

Twelve Lessons

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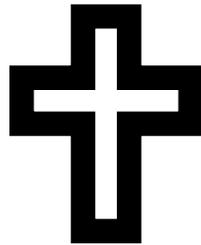
Revelation II

(4:1 - 14:20)

Written & Compiled

by

Ronnie Simpson, Ph.D., Th.D., LL.D., D.D.



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

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CONTENTS

1. THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER.....4

2. THE SYMBOLISM OF THE FOUR BEASTS.....7

3. DESTINY DETERMINED BY DEITY.....10

4. THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.....13

5. IN WRATH GOD REMEMBERS MERCY.....16

6. THE STRENGTH OF INTERCESSION.....18

7. WHEN HELL INVADES THE EARTH.....21

8. THE ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE BOOK.....24

9. THE TWO WITNESSES.....26

10. THE WOMAN: ISRAEL.....28

11. THE TWO BEASTS.....30

12. THE DAY OF HIS GREAT WRATH.....32

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THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER – LESSON 1

Revelation 4:1-5

Introduction: Revelation 4:1 – After this is the *“things which shall be hereafter”* of Rev. 1:19.

Lesson Goals:

1. To understand the natural division that occurs in Revelation 4:1 with John’s call to “come up hither,” a prophetic foretaste of the rapture of the church.
2. To catch a glimpse of the sights John saw in his heavenly vision, a vision of God on His throne with twenty-four elders seated around Him.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. The Tribulation – It indicates a definite period of seven years spoken of by the Lord in Matt. 24:21,29; Mark 13:19,24, where the time is mentioned as preceding His second advent, and as a period in which the Jewish nation, restored to Palestine in unbelief by gentile instrumentality, will suffer an unprecedented outburst of fury on the part of the antichristian powers confederate under the Man of Sin (II Thess. 2:10-12; cp. Rev. 12:13-17); in this tribulation Gentile witnesses for God will share (Rev. 7:9), but it will be distinctly “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7).
2. Sea of Glass – The “sea of glass” recalls the typology of the OT, which enters richly into the structure of the Apocalypse. The allusion is evidently to the Tabernacle laver (Ex. 30:18-21) and possibly more directly to the molten sea in the Solomonic Temple (I Kings 7:23-37); both were used for priestly ablutions. However, the “sea of glass” points to a fixed state of holiness, both inward and outward, and its being “around the throne” would indicate that the purity is in keeping with the holy character of the throne itself.

I. THE SIGHTS – vs. 1

A. The Door – Saw a vision – Door was opened

1. “Was opened” – Past tense says it is already standing open.
2. A Precious Truth – A Heaven standing wide open, inviting any one who will to enter.
 - a. Psa. 115:16 – The earth was given to man to inherit and live.
 - b. Gen. 4:14 – Through sin, man lost his right to be on earth. Through grace, man has an opportunity for something better, Heaven. Through rejection, man will spend an eternity in Hell.

B. The Voice – Heard a voice – Trumpet talking with me – “Come up hither”

1. Three Sounds of the Trumpet. This is for Israel.
2. Three Distinct Sounds from the Trumpet meant for Israel to Walk, War, or Worship.
3. This is the outline for Israel during the Tribulation. Israel will begin to “walk again.” It will be a “Time of Jacob’s Trouble.” It will be a time when Israel sees the Lord face to face at His second coming.

II. THE SOVEREIGN – vs. 2, 3

A. The Setting – A Throne – Key word in this chapter – Mentioned 12 times in this chapter – The number of government

1. The Setting – “set in heaven” – Permanently fixed as a place of authority and jurisdiction.
2. The Stones – Three mentioned – Jasper, Sardine, and Emerald – The Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - a. Two stones – Ex. 28 – Twelve stones where the 12 names of the tribes of Israel were engraven.
 - b. The first one mentioned is the Sardine stone, the blood-red stone of Reuben. The last stone mentioned is the Jasper, the clear white stone of Benjamin.
 - 1) Sardine stone – The red stone speaks of sacrifice and blood. Reuben’s name means “behold the son”. The “way” was made by the Blood
 - 2) Jasper stone – Clear white stone speaks of purity and victory. Benjamin’s name means “the son of my right hand or power.” The “Truth” was evident by His life.
 - 3) In the Book of Revelation, the order is reversed. John sees Him as the jasper and then as the sardine. The Old Testament saints were looking to Calvary and the victory beyond. We’ll be looking back through victory to Calvary.

B. The Stone – Emerald – Eternal life and fruitfulness – It was the wedding stone, being green it speaks of eternal freshness and endurance. The “life” was evident by His Resurrection.

1. “Rainbow” – Never again will we have to face it as Noah never faced another flood.

2. "Round about the throne" – Hear we see only half a rainbow but then we'll see a complete circle. This symbolizes perfection.
 - a. Here and now only the half is told as it were.
 - b. Pledge to the saved, there'll never be another judgment.
 - c. Pledge to the sinner, judgment is coming.
 - 1) First mention – Gen. 8:21-22 – This first covenant rainbow was on the basis of a sacrifice of blood. So is the second.
 - 2) The Emerald was the stone of Judah, the first stone in the second row of the Priest's breastplate. Judah was the tribe out of which the King was to come, and the name "Judah" means "praise." We ought to praise Him that we have the blessed hope of His return.

