

# **CITYWEST CHURCH**

## **11.01.2026 - 10 AM**

### **THE THRONE IN SCRIPTURE**

We have started our series looking at the throne of God, how the book of Revelation begins with not uncertainty of the future, but an explicit picture of the throne of God.

I alluded to this last week, the throne of God and God seated on the throne is not just an ‘endtime’ picture, it is there throughout scripture, and today I want to look at this consistent picture throughout all of scripture.

Every January, we instinctively tell ourselves a story.

A story about improvement.

A story about survival.

A story about fixing what’s broken.

But Scripture tells us a bigger story—one that didn’t start with us and won’t end with us.

The Bible is not a collection of random spiritual ideas.

It is one unified story about God reclaiming His rightful rule over creation.

And at the centre of that story is a throne.

Augustine famously wrote,

**“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”**

Our restlessness often comes from forgetting which story we're part of.

## 1. CREATION GOD ENTHRONED FROM THE BEGINNING

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

**3** Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

### Genesis 1:1-3 (NLT)

The Bible opens not with an argument, but with an announcement:

God is King.

He speaks, and creation responds. Light, land, life—all ordered by His word.

This is royal language. God is not discovering creation—He is ruling it.

Then comes humanity.

Then God said, “Let us make human beings<sup>[a]</sup> in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,<sup>[b]</sup> and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

**27** So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

### Genesis 1:26–27 (NLT)

Humans are made as image-bearers, royal representatives.

Not autonomous rulers, but delegated ones.

Graeme Goldsworthy puts it this way:

“The kingdom of God is God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule.”

**I am not the author of my life—I am a steward in God’s kingdom.**

## **REDEMPTION — THE KING WHO SAVES**

You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain—

the place, O LORD, reserved for your own dwelling,

the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

**18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!”**

**Exodus 15:18 (NLT)**

These words are sung after the Red Sea parts. Salvation leads to worship.

Deliverance reveals kingship.

God doesn’t just rescue Israel from slavery; He reclaims His people.

Pharaoh is dethroned. God’s reign is re-established.

I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel’s Creator and King.

**Isaiah 43:15 NLT**

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

### **Colossians 1:13 NLT**

N. T. Wright writes:

**“God’s salvation is not about escape from the world, but about the restoration of God’s rule within it.”**

At the start of the year, we don’t motivate ourselves with fear.

We remember: our King saves before He sends.

Your obedience flows from deliverance, not pressure.

## **THE SON OF MAN — THE KINGDOM GIVEN TO JESUS**

As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man[d] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

### **Daniel 7:13–14 (NLT)**

This is a throne-room vision. Long before Revelation, Daniel sees it:

A human figure given divine authority. A kingdom that will never end.

Jesus repeatedly calls Himself “the Son of Man.” This is not humility—it’s a claim to kingship.

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Matthew 28:18-20 NLT**

“God has put all things under the authority of Christ.”

**Ephesians 1:22 (NLT)**

Jesus’ reign is not symbolic. It is not partial. It is not postponed.

His authority includes your 2026. Your work. Your family. Your decisions. Your future.

# THE MULTITUDE — THE KINGDOM

## THAT KEEPS EXPANDING

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. 10 And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

### **Revelation 7:9–10 (NLT)**

This is where the story is going. The throne gathers people; it does not repel them.

The kingdom does not shrink; it expands.

From one garden... to one family... to one nation...to every nation.

The church exists to point people toward the throne. The throne fuels the mission.

And mission expresses itself through hospitality, welcome, and invitation.

### **1. Remember the Story You’re Part Of**

You are not improvising your life.

You are participating in God’s unfolding kingdom.

Begin your week by praying:

“God, where do You want Your kingdom to be seen in my life this week?”

## **2. Live as an Image-Bearer, Not an Owner**

Stewards ask better questions than owners.

Not “What do I want?” But “What honours the King?”

Reframe one decision this week through the lens of stewardship—time, money, or relationships.

## **3. Practice Kingdom Hospitality**

If the throne gathers people from every nation, then our lives should be open and inviting.

Choose one intentional act of hospitality this month,  
a meal, a conversation, an invitation, or an act of generosity.

### FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

From creation to new creation,  
from garden to city,  
from throne established to throne surrounded—

The story of Scripture is the story of a reigning God.

So Citywest, as we move through this year:

Remember the story. Serve the King. Invite others toward the throne.

