

**The Book of Ephesians**  
**Ephesians 1:15-23**  
**Session Eleven A2: Positions of Governmental Authority**

Thrones  
Dominions  
Principalities  
Powers  
Might – Rulers / **depth** – Spiritual Wickedness / **height**

In our previous session I was demonstrating why I believe that the heavenly creatures which joined Satan in his rebellion against God were from the position of principality down.

In Ephesians, Paul says that Christ, after His resurrection, was set at the right hand of the Father in the HP, far above...and then he gives the list which includes all of the “names” which are listed on the board, except one: thrones.

| <u>Ephesians 1</u> | <u>Colossians 1</u> | <u>Ephesians 6</u>   |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Principality       | Thrones             | Principalities       |
| Power              | Dominions           | Powers               |
| Might              | Principalities      | Rulers               |
| Dominion           | Powers              | Spiritual Wickedness |
| Every name         |                     |                      |

Also notice that Paul, in Colossians, leaves out “and every name that is named” and “might.” The term “every name that is named” can be one of a couple of things: 1) it can be the all-inclusive term for those who coasted in their edification and sanctified lives on the earth, or 2) it may be referring to a host of lesser positions of authority, and not those who had no education at all. I tend to think it is the latter, as a “name” is a position of governmental authority which is “over” someone, no matter how small the office may be.

I believe every member of the body will have a part to play (a job to do) up in the HP, but not every member of the body will “reign with Christ.” They are going to have a part, but it will not be like those who were learning and living the mystery of Christ while they were alive on the earth.

Just as every bee in the hive has a role to play, every member of the body of Christ also has a role to play within the body and its work in the HP. But, they will not occupy positions of authority – that is the reward of the inheritance given to sons and daughters who are joint-heirs with Christ.

Why does Paul leave “thrones” out of the Ephesians list, but includes every other “name?” I may have an answer.

There have been times in which a sovereign ruler has placed a throne next to his and then placed someone on that throne. God the Father has done this with His Son. The Father’s throne is not spoken of as being “above” the Son, but the Son is said to be at the Father’s right hand.

When it comes to the kingdom, evidently, there will be thrones on the right hand and left hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know this? Because those positions were coveted by a couple of the disciples and Jesus did not correct their assumption that someone would be sitting on His right hand and on His left. Bear in mind that this is talking about the earthly kingdom when Jesus will sit on the throne of David in the millennium.

Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. <sup>21</sup> And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

The two sons are James and John, the sons of Zebedee and also called by Jesus, “the sons of thunder.”

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father.

From this passage we know that in the kingdom, someone is going to sit at the right hand and left hand of the Lord Jesus. And although He will be “above” them in power and authority, His throne will not be placed “above” theirs.

And that is what Ephesians is talking about; placement. Jesus, at the right hand of the Father will be on a throne far above all the positions of authority with the exception of “thrones.” Unless I am reading more into this than the scriptures intended, this may point to something about some members of the body of Christ in the HP.

Do we have this example of putting a throne on the same level as the king? Indeed we do. When Solomon was king, his mother, Bathsheba, came in to him to ask him to do something for her. Now, she is not the king, but the mother of the king. And what does Solomon do when she comes to him?

1 Kings 2:19 Bath-sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.

He set her at his right hand. Why did he do that? To honor her, to exalt her.

So, we see that earthly kings have those who sit at their right hand, the Lord will have such in the kingdom and we know that one of the positions in the HP is that of thrones.

It seems to me that perhaps Paul does not put thrones in the Ephesians list because the throne of the Lord Jesus, as the head of the body, will set those thrones at His right and His left hand. But every other seat of authority (principality, power, might, dominion) is beneath “thrones.” In my understanding, “thrones” are the highest of the positions to which a member of the body of Christ can attain

This issue of physical placement has always been so in many areas. For example, guess where God’s house (the temple) was built in Jerusalem? At the top of the mountain. It was above everything else.

What do you think was built just below God’s house? The king’s house. And so on it went until you got to the poorest of the people who lived in the lower valley areas below. So when we see that the Lord Jesus, who sits at the Father’s right hand is “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named,” this is true in every sense of the word “above.” It is true in rank and true in placement. And perhaps, the reason “thrones” is the only one which is not in that list is because those thrones will be at the right and left hand of the Lord. In authority, they are not equal with Him, but in position they occupy a place of exaltation “above all those other positions”.

The various positions listed by Paul represent a chain of command in positions of rank and authority. In the HP, these positions are filled by beings, some are good and others are evil. They will hold these positions until God restructures the heavens by installing His sons and daughters into those heavenly positions of authority, and then the earth – when He will make Israel the head of all nations and Christ will sit on David’s throne.

So, what is a throne? A throne can be the actual chair or seat that a ruler sits in. It can also be a position of sovereign power or authority.

Look with me at Genesis 31 when Pharaoh elevated Joseph to rule over the people of Egypt.

Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? <sup>39</sup> And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is* none so discreet and wise as thou *art*: <sup>40</sup> Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: **only in the throne will I be greater than thou.**

In this case, the throne is the highest position of power and authority in Egypt.

Throne – a chair or seat for a ruler. It is the highest seat in a kingdom. A throne can be a seat of authority for a deity, for royalty or for a dignitary.

