

Title: THRONE OF JUDGMENT, THRONE OF GRACE, EPHESIANS 1:15-23  
(Chatham, NJ; 11/23/14, AM) [Pt – Topical]

Theme: On the last day all the glorious hosts of heaven will be arrayed around the throne of God, but in the meantime we receive grace and power from that same throne.

Purpose: To help us see the throne of God as a source of spiritual power, wisdom, and grace.

Introduction:

1. God is enthroned above all heavenly beings, Psalm 95 and 100.
2. The universe is a hierarchical and sovereign form of government.
3. Yet this same universal power has condescended to become human and die in order to forgive our sins.
4. "God sits high and looks low."

#### I. From the Throne on High to the Lowly Below, Matthew 25:31-46

##### A. The lofty

1. The Son of Man comes in his glory (shades of Daniel 7:14)
2. All angels with him
3. Sits on his glorious throne
4. All nations gathered before him
5. The throne of God is the center of attention

##### B. God identifies with the lowly and oppressed

1. You did these things to me, 40
2. Psalm 140:12; 146:5-9 (examine these)
3. Jesus proclaimed freedom for the oppressed, Luke 4:18
4. Ezekiel 34 castigates Israel's shepherds for not caring for the sheep

##### C. Our hearts should also be inclined to the less fortunate

1. Pure religion in James 1:27
2. Distribution of food in Acts 6
3. Galatians 2:10 – "remember the poor"
4. In one of the ancient epidemics (mid-200s AD), Christians ministered to the sick and dying at great risk to themselves when pagan doctors and priests fled
5. How does it show up in our lives?

#### II. Far Above All Rule, Ephesians 1:20-23

##### A. Above all authority and power and dominion, 21

1. Mt. 28:18, "All authority has been given to me."
2. Acts 2:36, God made him Lord and Christ
3. In Acts Stephen and Paul both saw visions of Christ

##### B. Above all other names, 21

1. Ps. 95:3 – God is "king above all gods"
2. All things have been put under the Messiah's feet, Psalm 110:1
3. Eph. 1:22 makes the same claim about Jesus

##### C. The head of the church

1. He has become our head
2. We are his body
3. We draw strength directly from his throne

#### III. His Power toward Us, Eph. 1:19

- A. Throne of Judgment is the Throne of Power
  - 1. Mt. 25 portrays the throne from which Christ will judge the nations
  - 2. Eph. 1 portrays the same throne as one from which Christians derive their power
  - 3. The glory of this throne is to be embraced and worshipped
  
- B. Paul's prayer tells us what to expect from the throne, 1:15-19
  - 1. Wisdom and revelation in knowledge of him
    - Eyes of our hearts are enlightened to know him
    - We'll expand on this over the next several weeks especially as it relates to Eph. 3:16
  - 2. The hope to which he has called us: Christ endows the church with hope
  - 3. The riches of our inheritance
  - 4. The greatness of his power that he worked in the resurrection
  - 5. This power is at work in us who believe

Conclusions:

- 1. God's throne will be an awesome sight to behold.
- 2. It may be feared by those who don't believe, but for us who have already bowed our knees to Christ it is now a source of grace and power.
- 3. God's heart inclines to those of lowly account and humility.
- 4. Christ has been elevated to the throne of all authority, rule, and power.
- 5. From that throne we derive our wisdom and power.
- 6. We also foresee an inheritance stored up for us when the final judgment comes to pass.
- 7. Take heart. God's power has already raised you to a new life; let it also empower you with hope and work within you to raise you to walk in newness of life.