

Made • Rev. 5:8-10

INTRODUCTION • Read vs.

Made Man

1. As used today, the term “made-man” refers to a wiseguy whose devotion to organized crime has earned him a permanent place in the organization.
2. But the term “made-man” **originally** referred to someone whose success in life was assured.
  - a. Made-men & -women were those who by birth or relationship were ensured special privilege.
3. If you’re a Christian, a born-again follower of Jesus You’re Made!
4. We see that in our text today.

Recap

1. We pick it up where we left off last week.
2. The Apostle John has a vision of God’s throne in heaven.
  - a. In His right hand is a scroll; the title deed to Earth.
  - b. Jesus, as a sacrificial lamb, takes the scroll, & prepares to break its 7-seals as He takes possession of what rightly belongs to Him.

Vs. 8-10

<sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the 4 living creatures & the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb,

\* If you’ve no been w/us in our previous studies & are interested in who John’s referring to here, you can listen online or stop by the bookstore for the CD’s.

the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, & golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

1. As we read on we find when Jesus takes the scroll, **ALL** heaven breaks out in worship, not just the 24 elders & 4 cherubim.
2. But the elders play a **special** role. As part of their worship, they have **harps & bowls**.
  - a. From this comes the idea we’ll all get harps in heaven.
    - 1) But it’s just the 24 elders who have them.
    - 2) A harp was the **most sophisticated & melodious** instrument known in the 1<sup>st</sup> C.
  - b. The elders also have golden bowls of incense, which John says are the prayers of the saints.
    - 1) And what have the saints been praying for 2000 years?
    - 2) Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.”
3. John sees when Jesus moves to answer **that** prayer, finally & fully!
4. He takes the title deed to Earth & comes as **King** to take possession of what belongs to Him.
5. I’ll never forget the day escrow closed on our house. Lynn & I were so excited.
  - a. Weeks before we signed all the papers & jumped through all the hoops.
  - b. Then the days ticked down till I picked up the keys & the place was ours.
  - c. I don’t have the best memory, but I can still see walking up to the front door for the first time as the new owner.
  - d. Walking in & standing in the living room.
6. **That’s** what we’re seeing here.
  - a. Jesus is closing escrow on what He purchased with His blood.
  - b. And all heaven breaks out in celebration.

<sup>9</sup> & they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, & to open its seals; for You were slain, & have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe & tongue & people & nation, <sup>10</sup> & have made us kings & priests to our God; & we shall reign on the earth.”

7. It’s from what they say here we understand the elders as **representatives** of all God’s people throughout history.
  - a. They’re from every ethnic group, language, & location.
  - b. All who’ve looked to God in faith, trusting in His mercy & grace.
8. It’s their song in v10 I want to focus on this morning. They sing -  
[You] have made us kings & priests to our God; & we shall reign on the earth.

From – To

1. Last week we considered what Jesus has redeemed us **from**.

- a. Just as the Passover lamb redeemed the Jews from bondage to slavery in Egypt –
  - b. Jesus is the Great & Final Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world and saves us **from** bondage to sin and death.
2. Here in v10, the elders proclaim what we've been redeemed **TO!**  
[You] have made us kings & priests to our God.
  3. We're **royalty** because as the born-again children of God, we're part of His family.
    - a. In Rom 8:17 Paul says we are **heirs of God & joint-heirs w/Jesus Christ**.
    - b. We partake of His inheritance.
    - c. That's why in Rev. 3:21 Jesus said  
To him who overcomes I will grant to sit w/Me on My throne, as I also overcame & sat down w/My Father on His throne.
  4. Christian; Hear this You haven't JUST been saved FROM Hell.  
You've been saved TO a glorious new destiny as a king or queen.
  5. There's a recurring theme in story-telling & literature that's captured the imagination of people throughout history.
    - a. It's the story of some usually obscure person, who one day discovers their true identity.
    - b. *The Legend of King Arthur* is the premier English story.
      - 1) He's the king's son, but whisked away at birth to be raised in secret.
      - 2) His foster brothers treat him poorly, but he learns humility and virtue.
      - 3) Then one day, he withdraws the sword from the stone & proves he is in fact the legitimate king.
      - 4) The truth of his birth become known to all.
      - 5) The lessons he learned in his humble upbringing frame his rule as a good king.
    - b. *Cinderella & Aladdin* are just 2 of the many "rags to riches" tales that have both entertained & inspired millions.
  6. These stories appeal to us because there's something buried deep inside that knows there's far more to life than just what we see.
    - a. We have an unshakeable sense of **destiny**; a **greatness** that's waiting to emerge.
    - b. It's like we're asleep, waiting for the Prince to come & kiss us back awake.
  7. I'll tell you why girls love Disney princesses; Anna, Ariel, Jasmine, & Cinderella.
    - a. Why boys of all ages are drawn to Aragorn in Tolkien's classic.
    - b. It's because those stories are really just echoes of who we're created to be.
  8. And that's WHAT Jesus came to return us to. That's what **Redemption** is all about!
  9. Last week we saw Jesus take the title deed to Earth from God's hand.
    - a. But Earth isn't really what Jesus is after. It's what Earth holds He wants.
    - b. In Matt. 13, Jesus told a parable of a man who discovered a treasure.
      - 1) He gave everything he had to buy the field that held the treasure.
      - 2) It was the treasure he wanted, not the field.
    - c. In the Book of Ruth, the hero Boaz wanted to marry Ruth.
      - 1) But to do so, he had to redeem a plot of land.
      - 2) At great cost, we bought the land so he could gain a bride.
  10. All this points to Jesus who became a man & went to the cross to redeem Earth
    - a. Not because He wants land. // He wants a bride.
    - b. **WE** are the treasure in the field He gave everything for.
  11. And our destiny in redemption is to be kings and queens.
  12. When Jesus is called the King of kings, it doesn't just refer to the rulers of the nations.
    - a. **WE** are the kings He's **THE** King over.
  13. Look at the last part of v10;  
And we shall reign on the earth.
    - a. We are destined to reign with Christ when He comes again.
    - b. Rev. 20 says that we will be the instruments by which Christ's rule during the Millennium is carried out around the world.
    - c. Remember Jesus' promise in Rev 2:26  
He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—He shall rule

