

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 9 (4:1-7) (The Church in Heaven)

Introduction: The book of the Revelation is a weird, strange book to many, but it is not. Chapter 1 is the introduction, Chapters 2 and 3 give what the Church age is like (seven Churches). In chapter 4, the Church is gone for it is in Heaven. Revelation is an unveiling by Jesus Christ, an uncovering - GO OVER THE BACKGROUND. The Church will be saved from the Tribulation and Israel, the Jews will be under discipline during the Church age. When the Church is removed there will come upon this earth the most terrible times ever in man's history. When we look at 13:9 it will sound familiar but NO Church. No Holy Spirit speaking here. Centuries go by between chapters 3 and 4.

v1 - "after this" - the Church age is over now (John was raptured, caught up). (Not chronological as a change of scenery).

- "behold" - John was shocked (excited), he couldn't believe what he saw.

- "doors opened" - John was transported to heaven and was then brought back to earth to write what he had seen. (God reached down and got John and allowed him to peep into the door of heaven. John was the first astronaut beside Jesus).

The Church on earth is the BODY of Christ and the Church in heaven is the BRIDE of Christ. John peeps into the Bride's dressing room and he sees seven things, five in this study and two later on. He was shocked at what he saw.

- "trumpet" - a figure of speech to describe what John heard - a clear, crisp sound Jesus was speaking in a clear, crisp tone.

- "come up hither" - a command, come, look in

- "while" - actually "that"

- "hereafter" - the future. The Church in heaven is changed for the believers have resurrected bodies, new ones, all human goodness has been removed, the old sin nature is gone for Jesus Christ is getting his Bride ready during the Tribulation.

v2 - "was" - came to be, wasn't before but came to be now.

- "door opened" - tells what the first thing John saw - four doors - remember the four doors?

1. Door of service (3:8)

2. Door of Salvation (3:20)

3. Door of the Church in Heaven (4:1)

4. Open door of the second coming of Jesus (19:20)

- "throne" - Jesus Christ is on the throne. There are not three Gods, no one has ever seen God, the Father, He is always seen in Jesus Christ as that was Jesus' task when He was here on earth.

- "God" always refers to the Hebrew ELOHIM which has a plural ending, thus the Trinity. "Lord" often refers to God the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit. The context tells us which and it comes from "JEHOVAH."

- "one sat on the throne" - Jesus Christ and we are going to see Him in all His glory. Miles and time mean nothing to Him. (We can't see Him now, but we will one day and everyone will see Him when He returns to the Mt. of Transfiguration.)

Jesus is talking to John and John won't ever forget it either. Neither will you when you get to talk face to face with Jesus. It is hard to imagine what Heaven will be like but all will be perfect.

v3 - "look upon" - in English it is a verb, but in Greek it is a noun. It calls attention to what is being seen.

- "sardine stone" - Not a fish. Jasper is translucent like a diamond (the first stone in the breastplate). Sardis had hills and diamond mines. Sardis stones were being mined and were a beautiful red transparent stones. Also the sardine stone was the last stone in the breastplate of the High Priest.

HERE IS ANOTHER AMAZING PORTION OF SCRIPTURE:

- "a rainbow round about the throne" - Ever see a water falls with a rainbow over it and around it and even in it? John sees a rainbow - WHY?
- 1. Genesis 9:12-16 - tells the significance of the rainbow. God ;promises never to destroy the world with water again.
- 2. Up to the Genesis flood, nobody had ever seen a rainbow for it had never rained before the flood (2,000 years). The water came up from the ground as a mist, like ground sprinklers and the flood came from the inside as well as the outside. the rainbow comes from the rain as well as the outside. No wonder everybody called Noah a fool for it had never rained from above. the rainbow comes from the rain as well as the sun.....(describe the flood).
- 3. It also represents a promise from God. There was no Bible then. The rainbow speaks of God, His promise to never flood the earth in destruction again, but He does say He will use fire the next time. The rainbow is a sign of God's faithfulness to His Word. Therefore, when you see a rainbow, think of God's great promise to man.
- 4. The colors of the rainbow are refracted light rays. The bow was found at the END of the storm. When the clouds are about gone, right at the end of the storm of Tribulation, Jesus comes back to earth.
- 5. The rainbow is a token of who God is, His character. Televisions have red, green and blue controls and from these three come al lthe other shades of colors. Light is made jup of these three basic colors and to get otehr shades, these three colors are mkixed up. Thus if we take the character of God and mix it up, we see the essence of God displayed -purity, etc.
- "emerald" - is different. There was a greenish tint around the throne - why? What color is the vegetation that lives year round? The perennials are called "evergreens." While all others are dead in winter, these live on, and so does God. God never dies, He is eternal and the emerald tint signifies His eternalness.
- 6. First the storm, then the sunshine. Ever have to stop driving in a summer rain storm and then at the end see a rainbow and the sun peeping out? There will be a storm called the Tribulation and the Son of God will be about to break out. Calvary was darkness (remember the earth was totally darkened) then came light when salvation was made.
- 7. The rainbow represents the grace of God. While we were yet in our sins, Jesus Christ died for us.
 - Why the greenish tint? Yellow and blue make green. Yellow or gold represents the deity of God, His perfectness. Blue stands for man. Jesus Christ left His throne and became a man, thus the deity plus humanity equals Jesus Christ.
 - Now we have the rainbow.

v4 - "four and twenty seats" - thrones. Jesus Christ sat on a throne and there were twenty four lesser ones.

- "four and twenty elders" - presbuterous (not the Presbyterian Church of today), ruling angelic creatures. We will see by the context that they are "elect" angels.
- "crowns of gold" - stephanus - a crown won in an event, diadiem, the crown of a rjuler. This is Stephanus - won by faihfulness to God.

v5 - "lightenings and tghunderings and voices" - the judgments of God about to burst forth (power)

- lamps of fire" - and the seven spirits which symbolizes the perfect essence of God.
(The spirit of the Lord, spirit of wisdom, spirit of understanding, spirit of counsel, spirit of might, spirit ofknowledge, and the spirit of the fear of the Lord) Isaiah 11

v6 - "a sea of glass" - the Church is at rest now. The Church is completed. This is the fourth picture John sees - a picture of serenity, peacefullness,quietness.

- "four beasts" - not beasts but zoa - living creatures, angels. The Cherubim and Seraphim. The Devil was a cherubim, the most beautiful creature God ever made but artists have painted a little fat baby with wings. The seraphim were reflecting angels, reflecting the glory of God.
- "full of eyes" - eyes are intelligence, thus super intelligence.

v7 - "a lion" - a wild being, the tribe of Judah. Described in Matthew. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah.

- "a calf" - better an ox, meaning serving. Mark depicts the serving Jesus.
- "face of a man" - the humanity of Jesus as shown by Luke
- "flying eagle" - always representative of God. John shows the deity of Jesus.

NOTE: the wild, the tame, the human and the fowl are mentioned, God's creations.

- Note the order in the Bible.

(vv8-11) - All creatures will fall down and worship Jesus Christ and here is where the phrase "WORTH IS THE LAMB" comes from.

This is what John saw as he peeped into heaven and ends this study.