III. THE SEATS – vs. 4

A. The Seats – Same word translated throne – *thronos* – A stately seat, a potentate

1. All the saints are sitting
 - a. Proves that the time for suffering is over and the hour to reign with Him has come.
 - b. All are clothed in white raiment. The only thing that makes them fit to be there is the blood.
 - c. All are crowned with crowns of gold – crowns (*stephanos*) (*diadem*) – *stephanos* the crown of a victor while a *diadem* is the crown of a potentate
2. Proves the pretribulation, premillennial rapture. These crowns are not given until after the saints have left the earth.

B. The Saints – 24 seats – 12 represent O.T. Saints and 12 represent N.T. Saints. Not angels because in Rev. 5:9, they are singing a "new song".

1. 24 – Number of all-inclusiveness (without loss of one)
2. 24 – Number of the priesthood under Aaron. This is found in I Chron. 24:1-18.
 - a. After Nadab and Abihu died and left no children, Aaron had two sons left, Eleazar and Ithamar.
 - b. Eleazar had 16 sons and Ithamar had 8 sons. David made these to be governors of the sanctuary.
 - c. 16 is the number for love and 8 is the number for the New Birth.
 - d. I Peter 2:5 and 2:9 – "We're a royal priesthood."
3. 24 – Number for the eternal security of the Believer because He intercedes for them every hour (24) of the day. Psa. 121: 4-7 – "*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.*"

IV. THE STORM – vs. 5 – The Saints protected Four Ways

A. The Storm – vs. 3, we see the rainbow before the storm. There is evidently another storm brewing, marked by lightning, thundering and "voices."

1. Our storm is over and the world's storm is about to begin.
2. Jer. 30, "the time of Jacob's trouble." Dan. 12:1 – "time of trouble." Matt. 24:21, Rev. 7:14 – great tribulation
3. How can we know we'll not go through the Tribulation?
 - a. The Outline of Revelation – Rev. 1:19
 - b. Types – Noah, Enoch, Lot.
 - c. Scriptures – I Thess. 5:9 – "*For God hath not appointed us to wrath.*"
 - d. Hope – Titus 2:13 – Not looking for Armageddon but "that blessed hope".

B. The Spirits – "seven Spirits of God" – Represent the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit. Isa 11:2 – "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

C. The Sea of Glass – Solidified

1. The laver in the tabernacle (Ex. 30:18) was for priestly purification, made of the looking glasses of the women. Some believe this is a picture of the Judgment Seat where the believer will be purified. This is where the priests in the Old Testament washed their hands and feet before officiating.
2. This sea is solidified noting a fixed state of holiness and purity, there'll be no more cleansing. The backsliding of the heart and the failures of the flesh are forever past.
3. The glass is transparent and fixed.

C. The Symbolism

1. The Heavenly Tabernacle – The earthly tabernacle was patterned after the Heavenly.
 - a. Holy of Holies with the Mercy Seat
 - 1) Throne corresponds to the Mercy Seat
 - 2) Four Beasts corresponds to the Two Cherubim
 - b. The Inner Court
 - 1) The 24 Elders corresponds to the 24 Priests that officiated in the Inner Court and the Altar of Incense.
 - 2) The Seven Spirits correspond to the Seven Golden Candlesticks.
 - c. The Outer court
 - 1) The Sea of Glass corresponds to the Brazen Laver
 - 2) The Altar – Rev. 6:9 corresponds to the Brazen Altar at the door of the Tabernacle.
2. What is the Importance of this Symbolism?
 - a. Rev. 4:6-7 – Four Beasts “round about the throne” – Lion, Ox, Man, and an Eagle. There is a different order in Ezekiel 1:10 where it is the Man, the Lion, the Ox, and the Eagle. First time He came as a man but the next time He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
 - b. The camping and marching order of Israel in the wilderness
 - 1) The Camp of Judah – East – Its standard bearing the figure of a Lion
 - 2) The Camp of Ephraim – West – Its standard bearing the figure of an Ox
 - 3) The Camp of Reuben – South – Its standard bearing the figure of a Man
 - 4) The Camp of Dan – North – Its standard bearing the figure of an Eagle. Note: God dwells in the north according to Ps 75:6 – “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.”
 - 5) The Tabernacle was in the center of the Camp – Surrounded and protected by Standards. The nation of Israel’s safety and security was based on the strength of these four standards.
 - c. The camping and marching order of the saints in Heaven.
 - 1) Matthew – The Lion of the Tribe of Judah – Sovereign Grace
 - 2) Mark – The Ox – The Burden Bearer – Sacrificial Grace
 - 3) Luke – The Man – Sinless Grace
 - 4) John – The Eagle – Sufficient Grace – The eagle is created for the sky. Sometimes “birds” will harass the eagle. The eagle has two eyelids. One completely shuts out light while the inner eyelid shades out the light. When harassed, the eagle will fly directly into the sun, pulling down the inner eyelid.
 - 5) The Twenty-four Elders were “round about the throne” surrounded and protected by Standards. The Elders’ safety and security are based on the strength of the Son of God.
 - d. Note: In Ezekiel 1:10 – The order is a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. Why? Jesus came the first time as a “man,” but He is coming the second time as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Conclusion: The Welland Canal – Through the locks pass great ships, small ships. There are 24 locks where ships must pass from one side to the other. When they come to pass from one lake to another they must all wait in the lake. Why? They have a “Special Pilot” that safely steers each ship through the docks.