

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 35 (20:4-6)

When the Saints Go Marching In

Introduction: This study will be one of the most interesting yet for here many loose strings come together.

v4 - "the souls of them" - somebody once said, "know thyself" but you cannot begin to know yourself until you realize that YOU, the real you is NOT in your body. It is your SOUL. YOU are not a body with a soul, you are a soul with a body - a spiritual being, soul and spirit. Life is in the blood (animal life, that is). Leviticus says life of the flesh is in the blood, animal. YOUR life is in in your soul. Kill your body but your soul lives on. What we see is NOT our real self. What if you neglect your body, you will die. What if you neglect your soul? It dies also. YOU are a SPIRITUAL being. Genesis 2:7 outlines how we came to be - notice our composition, what our bodies are made of.

Jesus formed man, breathed the breath of LIVES (plural). God breathed soul and spirit into man. Why two nostrils? Man became a living soul. Jesus, the human form of God, God the trinity, the essence of God, formed, NOT created but used the already created elements, dust of the ground. Adamah (Adam) means "man of the dirt." Chemicals form the dirt from man's body. God breathed into man the breath of lives, soul and spirit. That's how man came to be. God built the body first, but not yet a human being, ONLY when God breathed into man did man become a living soul. YOU are a living example of God's handiwork - a likeness of God.

- "souls" - a real person

1. The real you is a soul.

2. There are six qualities of the soul:

- Self consciousness or life (brain protected by bone protects the most important part), where your soul and spirit dwell. Acts 20:10 - a boy fell out of a window and thought to be dead but Paul said the spirit (the soul) was still there. His breath had been knocked out.
- Mentality, thinking I- everything you have ever thought will go with you into eternity.
- Volition, your will, choosing, decision making
- Emotions
- Conscience - your standards - Adam had these 5 at the start but God added one more. When he sinned, Adam gained the 6th quality - the Old Sin Nature. From then on every person (us) has been born with all six qualities of the soul.

Jeremiah said that the "heart was deceitful and wicked" - the heart is the soul.

- The soul has six essence qualities but the sixth one (the old sin nature) is lost when the believer goes to heaven, leaving the fleshly body. Adam had a body, soul and spirit. When he sinned the spirit was just blacked out but belief in Jesus Christ activates that spirit and then once again there is the body, soul and spirit.

3. There is always a distinction between the soul and the spirit.

- "For the Word of God is powerful, sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder soul and the spirit." They are different. the Bible makes that distinction. You have just seen the soul described, what about the spirit?
- The spirit is that vacuum where the truth of God is stored. When you worship God, it is not from the soul, but from the spirit.

4. When believing in Jesus Christ, you are saved in your soul, not the spirit. 1 Peter 1 speaks of the salvation of the soul. Your volition is in your soul, it is your soul that decides yes or no. Saying "yes" to Jesus is using your soul, not your spirit. Mark 8 "what does it profit a man though he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

5. The soul is the seat of human misery. Jesus spoke of His soul being troubled - soul agony.
6. The soul is the place where you love, not your heart which is a muscle. The "heart" in the Bible is talking about the soul, the mind, not the heart muscle.
7. The soul in death departs the body and goes to be with God in that split second. The body goes back to dust. God will use that dust again to make a distinctly different body at the resurrection. Look at your body now - it will one day die and return to dust but will be reactivated by God in His time. Your soul and spirit will go back into that new body and you will be body, soul and spirit again. If you could compare your today's body to a cheap, short-mileage, rough riding vehicle, etc., when you get your new body, it will be like a large limo, fully loaded, rides like it's on air, etc. a far greater body than what you have right now. When believers are raised up they will be given a body that will last forever. Nothing will ever go wrong with it, it will be perfect in all ways.

v4 - "lived" - began to live again, forever in resurrected bodies. There will be two resurrections: one for believers which is the first resurrection, "blessed are those who have part of the first resurrection..." but not all the saved will be raised at once. The second resurrection will be at the great white throne judgment and it will be the lost and they will be judged and sent to hell along with the devil forever.

When the Saints go marching in with their new bodies, soul and spirit, all will be together once again and this time forever. How does this come about? 1 Corinthians 15:23 gives the order of the resurrection: like a parade, a military review with God on His throne and all pass before Him:

1. The first will be Jesus Christ. He was first to get a resurrected body. Only Jesus has the resurrected body right now. Not Elijah nor Enoch, nor Lazarus or Moses - ONLY Jesus Christ, He was resurrected in 33 A.D. in Jerusalem of Palestine.
2. The second will be all born again of the Church age (1 Thessalonians 4:16), The "dead in Christ", not Old Testament Saints, but the Church age people. When Jesus gives the call, every grave of every born again Church age people will open and the new bodies come out. THEN those of the Church age who are alive when Jesus comes, their mortal, fleshly bodies will be changed into immortality.
3. The third will be those at the end of the Tribulation (Daniel, Isaiah), the Old Testament Saints.

These will be living on this earth during the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ, those with eternal, new bodies and those with ordinary, physical bodies (believers in Jesus) and at the end of the 1,000 year reign, every one left will receive their new bodies (millions will become believers when Jesus returns). At the Great White Throne Judgment of God, everyone will be resurrected at that time, all the lost, unbelievers to stand before God.

Revelation says that God will be there and a new heaven and a new earth will be made and believers will be able to visit both at will.

When we (believers) go marching in, we will have a new body and we will be like Jesus Christ. The most important part of you (us) is the soul - feed it, care for it, give it to Jesus to take care of.

Still more coming, get ready for it, look for it. Hasn't this been a great, wonderful study?