

Sunday School Lesson.....January 12, 2020.....The Church After the Rapture

Revelation Chapters 4 and 5

In our last lesson we covered with some depth the “Rapture” or “Caught Out Believers of the Church” who are yet alive at the moment of rapture; and the Resurrection (the First Resurrection) of saints who have died prior to the “Rapture of the Church”.

Perhaps there are some who would insist I give the other “theories” regarding the Rapture, and, yes there are other “theories”but I do not teach theories, I teach the way the Lord speaks from His Word as truth as I am led by the Holy Spirit. The three other theories do not merit my space or time for simply giving wrong data.

In our study last week we explained “THE HEAVENLY DOOR”

The Bible “reveals” (Reveal is the root word for Revelation.....which is the name the Holy Spirit assigned to this book in the Bible: *Revelation 1:1 The REVELATION of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass and He sent and signified it by the angel unto His servant John.*

The Greek word used in the original text is *Apokálypsi* which literally means “*the uncovering*”, “*the pulling back of the veil that hides*”. Thus Christ is uncovering and/or pulling back the veil that hides that we might see. In the case of where we are we are to see the things which come *hereafter* which means all of the book from *Revelation 4:1* is prophetic (has not happened yet, but will happen hereafter (hereafter you remember give a “time space” to the text).

Our next topic is:

2. THE HEAVENLY THRONE.

Revelation 4:2-3, 5-6.

"And immediately I was in the SPIRIT: and, behold, a THRONE was set in Heaven, and ONE sat on the THRONE. And HE that sat was to look upon like a Jasper and a Sardius stone: and there was a Rainbow round about the THRONE, in sight like unto an Emerald. . . . And out of the THRONE proceeded Lightnings and Thunderings and Voices; and there were Seven Lamps of Fire burning before the THRONE, which are the SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD. And before the THRONE there was a Sea of Glass like unto crystal."

The first thing John saw in Heaven was a THRONE (thus the first thing the church <meaning each of us> will see is the THRONE, as John is “Seeing What I Shall See.)

The Throne was not vacant, but One sat upon it, upon whom to look was like looking at glistening gems, such as Jasper and Sardius. The occupant of the Throne was no other than God Himself. In *Rev. 21:10-11*, John in describing the New Jerusalem says, that its light is the "**GLORY OF GOD.**" *A light like unto a stone most precious, even like a JASPER stone, clear as crystal.* This corresponds with John's declaration in *1st John 1:5*, that "**GOD IS LIGHT.**"

Ezekiel in describing his vision of the "Throne of God" says--"*Above the Firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a Throne, as the appearance of a Sapphire Stone: and upon the likeness of the Throne was the likeness as the appearance of a MAN above upon it. And I saw as the color of Amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of His loins even upward, and from the appearance of His loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the Bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the GLORY OF THE LORD.*" *Ez. 1:26-28.*

Now there are two things in Ezekiel's Vision that correspond with John's vision of the "THRONE OF GOD."

- First that the form of the one who sat on the Throne could not be clearly distinguished or described, but that it was **RESPLENDENT WITH LIGHT**, which veiled the form or person;
- Secondly, that there was a **RAINBOW ROUND ABOUT THE THRONE.**

The person of God then, as He sits upon His Throne, is veiled in a Glory that can only be compared to the shining of some beautiful gem. But one of the remarkable things about the Throne of God is, that it is surrounded by a "RAINBOW" that is emerald in color. The first mention we have in the Bible of a Rainbow is in:

Gen. 9:13-17. "I do set My BOW in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a COVENANT between Me and the Earth."

A Covenant that God would not destroy this earth again by a Flood. But that Rainbow was only a SEMI-CIRCULAR, such as we see in the sky in summer after a shower; but the Rainbow *Ezekiel* and *John* saw around the Throne of God was CIRCULAR. In this world we only see half a Rainbow, or the half of things, but when we arrive in Heaven we shall see the whole of things and the Rainbow is the first symbol of what the Apostle Paul wrote about when Paul wrote in:

1st Corinthian 13:11-12 *When I was a child, I spake as a child, Understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face, now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known.*

Paul eludes to “all things” being revealed “then” meaning when we first get a glimpse of heaven.

The Rainbow is the sign of a Covenant God made with man based on an accepted Sacrifice, in this case the Sacrifice of Noah (*Gen. 8:20-22*).

The Rainbow about the Throne of God is the sign of a Covenant based on the accepted Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

The difference between Noah's Rainbow and the one around the Throne of God is, that Noah's is composed of the seven primary colors,

- Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet,
- While the one around the Throne of God is EMERALD.

So what does this "CIRCULAR GREEN RAINBOW" about the Throne of God signify and “reveal to us”?

It signifies that God is a Covenant keeping God, that His promises as to this earth shall be fulfilled. Even though He is about to bring great judgments upon it, He will not destroy it, but the world shall pass through those judgments safely. He will redeem it, and “*He shall make all things new.*” In other words God will do the same thing (make new) to the world that God has done to “believing man” i.e. *made all things new*:

2nd Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new..

The "Throne" is not the "Throne of Grace" for out of The Throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices, that reminds us of Mt. Sinai, and proclaim it to be the "THRONE OF JUDGMENT."

This “detail” is quite important. Mt. Sinai WAS NOT “a throne of grace” where God pardoned His chosen the Jew. Rather it was a ‘THRONE OF JUDGMENT’ where by through the “Mosaic Law” God condemns (Judges his Children for their short comings as compared to the perfection of His Son, Jesus Christ, as both are seen through “THE LAW” or COMMANDMENTS. Being able to pull back and reveal this (to uncover) this fact regarding the LAW puts both the throne of God at Mt. Sinai and this Throne, the first we see in heaven in proper perspective that Judgment come to people and all things.

Before the Throne was a "SEA OF GLASS." This "Sea of Glass" at this moment is unoccupied, but later “The Sea of Glass” is seen mixed with fire (*Rev. 15:2-3*), and occupied by martyrs of the Tribulation Period who obtain the victory over the Beast, and who have harps, and sing the Song of MOSES AND THE LAMB. This "Glassy Sea" reminds us of the "Brazen Sea" that stood before Solomon's Temple (1. *Kings 7:23-45*), and thus was in front of the Ark of the Covenant, and in front of

the "Mercy Seat" which was the earthly Throne of God in Old Testament days in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple. God's Spirit would appear behind the veil, above the Mercy Seat which sat upon The Ark of the Covenant between the two Seraphim which had their wings spread.

Here "the veil" is rent (the veil was rent when Jesus Christ hung on the cross at the very moment of His giving up the ghost and dying).

Matthew 27:56-57 Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

So "the things of earth" made with hands are replicas of "*things in heaven not made by hands*" and we are allowed by God to see upon arrival to heaven the 'objects of our faith' i.e.

- There was a veil hiding the presence of God in the Old Testament.
- Christ on the cross was a "perfect" sacrifice that removed (rent in twain) the veil between man and God.
- The veil was rent (torn in twain) from the *top* (from God's perfection) *to the bottom* (man's sinful imperfection).
- Thus what was seen "darkly through a veil" is now seen (revealed) plainly upon our arrival in heaven.