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THE DOOR IS OPEN

The Mystery of God would be finished

A journey through the book of Revelation – Part 2

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The Door is open

The apostle John *“looked, and behold, a door open in heaven”* Revelation 4:1a. What an amazing revelation! Saints, the door into the heavenly realm is open! We are invited to enter through the door, *“Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this”* Revelation 4:1c. As New Covenant people of God we have *“boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh”* Hebrews 10:19-20. This is the realm that goes past the flesh! This is the realm of seeing the glory and being changed into the same image from *“glory to glory just as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2 Cor.3:18).

This is a new realm that we are invited to come up into. In order to have true spiritual understanding and revelation, we must move beyond the veil of His flesh. We are no longer to view our life after the flesh, *“from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet we know Him thus no longer”* 2 Corinthians 5:16. It is time to know Christ as He really is and see all things from His perspective.

The trumpet is sounding

After overcoming in the realm of the Holy Place, the Lampstands (Rev.2&3), we are now invited to go through the door that is open! It is open! We are under an open heaven! It is a trumpet call that invites us to come through, *“And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet”* Revelation 4:1b. Have you heard the trumpet call in these days? Are you hearing the message of coming into the glory? Are you hearing the message calling us to go on to perfection (Heb.6:1)? Are you hearing that it is time to become sons of God, even *“sons to glory”* Hebrews 2:10? Are you hearing the message that we are to be a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing (Eph.5:27)?

The trumpet is sounding! *Come up here!* Come up into the place of revelation of the mysteries of God which have been *“hidden from ages and from generations, but now have been revealed to His saints”* Colossians 1:26. Go through the door!

The Throne

When John went through the door he was *“immediately in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne”* Revelation 4:2. It is interesting that John did not see a big mansion for himself. He did not catch a glimpse of a carnal vision of heaven where all his fleshly desires were finally met. He saw *a throne!* When heaven opens to us, we see a *throne!* We see One who sits on the throne! **Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel** all saw awesome visions where heaven opened to them. They also saw a throne (**Isa.6:1-3; Ezek.1:1,26-28; Dan.7:9-10**). Let us come to *“the throne of God and of the Lamb”* (Rev.22:1). It is an awesome and terrifying place. It is beauty unimagined mixed with dread and reverence.

There are *“twenty-four elders”* sitting on *“twenty-four thrones”* around this throne (Rev.4:4). This is a wonderful picture of the place of victory and rulership His whole church experiences around His Throne. There is awe-inspiring power as *“lightnings, thunderings and voices”* all proceed from the throne (Rev.4:5). This reminds us of the power demonstrated at Mount Sinai when Yahweh came down in the cloud to give the law to Moses (Ex.19:16).

The *“seven spirits of God”* are there, burning as lamps of fire before the throne. **Daniel** saw *“His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued forth from before Him”* Daniel 7:9b-10. John the Baptist prophesied that the Messiah, Jesus, would baptise us with the *“Holy Spirit and fire”* (Matt.3:11). *“Tongues, as of fire”* were seen on the heads of the one hundred and twenty in the upper room (Acts 2:3). The Holy Spirit proceeds and issues forth from the throne, from the Father and Son (Jn.15:26). He goes forth as a fire for *“our God is a consuming fire”* (Heb.12:29). The throne is the place of all authority. It is the place of spiritual reality and revelation, where the mysteries are revealed!

Worship

The rest of **Revelation 4** is a revelation of all creation in worship of Him who sits on the throne. There is the mystery of the *“living creatures”* who are in the *“midst of the throne, and around the throne”* (Rev.4:6). Their faces represent all areas of dominion in the created world: the *lion* is the king of the wild animals, the *calf*, or as **Ezekiel** calls it, the *ox* (Ezek.1:10) is the king of the domesticated working animals, the *eagle* is the king of the bird kingdom, and the *man* is the one whom God gave the dominion over all His creation (Gen.1:26-28). These *living creatures “do not rest day or night”* in worship (Rev.4:8-9). Their worship causes the elders *“to fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever”* Revelation 4:10. **We are called to join the worship!**

We worship God as a faith-filled response to the revelation that it is Him who sits on the throne. Do you worship God or are you still only “singing songs”? Worship is in the Spirit. Jon was *“immediately in the Spirit”* when he was called up to the throne (Rev.4:2a). *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* John 4:24. This is a revelation of true worship! We *“come up here”* to worship Him who is on the throne. *“We are the (true) circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh”* Philippians 3:3. Are you hearing the call to worship? We are called to worship Him with all of creation! God is restoring true worship to His church, where we *“cast our crowns before the throne, saying: You are worthy, O Lord”* Revelation 4:10-11.

Who is worthy?

John then saw *“in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll...sealed with seven seals” Revelation 5:1*. John intuitively knew in the Spirit that this scroll had to be unsealed, released. The proclamation was heard, *“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals” Revelation 5:2*. There was no one in all areas of the creation who was able to even *“look at it” (Rev.5:3)*. As we will see, this scroll, when released, will cause the unfolding of God’s eternal purpose to manifest on the earth. It was locked up. It was sealed. God’s plan and mysteries were *“hidden from ages and generations but are now being revealed to His saints” Colossians 1:26*. Why are they being revealed now and not previously? Previously there was no one worthy to unlock them! We lived in the realm of **1 Corinthians 2:9** *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him”*. Many believers remain in that place: not seeing, hearing or believing in their hearts what God has prepared for them! Many believers are ignorant of the mysteries that are now opened to us. We must move on to **1 Corinthians 2:10** *“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit”*. But who could unseal the scrolls and reveal the mysteries of God?

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah prevailed!

John *“wept much”* that no one was worthy to open the scroll (**Rev.5:4**). He wept because the plans of God could not manifest on the earth unless that scroll was opened and unsealed. But then good news came from an elder! *“Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals” Revelation 5:5*.

The mention of *Judah* and *Root of David* reveal that it was the promised Messiah! The great Ruler named *SHILOH* from **Genesis 49:10** who would come from the lineage of Judah. The *Root of David* was mentioned in **Isaiah 11:1-10** and He would *“stand as a banner to the people” (Isa.11:10)*. He would have the victory and bring about God’s eternal purpose, which was summed up as, *“For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea” Isaiah 11:9*. There is One who is worthy! He gained the victory. He is the Messiah, Jesus, the *Lion of Judah!*

The Lion and the Lamb

John then looked to get a glimpse of this *Lion* that the elder spoke about. But when he looked *“in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain” Revelation 5:6a*. He looked to see a *Lion* but instead saw a *Lamb!* The ruling *Lion* is a *Lamb!* What a revelation of Jesus Christ! John the Baptist had this revelation, *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” John 1:29*.

The exaltation of Jesus the Messiah to the throne was due to His humility, service and obedience to be sacrificed (**Phil.2:5-11**). *“Therefore, God also highly exalted Him” Philippians 2:9*. The *“Lamb”* also speaks of His priesthood, *“He shall be a priest on His throne” Zechariah 6:13*. The nature of the *Lamb* is gentle, sacrificial and reveals His priestly nature, sympathising with our weaknesses and becoming the perfect sacrifice for sins (**Heb.4:15**)! He is also on the throne and ruling, combining the offices of King and Priest

together, in Him (**Zech.6:13b**)! He is a *Lion and a Lamb*. Ruling “*in the midst of the elders*”, His people! Where will you find Jesus? He rules *in the midst* of us, as we gather around Him (**Matt.18:20**)!

Seven horns

The Lamb had “*seven horns*” **Revelation 5:6b**. The number *seven* speaks of completeness, fullness and perfection. *Horns* in the Bible represent kingdoms and kings – read **Daniel 8** to see the use of horns to represent rulers/kings of kingdoms. This *Lamb* had *seven horns*! This is a revelation of the complete authority of the *Lamb of God*! Jesus said, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*” **Matthew 28:18**. When Jesus rose from the dead he had “*prevailed*” and was now able to unlock God’s eternal plan to “*bring many sons to glory*” (**Heb.2:10**), restoring the dominion God always intended for mankind in the earth! What an encouragement to know the *Lamb with seven horns*!

