
 1. God has given you a glimpse of **glory**!
 2. God has given you a **glimpse** of glory!

Outline



- A. A Trinitarian Salutation
- B. The One Who Sits on the Throne
- C. Slaughtered Lamb Standing
- D. The Seven Spirits
- E. The Trinitarian Future

A. A Trinitarian Salutation

- ***John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has set us free from our sins by his blood.***

A Book Ultimately from God

Three Persons are placed in parallel equality through the conjunction, *kai*, “and.”

1. God the Father

- “The One who is, who was, and who is to come” points to his eternality. He is transcendent above time present, past, and future. He is coming toward our future from outside time.
- Seated on “his throne.” He is the eternal ruler, “the Ancient of Days,” of Daniel 7.

A Book Ultimately from God

2. God the Holy Spirit

- “The seven spirits”

3. God the Son

- “Jesus Christ”
- “The faithful witness”
- “The firstborn from the dead”
- “The ruler of the kings of the earth”

B. The One Who Sits on the Throne

After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it. The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

Revelation 4:1-3

The One Who Sits on the Throne



1. He is visually described only in terms of light.
 - “For the wellspring of life is with you. By means of your light we see light.” (Psalm 36:9)
 - “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him.” (1 John 1:5)
 - “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

The One Who Sits on the Throne



2. He is ascribed divine attributes by his worshipers, both angels and humans:
 - “Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come’” (Rev 4:8).

The One Who Sits on the Throne



- “The twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say, ‘Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created’” (Rev 4:10-11).

C. Slaughtered Lamb Standing

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it. Then one of the elders said to me,

Slaughtered Lamb Standing

“Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

The Slaughtered Lamb Standing



1. “The Lamb”

- Slain (Death)
- Standing (Resurrection)
- *En meso*: Situated “between” the throne and creation. He is the *mesitas*, “Mediator.” In Revelation 7:17, he is located “at the center of the throne.” In 22:13, he shares the throne. In 20:1-4, he gives thrones to the saints.

The Slaughtered Lamb Standing



2. The praises of Creation for “the Lamb.” Notice how the gospel of redemption is outlined.
 - “And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth’” (Rev 5:9-10).

The Slaughtered Lamb Standing

3. The praises of Creation for “the Lamb.” Note his divine and human natures are affirmed.
 - “They said with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’” (Rev 5:12-13)

D. The Seven Spirits

1. “The Seven Spirits” appears in four texts in Revelation: 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6. As we rehearse these texts, notice the relationship of the Spirit both with regard to God and with regard to God’s creation.
 - “Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: Thus says the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead” (3:1).

The Seven Spirits



- “Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God” (4:5).
- “Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth” (5:6).

The Seven Spirits



2. What is the Identity of “the Seven Spirits”?
 - The Seven Spirits are not seven angels, for “spirit” is never used of an “angel” in Revelation.
 - The Seven Spirits do not worship God along with the rest of creation in Revelation 4-5.
 - The “Spirit” is named 14 times in Revelation. And He is personal (14:13; 22:17)

The Seven Spirits



- Compare the multiplicity and unity of “the spirits of the prophets” and “the Spirit of Prophecy” (19:10; 22:6).
- The use of “seven” represents a universal movement by the one God through his one Spirit.
- The Spirit and “Seven Spirits” have universal power, universal insight, universal presence. He is God.
- Zechariah 4 is the background. Seven lamps, one lampstand. “Not by might, but by my Spirit.”

The Seven Spirits

- The Seven Spirits and the Father on the Throne, and the Seven Spirits and the Lamb on the Throne are intimately bound with one another. The Spirit proceeds from the very body of the Lamb in power and knowledge.

E. The Trinitarian Future

1. The Father Speaks in 21:5-7

- Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words are faithful and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.”

The Trinitarian Future

2. The Son Speaks in 22:7, 12-16

- “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

The Trinitarian Future

- “Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

The Trinitarian Future

- “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to you for the churches. I am the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Trinitarian Future



3. The Holy Spirit Speaks in 22:17

- Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”
- Let anyone who hears, say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come.
- Let the one who desires take the water of life freely.