When Jesus returns to the earth at His Advent and sets up His kingdom, He will sit on “the throne of David” as King of kings and Lord of lords. As such, He will rule over Israel and the entire earth.

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne** of his father David: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

This means that no one on the earth will occupy a higher position than the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be kings on the earth, but He will be the King of kings.

When Paul talks about the various positions of authority in the HP, he mentions “thrones” in the plural. Just as on the earth, each nation had a “throne” which was the ultimate power in that nation, so there will be divisions of power in the HP, with each of those divisions being ruled by a throne.

This will hold true both in the earth and the HP. Look at what Jesus said to the twelve disciples in relation to the kingdom.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in **the throne of his glory**, ye also shall sit upon **twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

In the kingdom, there will be at least 14 thrones. These thrones are the ultimate position of authority in their particular jurisdiction. For example, in the kingdom, Peter is going to sit on a throne ruling over one of the tribes of Israel. I do not know which one, but let’s just say Peter is over the tribe of Benjamin, while James rules over the tribe of Judah, and John rules over the tribe of Simeon. Each of them will have a throne. Their thrones will be the ultimate position of authority in each of their respective jurisdictions.

Now, which throne has more power, the throne over Simeon or the throne over Manasseh? Neither, as their spheres of authority does not overlap.

In our Matthew 19 passage, there is an element of thrones that is given to us as to their job description.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, **judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

One of the jobs of a throne is to “judge” or to make wise “judgmental decisions.” This is true for those who sit on thrones in the HP; they must be able to exercise godly judgment. It is also true for the twelve who will sit on thrones “judging the 12 tribes.”

Let us run a few references to drive home the point that to sit on a throne is to have the ability to make wise judgments.

Psalm 9:4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

Psalm 9:7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. <sup>8</sup> And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

The same is true for members of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that **we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?

It is through Paul’s epistles that we have godly wisdom installed in us so we can make godly judgments.

But, let’s get back to the point. Just as the twelve will be resurrected to rule with Christ, so will king David.

Ezekiel 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

In order for David to be Israel’s prince, he must be resurrected from the dead. And he will be, at the start of the millennial kingdom.

But the point here is that David will be resurrected to sit on a throne ruling over the whole nation of Israel. So, even though Peter will have a throne, David's throne will be greater in authority because it is over a larger jurisdiction.

In the earth, the Gentile nations will each be ruled by a king sitting on his throne. Many nations, many kings. Just as David is over Israel, another king is over a Gentile nation.

But all of these national kings will be subject to the throne (authority) of the Lord Jesus Christ, for at that time, He will be King of kings.

While we are just getting started on this issue of the positions of authority in the HP, I want to get you thinking this week about these positions and their relationship to us.

Some of the beings which occupy the positions of authority in the HP have rebelled against God. I believe they are, to one degree or another, in league with Satan. It may be that some (like those "sons of God" which left their first estate, cohabited with human women and produced the Nephilim), may have acted for self-promotion (gaining worship for themselves from humans) and not so much as to promote Satan. Perhaps seeing the self-promotion of Satan induced them to obtain things for themselves which previously were only reserved for God. But, finding themselves on the same side of the fence with Satan, they became co-belligerents with Satan against God; "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

I also believe, from scriptures we will look at next week, that in his position as the anointed cherub which covered the throne of God, Lucifer had a high rank of authority over most of the host of heaven. Satan used his clout, and certain flatteries to bring certain principalities and powers to join him. (Which is how the antichrist will obtain the kingdom – some things never change –

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.)

I can imagine Satan using those same flatteries in the past to speak to those with authority in ways that made them feel overlooked, unappreciated, and short-changed from what was *rightfully* theirs.

And thus, they lent their office of position to Satan's cause of being "the possessor of heaven and earth."

There are some things, germane to this topic, which I want to talk about. One of those has to do with the focus of Satan's work to become the possessor of heaven and earth, while it would be an offence to God the Father; it is actually focused against the Lord Jesus, and not the Father.

Let me ask you a question: Who will possess, in the end, everything in the heaven and the earth?" Jesus Christ, the Son, will inherit all things in heaven and in earth. For Satan to attempt to be the possessor of heaven and earth is to usurp the Son's inheritance!

I either read or heard an audio by Keith Blades where he stated in connection with being "like the Most High," that Satan knows he cannot get rid of God (the Father). He knows he is not as powerful as God. This idea plays to what I am saying. The Father is going to put all things in heaven and earth under the dominion of His Son, and Satan wants that.

I think he disrespects the Son. I think he is jealous of the Son. And I think he wants the Son's inheritance.

Matthew 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.<sup>38</sup> But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and **let us seize on his inheritance.**

This parable is repeated in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

In eternity past, we know the Father loved the Son, but we do not see the Son sitting on a throne in the past. (Perhaps he did, but we don't see any mention of it) Could this be one of the reasons Satan disrespected the Son? Satan tempted Christ as though he had something Christ didn't; the kingdoms of this world. So, maybe he thought of himself as somewhat superior to the Son? After all, Satan never asked the Father to bow down and worship him, as he did with Jesus. What would make him think that would even work unless he saw Jesus as lesser than the Father?