

SO WHO'S ON THE THRONE?



They said there was a city where people do things the right way.

They said that in this city an immense bronze throne adorns the Central Square.

On the throne is a magnificent bronze Bible.

I was told that in this city people are not afraid to talk about God.

Everybody prays quite openly.

Everybody has a Bible and reads it.

I was curious. So I went and knocked on the city's immense wooden gate.

No response.

I shouted, "Hello! May I come in?"

Silence.

Just then Jack Frack, the famous TV star, came by, saw me pounding at the heavy gate, and shook his head with a wry smile.

Jack Frack is loved by millions.

Of course, everybody knows that Jack is an inveterate liar. If he owes you money, you'll probably never see it again.

But Jack has his winning ways, and I was grateful that he offered to help.

"You want to get in there? I'll get you in," said Jack with a wink. He pulled out his phone, pressed a key, and said, "Jack Frack here. Open the gate and let this guy in!"

The huge wooden gate swung open and in I walked.

For a moment I thought I had entered Paradise. The place was magnificent!

I understood that no one was allowed in this city except Christians, and then, only the right kind of Christians. "Well, I guess I made the grade," I said to myself.

“Come with me,” said a man in a sweat suit. “I’d like to take you to lunch.”

We marched through the swinging doors of the Galilee Café, sat at a table, and had fish and chips.

As we were finishing coffee my new friend said, “If you don’t mind my asking, I’d like to know how you got in here. You seem different from the rest of us.”

“Jack Frack made a call and the gate opened,” I said. “Is Jack Frack a citizen of this city?”

“Heavens no!” said my friend. “But Frack does favors for us out there beyond these walls. We support him any way we can.”

“So what’s that bronze Bible doing on that bronze throne in the city square?” I asked.

“What do you think? In this town we believe in the Bible.”

“But shouldn’t Jesus be on that throne?” I asked.

My friend’s face clouded. He lowered his voice and said, “Don’t you know that the Bible is the final authority?”

But didn’t Jesus say?

***You search the scriptures for it is in them that you think you have eternal life.
And it is they that bear witness to me.***

John 5:39

“What are you, a Jesus freak?” growled my friend. “I’m afraid you don’t belong here.”

With that he ushered me out of the Galilee Café and flagged down a police car.

“Take this man to the gate,” said my angry friend, “and make sure he never gets in here again.”

As I left the city gate I wondered how a liar could get me into that Christian city and how a Bible-loving man could cast me out.

Where was Jesus in this picture?

Did these Christians put the Bible above Jesus?

That’s what the scribes and Pharisees did. They put scripture on the throne and when the Messiah came to town they crucified him.

Modern scribes and Pharisees do the same thing. While paying lip-service to Jesus they use the Bible as a weapon to advance their own agenda.



And when Jesus actually comes near, they shun him.



But if the Bible bears witness to Jesus, shouldn't Jesus be on the throne?

Here's what the Bible says about Jesus:

The Bible says that Jesus is the ultimate Temple...

The place where we actually meet God.

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2

The Bible says that Jesus is the ultimate Sabbath....

In Jesus alone we find God's Sabbath Rest.

"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11



The Bible says that Jesus is the Ultimate Sacrifice.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1

All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

The Bible says that Jesus is the ultimate Word.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1



The Bible says that Jesus is Lord of the scriptures.

“You have heard that it was said to the men of old, You shall not kill, and whoever kills shall be liable to Judgment, but I say to you.....

You have heard that it was said to the men of old, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in heart.”

Matthew 5

The Bible says that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth.

Jesus alone belongs on the throne!

Not Moses. Not Elijah. Not anyone or anything else.

Jesus only.

The inner throne.

Perhaps one glorious day I invited Jesus into my life.

Perhaps in a moment of supernatural deliverance I threw my life at Jesus' feet in thanksgiving.

For this I praise God!

But the ultimate question is:

Who sits on that throne in my heart day and night?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, we do want you on the throne of our hearts, day and night. Help us to allow nothing to come between us keeping you there. Keep us from placing the law before you. Keep us from allowing any attitude, any doctrine, or any teaching that causes us to shun you and reject what you are calling us to, that keeps us from embracing your redemptive love. You are worthy to place on the throne of our hearts. With you, we meet God, we find rest, we find light, we find life. And only you can make us children of God. Lord help us to continue receiving you and believing you and seeking you and hearing you... so that it is you...only you that occupies the throne of our hearts. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN