

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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New Jerusalem #28.

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The Throne of God and the Lambkin

And he shows me a river of water of life, resplendent as crystal, issuing out of the throne of God and the Lambkin... (Revelation 22:1 CV)

(3) There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb [Lambkin] will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (4) they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. (Revelation 22:3-4 NASB [CV])

As his Patmos vision came to an end, John saw the throne of God and the Lambkin.

Now, most people probably think that in the midst of the city is a throne, and God the Father and His Son have sole possession of it. In fact, most probably picture God and His Son sitting on a great throne. However, we need to be reminded that we must see what New Jerusalem signifies spiritually and not view it as some physical city sitting on earth. This does not mean that New Jerusalem will not be manifested in the physical realm, for it most surely will as heaven invades earth. New Jerusalem is the spirit realm and the very character and essence of God's Son manifested in the physical realm.

In the case of the throne, I do not believe that we should look upon it as if it were a physical platform with kingly chairs sitting upon it. The word *throne* signifies power and authority, so in the context of New Jerusalem, we could say the throne is the power and authority of the holy city. **It could be likened to a generating plant that produces the electricity to power a city.** As we will see in the next issue, life comes forth from the throne, which means that the throne is the very source of life and power for the entire city, the new earth beyond, and the nations therein.

The question is: From whence or from whom does this power emanate? Is it only through God and His Son? I propose that **the throne of the Lambkin is New Jerusalem itself**, which means that the sons of God are seated on this throne along with the Son of God. I make this claim on the basis of the word *lambkin*, as well as the Lord Jesus' own words to His conquerors.

First, let us consider the word *lambkin*.

In the New Testament, the word *lamb* comes from one of two Greek words, *amnos* or *arnion*.

The word *amnos* is **a young sheep** and is used exclusively when referring to Jesus as the Lamb of God dying for the sin of the world: **"Behold, the Lamb [amnos] of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29 NASB). In the New Testament, it is used only four times (John 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19).

The word *arnion* is **a little lamb** and is used exclusively by John, especially in the book of Revelation, where it is the only Greek word used for the word *lamb*. To ensure that the distinction is not lost, the Concordant Version translates *arnion* with the word *lambkin* thirty times in the New Testament. In Webster's dictionary, a *lambkin* is defined as "a little lamb; sometimes applied to a child or young person as a term of affection." So, *lambkin* portrays youthfulness and affection.

This should remind us of the declaration made by God in reference to "My sons" inheriting "these things" (i.e., New Jerusalem): **"Behold, I am making all things new"** (Revelation 21:5, 7). Thus, the lambkin is associated with what is new and fresh and youthful. Again, this word is used in reference to the Son of God who was slain.

And I perceived, in the center of the throne and of the four animals, and in the center of the elders, a Lambkin [arnion] standing, as though slain... (Revelation 5:6 CV)

Without any doubt, the Lambkin uniquely refers to the Son of God, our Lord Jesus. Only He has the right to take the scroll and to be worshipped by all creation (Revelation 5:11-14). This is unquestionable; however, the word *arnion* also was used by Jesus to refer to His people when He said to Peter: **“Graze My lambkins [arnion]!”** (John 21:15 CV).

This is significant, for this brings the lambkins into relationship with *the* Lambkin. It is as if Jesus identified Himself with His people in a very unique way. He is the Lambkin, and all who are in Him are in the Lambkin and, in fact, are the Lambkin.

I believe that *the* Lambkin could be seen in the same light as *the* Christ, which Paul used to describe the body of Christ.

I propose that, as presented in Revelation 22:1 and 3, *the* Lambkin is very much like *the* Christ. In issue #03-0911 (February 2, 2009) *Head Up All In The Christ*, I made the point that Paul saw *the* Christ as both the Head and the body. You cannot have a head without a body (see 1 Corinthians 12:12). The two are inseparable. When Eve was fashioned out of the body of Adam, it was declared that they had become one flesh (Genesis 2:24). Paul tells us that this mystery is great as he declares that this now speaks of *the* Christ and His ecclesia, which is His body. The two are now one (Ephesians 5:22-33).

To be sure, there are times when *the* Lambkin and *the* Christ refer singly to the Lord Himself, but there are also times when we need to see that both *the* Lambkin and *the* Christ ultimately refer to the two, that is, the Head and the body being one. I propose that the Revelation signifies this truth, especially as New Jerusalem comes into view.

Thus, when he saw the throne of God and the Lambkin, John saw *the* Christ on the throne. In other words, he saw that the power and authority of God were manifested in the conquering body of Christ, which is New Jerusalem. Part of the proof is found again in the words of our beloved Lord.

“The one who is conquering, to him will I be granting to be seated with Me on My throne as I, also, conquer, and am seated with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21 CV)

It is very clear that the conquerors will make up the throne of the Lord, which, in terms of New Jerusalem, is the throne of God and of the Lambkin. They are the ones conformed to the image of the Son, having taken on immortal, glorified, and spiritual bodies in His likeness, and possessing His very character of righteousness, holiness, and love. They are like Him for they are *the* Christ, *the* Body, and *the* Lambkin. They are not bond-servants, for they are the bride and the wife of the Lambkin. But notice the reference to bond-servants in relation to the throne. How can a bride or a wife be called a bond-servant? I propose that they cannot be; therefore, this refers to others not included in the Lambkin.

(3) The throne of God and of the Lamb [Lambkin] will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (4) they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. (Revelation 22:3-4 NASB [CV])

The bond-servants must refer to the nations on the new earth that receive the power and life of New Jerusalem that emanates from the throne of God and the Lambkin.

Finally, there is one more proof that the throne of the Lambkin signifies the conquerors and the Conqueror.

As stated already, the word *arnion* or *lambkin* appears thirty times in the New Testament. The number 30 signifies “dedication” or “spiritual maturity.” Joseph, a type of Christ, was 30 years of age when he was set over the land of Egypt (Genesis 41:46). David, another type of Christ, began to reign when he was 30 years of age (2 Samuel 5:4). Jesus began His ministry when He was 30 years of age (Luke 3:23).

Likewise, the word *arnion* or *lambkin* appears 30 times to signify the spiritual maturity of the sons of glory, those who have conquered through the love of Christ.

In other words, a day will come when the lambkins, the sons of God, will have matured into the likeness of the Lambkin, the Son of God, and will reign with Him, sitting upon the throne of God. The thirtieth mention of the Lambkin declares that the throne of God and the Lambkin is in New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:3), and, in fact, is New Jerusalem. The conquerors will have arrived at their destiny!