

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 34

The Throne Room of Heaven 3

I. Review: In Revelation chapter 4 we take up the story of heaven after the rapture of the church. (Rev. 4:2-11 NKJV) ¹*After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."* ²*Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.* ³*And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.* ⁴*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

A. In our last lesson we learned the identity of the 24 elders.

B. We saw that these elders are representative of a body of blood bought, redeemed people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

C. Without question, these elders represent the Body of Christ, which is the church, resurrected, glorified, rewarded, in heaven before the throne of God before the first seal is broken that begins Daniel's 70th Week or the Tribulation Period.

II. Now let's take it a step further. Notice (Rev. 4:6a NKJV) ⁶*Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.*

A. What is the significance of the crystal sea?

B. There is a recognized rule of Bible interpretation concerning the word sea or waters.

1. Whenever the word sea is used in connection to an existing body of water, the context of the passage will identify the name of that body of water.

2. But when this is not the case, and no existing body of water is referred to in the context, then the word sea is always referring to mass of people...a sea of humanity.

3. Several examples of this occur in the Book of Revelation.

a. (Rev. 17:1 NKJV) ¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.

b. The harlot is described as sitting on many waters.

c. (Rev. 17:15 NKJV) gives the interpretation. ¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

d. Verse 15 clearly describes the waters as peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

e. (Rev. 13:1 NKJV) ¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

f. (1 Sam. 13:5 NKJV) ⁵ Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude.

g. In Revelation 13:1 when John saw himself in the vision standing by the sand of the sea and seeing a beast rising up out of the sea, he was referring to the antichrist rising up out of the sea of humanity.

C. Such is the case of the crystal sea. It is a great company of people standing before the throne of God.

1. They are referred to as a sea because of their vast numbers.

2. They are spoken of as crystal because of their purity.

a. Crystal is the only substance on earth in which flaws cannot be hidden. In fact, flaws are magnified in crystal.

b. Crystal therefore, is a fitting symbol for the glorified church. (Eph. 5:27 KJV) *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

c. The glorified church is without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing. It is holy and without blemish.

3. (Rev. 15:2a NKJV) further describes the crystal sea as being mingled with fire. ² And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire.

a. Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

b. (Matt. 3:11 NKJV) ¹¹*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

e. The crystal sea mingled with fire indicates that the Holy Spirit, who is symbolized by fire, has produced the crystal sea and is responsible for its presence at the throne of God.

f. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, His fire progressively purges us from all that is unlike Jesus.

g. (2 Cor. 3:18 NKJV) ¹⁸*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

h. When we are glorified, whatever is lacking will be completed and we will be as pure and transparent as crystal.

i. Everything about crystal speaks of the glorious church, not only its ability to expose flaws, but its beauty, fire, and even its melodious sound made when gently thumped.

j. Since the 24 elders are resurrected, glorified, crowned, rewarded, in heaven, and representative of the body of the Redeemed, then the rest of the body must be in heaven also, because the church is all glorified together.

k. Therefore, the crystal sea is a fitting symbol of the glorified church assembled before Jesus in heaven before the Tribulation Period begins on earth.