them with a rod of iron ...

14. Realizing our call to reign w/Christ **THEN**, puts a whole new spin on our lives **NOW**.

15. This is **training to reign**.

- a. In the Legend of King Arthur, it was his humble childhood that groomed him in virtue.
- b. Moses, Prince of Egypt, had to spend 40 obscure yrs on the backside of the desert tending a flock of sheep to learn how to lead a nation of slaves into their new identity as the people of God.
- c. You & I are learning how to rule **righteously & well** thru the lessons each day brings.
- d. Our character is shaped by the Spirit as we walk in truth & grace.
- e. The Word of God renews our minds, the Spirit conforms to the image of Christ.
- f. YES: We become more like Jesus by learning & living God's Word Because ultimately, we're going to be assigned some territory to rule for His glory.

16. How many times have we sat around w/one another & talked about how messed up things are?

- a. I've read your comments on FB!
- b. We joke & say, "They just need to put us in charge. We'd straighten everything out."
- c. It's a joke, but it comes from a deep-seated sense there's something deeply wrong with the world & someone needs to **PUT** it right.
- d. That day **will** come. Jesus will come and make things right.
  - 1) What we need to realize is that He's going to make things right **THROUGH US!**
  - 2) His reign as King of kings will be accomplished **through** us.
- e. Jesus is the True King Arthur & the Golden Age of Camelot is no mere legend; it will come in the Millennium.
- f. We are the Knights of His Roundtable; & this life is the School of the Spirit to reign w/Him.

17. So, let me ask – how you doin'? > If the Spirit wrote up a progress report on you, what grade would you get? A, B, C- ?

- a. Are you reigning over circumstances or are the circumstance's reigning over you?
- b. Oh, now see? I just went & opened up a whole 'nuther sermon topic.
- c. Well – you just jot that down in your notes & work on THAT sermon yourself.
- d. We have to press on ...

18. For not only are we kings & queens, the elders say Jesus has made us "**priests to our God.**"

19. There's no need for a formal priesthood in the Church because **all** Christians are priests.

20. Our role as it relates to people is **king**, while our role as it relates to God is **priest**.

- a. A priest's job is to **intercede** on behalf of others before God.
- b. During the Millennium our task won't be just one way—Ruling others.
- c. We'll be **asking** God for blessing on those we've been given oversight of.

21. There again, we see how **this life** is training & preparation for our coming assignment.

22. And it puts a new spin on a parable Jesus told in Luke 19.

- a. He told of a man who gave a 10 of his servants \$100 each & told them to use it well in serving him.
- b. Later he called them to settle up & give an account for what they'd done with what he gave.
- c. 1 guy had turned multiplied it 10 times. So the master made him a rule over 10 cities.
- d. Another guy multiplied it 5 times. He was given 5 cities.
- e. The way Jesus words the parable makes it clear He was speaking of Himself as the master; the servants are His followers.

23. It seems pretty clear Jesus wants us to understand that our faithfulness in this life determines the scope of our assignment in the Millennium.

- a. So – are you praying for people now?
- b. Are you praying God's blessing into their lives?
- c. Are you walking them in prayer to His cross to be saved?
- d. Are you praying them out of sin; out of rebellion & addiction & into the light of God's love?

24. Let's not be like the foolish servant in that parable who took what his master gave & stuck it in a dirty bandana. He didn't do **anything** with it.

CONCLUSION • A Royal Visit

1. Apparently, there's a church in Washington DC that's the **traditional** place Presidents go, if they go to church.

- a. It all set for his entourage & the routine is well established so the service isn't disrupted if he decides to go one Sunday.
2. Well, not long after George W took office, he & Laura decided to go to a *different* church; one not used to having the President attend. >> It created quite a stir in the congregation.
3. When I heard about that, I started thinking about what would happen if a President was visiting our area he stopped by here one Sunday.
4. What a scene it would be!
  - a. The Secret Service & Press would bring out many of the curious.
  - b. What would *our* reaction be?
  - c. Would we get on our phones and txt, tweet & FB "The President's at CCO!"
  - d. Would we think, "I hope the worship is good & Pastor Lance doesn't suck today."
  - e. Let's be honest; there would probably be a lot of talk & excitement.
5. Well, look around. Every Christian you see is a Queen / a King in training.
6. And while the President of the USA is a lofty & powerful position, it's nothing compared to the glory to be revealed in on our Coronation Day when Christ takes His throne.