

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Last time we saw that chapters 4 and 5 are a vision of God the Father on His throne, and Jesus Christ on the throne with Him, and the Holy Spirit proceeding from both the Father and the Son.

As we look this evening through chapter 4, the vision of God, we can recognize several references to the Old Testament scriptures. Each one helps us understand that God who is on the throne is the same God we read so much about in the scriptures. In each reference, God is shown with reference to some historical event in the Old Testament, but with some additional information, that helps us understand Him regarding the things He is about to do, as will be prophesied starting in chapter 6.

TEXT

Revelation 4:2-6a

BODY

4:3b and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Gen 9:8-17

The vision is of God who made the rainbow, the one who destroyed the earth once by a flood, then promised not to destroy it by flood again; but now the rainbow is primarily green.

Edwards: As the benign influence of the sun on the face of the earth is shown by this color above all others, so is the grace...of God fitly represented by this color.

God has, for all these millennia since the flood, has not again destroyed the earth for man's wickedness, but has made it to be green and productive.

4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

(This interpretation occurred to me, but then I also read it in Dr. D.A. Criswell.)

Rev 21:12-24

The vision is of God who made Himself known to the twelve tribes of Israel; but now He also is making Himself known to all men through the twelve apostles.

4:5a And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices:

Exodus 19:16 - "the voice" or "the sound"

The vision is of God who spoke with one voice when He gave the law at Mt. Sinai, but now is speaking with many voices as His word goes out by many messengers to all the world.

4:5b and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Exodus 25:37

The vision is of the Spirit of God who was with the one congregation of Israel, but is now with the many congregations all over the world.

4:6a And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:

(This interpretation is from B.H. Carroll.)

Daniel 7:2

The vision is of God, who stirred up the nations to produce a series of kings and kingdoms; but now we see that all the tumult of the rise and fall of kingdoms is just smooth and calm to Him.

CONCLUSION

As God made the earth green and beautiful again after He had destroyed it with flood, we can be sure He will make it beautiful again after He destroys it as prophesied in this book of Revelation.

As God saved and blessed Israel as He brought judgment on the wicked nations around them, we can be sure He will save us from the judgment coming on the world.

As God spoke with His voice to Israel at Mt. Sinai, we can know He will be speaking to His people all over the world through many voices.

No matter what troubles will come, as prophesied in the Revelation, the Holy Spirit will go out to all God's people to give us the strength to keep faith in Christ, and to maintain the words and good works that profess Him.

To us, the rise and fall of powerful people and nations seems like a great storm at sea, but God is not in a state of tumult; all is perfectly calm with Him.

4:3a And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

The vision is of God as glorious, shown by a brilliant light shining like a precious gem