Seven eyes

The Lamb also had “*seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth*” **Revelation 5:6**. Peter declared on the Day of Pentecost, “*Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear*” **Acts 2:33**. The *Lamb*, Jesus the Messiah, is “*He who baptises with the Holy Spirit*” **John 1:33**. Now that there is someone worthy to open the scrolls, we can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through Him!

Now we have access to the mysteries of God, “*yes, the deep things of God*” **1 Corinthians 2:10**. Now it “*has been given to us to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*” **Matthew 13:11**. Now we can have power to be witnesses (**Acts 1:8**). Now what was hidden is being revealed! The *seven eyes* speak of the all-knowing nature of the Spirit of God. Now we have the *Anointing* of the Holy Spirit and can “*know all things*” (**1Jn.2:20**). The *Lamb* has the fullness of the Spirit of God, the *seven Spirits of God* (**Isa.11:2**). And He is pouring out the Spirit of God on “*all flesh*” and into all the earth (**Joel 2:28**).

The Messiah now reigns

The *Lamb* then “*took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne*” **Revelation 5:7**. John saw in fulfilment what **Daniel** saw as future. **Daniel** saw “*One like the Son of Man...He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him*” **Daniel 7:13-14**. Jesus the Messiah now rules. He is a Man on the throne! He is the One who has authority over all things and all peoples are now to become obedient to Him (**Rom.1:5**). We are living in the fulfilment of this now by making “*disciples of all nations*” **Matthew 28:19**.

The prayers of the saints

When the *Lamb* took the scroll, the “*four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb*” **Revelation 5:8a**. They worshiped! They each had “*a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints*” **Revelation 5:8b**. This is

another important interpretive verse. We learn that incense represents the *“prayers of the saints”*. This is confirmed in **Psalm 141:2 & Revelation 8:3**.

Worship, *the harp*, and prayer, *incense*, are to surround the *Lamb*. We are to give ourselves now earnestly to *“prayer and supplication in the Spirit”* **Ephesians 6:18**. This is because we *“do not yet see all things put under him (man). But we see Jesus...”* **Hebrews 2:8b-9a**. We are praying for His kingdom to come and manifest on the earth (**Matt.6:10**). Now that we see Jesus as the Ruler and the One who has unlocked the mysteries of God, we surround Him with worship and prayer until we see *all things put back under man’s feet as God originally intended*. We have great hope now because *we see Jesus* has conquered. There is a Man on the throne, and He is bringing *many sons to glory* who will manifest His kingdom on the earth!

The New Song

As New Covenant people, we have a *new song* (**Rev.5:9a**). This new song is a song of the *redeemed!* It is a song coming out of *“every tribe and tongue and people and nation”* (**Rev.5:9c**). It is a song celebrating that Jesus has opened the scroll and has *“made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth”* **Revelation 5:10**. We do not sing the songs of Babylon anymore! We sing the songs of Zion! We are now learning to rule and reign with Jesus as *kings and priests* having been *“raised up and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places”* **Ephesians 2:6**. This is an awesome revelation! This is happening now and has been happening for the last two thousand years! The scroll is unsealed. God’s eternal purpose is manifesting in the earth. The redeemed are singing a new song of the victory of the Messiah, and our place of authority in, and with Him!

Worthy is the Lamb

The rest of **Revelation 5** is filled with exultant worship of the *“voice of many angels...the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”* **Revelation 5:11**. Even every creature in all of creation is involved in giving glory to the *Lamb!* This is the time we live in! It is a new day! We sing of the *Lamb* and *“worship Him who lives forever and ever”* **Revelation 5:14**. We are now *kings and priests*, and we must understand now the loosing of the seals and what this brings forth on the earth! God is outworking His plan and there is an unfolding revelation to bring us to the point where *the mystery of God would be finished* (**Rev.10:7**). It is not looking for particular chronological events in history, but preparing us for the journey of seeing the new creation finally appear out of the old. There will be disturbances. There will be hardship. *“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God”* **Acts 14:22**. We have a *Lamb Messiah* who will bring us through victorious (**Rev.17:14**)!

The seals have been opened and may God give us a heart to understand the revelation of God’s purpose now appearing in the earth!

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