

REVELATION UNVEILED

BOOK 1

A COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

GEORGE AKALONU

Revelation Unveiled – A Commentary on the Book of
Revelation Book 1



George Akalonu

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Revelation

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Use of Hebraic Names of the Most High

Yahweh, Elohim, Yeshua. During our walk with the Lord, we discovered by leading of Holy Spirit how fundamentally flawed was the intrusion of Rome into the gospel from 4th Century AD. Replacement Theology led Rome to take away all Hebraic/Jewish connections as root of what is now called the Christian Faith. What He has led us to do is to call our Father by the Name He revealed Himself to Israel which is Yahweh. In the same way, rather than call our Creator by the generic title God, we find it more appropriate to call Him by the Hebraic Name He revealed to humanity through Moses which is Elohim. The Name, Elohim properly conveys His Unity in Plurality as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! We also call our King the Name His Father gave Him, Yeshua as well as the Anglicized translation, Jesus derived from the Greek translation, Ioseus. We do this as led by Holy Spirit, not as part of the so-called sacred Names movement. Neither do we subscribe to the legalistic methods of Judaizers intent on dragging saints into the dead works and rituals of Judaism. We do not condemn or malign those who have not yet caught this depth of revelation. Please feel free to call the Most High by what He reveals to you and what you are comfortable with.

Preface for the Kingdom Culture Series

We have tarried before the Lord for some time to receive a rhema concerning how to introduce the books in the series you are about to read. He directed us to share a little bit of how He ordered our steps over a 21-year period between 1996-2017. In 1996, the Lord called us out of denominationalism to serve His Body and Kingdom. As we resigned from a Pastoral calling and began to serve Him and the Body in a community in Africa (Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria), we held on to one critical vision He released beginning August 1996. At that time, we joined other saints to lament the sad state of Africa on almost all fronts of life. It was surreal to hear the Lord comfort us by saying He had appointed His Church in Africa as instrument of a quick work: Rescuing His Kingdom program in the earth realm from corruption in preparation for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus.

In August 2006, He directed us to relocate to London which as centre of the world would make our Acts 1:8 assignment more impactful on a global scale. Looking back, because we did not see it then, it is significant that it was 100 years after Azusa Street Revival that the Lord in 2006 birthed Global School of Ministry as a catalyst of Reformation, Restoration, and Revival. Again, we did not see clearly then how extensively it was to be used to rediscover Truths which were missed out by Martin Luther in the Protestant Reformation of 1517. Interestingly, the Lord used various means to make it clear what He was about to do was not raise a man or woman, like Martin Luther was raised prominently and publicly. But rather activate a company of saints worldwide with understanding of Him and the Church. A company of saints who embrace His Kingdom pattern and take their place as His sons who would

do all His will. In this regard, the Lord made it clear the election of His Church in Africa was not for the purpose of building an 'African Cultural Church'. The wider and more strategic scope was to use it to use His remnant 'out of the seed of Ham' to impact and connect His seed out of Shem and Japheth to constitute the fourth race which is the Elect Remnant or 'one new man' spoken of by Apostle Paul.

In other words, the focus of the Lord was simply to use the Global School of Ministry project to activate His elect remnant to walk in unity of the Faith. And, be empowered to represent Him and the Kingdom right where they are in various corners of the world where He preserved them from the claws of Babylon. It was then Holy Spirit provided illumination of this anchor scripture:

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Romans 11:5).

There is a simple, yet grand key to understand the fundamental difference between the Martin Luther Protestant Reformation and the Kingdom Culture project. The Reformation of Martin Luther was designed to 'Protest' some of the dogma and practices of the Roman Catholic Church when he received revelation of their unbiblical origins. The Kingdom Culture project, on the other hand, is designed to take the Church back to what it was before the Roman Empire embraced the larger wing of the Church which was tired of persecution and martyrdom in the 4th Century. In other words, through the Kingdom Culture project, the Omega or End Time Church will be a logical conclusion of what had started in the Alpha or First Century Church.

Unlike other reformation projects before it, Kingdom Culture, through the Global School of Ministry and annual Master Class series of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program have two simple keys: Get the Church back into the ‘School’ Paradigm where Study of the Word is central to both congregational and general ministry. Second, to challenge all saints to receive the Four-dimensional work of Holy Spirit: He Is the Seal of redemption; He uses the Word to Transform Life of Believers from inside out, He Unites saints to live as one indivisible Body of Yeshua notwithstanding their locations or sects; He releases Power through which saints are able to demonstrate the awesome powers of the Risen Yeshua, Jesus!

These are accomplished when leaders and saints sincerely and diligently embrace the ministry of Holy Spirit and the Word through the T>T>E>A>R process. It is one where leaders are used by Holy Spirit to:

Teach saints the whole counsel of Holy Scriptures

Train saints to discover and take their places as effective members of the Body of Yeshua

Equip saints with what it takes to walk in victory through mentorship and support

Activate the Gifts and callings of Holy Spirit which may lie dormant in them

Release the saints into productive ministry. This may be by public ordination or Commissioning during ministry events. 500 years after the Protestant Reformation of 1517, the Lord Yeshua, Jesus is activating throughout the earth realm this framework. The framework through which Holy Spirit will undertake training of Reformers who will receive proper

understanding of the Pauline Epistles and Master Plan of the true Kingdom Church contained therein, and build individual lives, ministries and congregations accordingly.

This Kingdom Culture project involves release of 40 books on dedicated websites where all saints worldwide who desire to discover, pursue and fulfil their callings as the Royal Priesthood after the order of Melchizedeck can find the teaching resources to train in the comfort of their own homes. On the other hand, these 40 books will put in the hands of the great company of elect ministers across the world who know the flock is not theirs but Yeshua's. These books are tools with which to systematically transform the operating systems of the ministries committed to their trust from 'Theatres' to 'Schools'. These books collectively make up the curriculum with which to launch their own Global School of Ministry project. The curriculum will ensure every two or three years, fresh sets of fit for-purpose ministers of the gospel who will serve the Lord with all their hearts are produced.

All 40 books on the websites constitute what it takes to root out the leaven of Babylon derived from our various experiences with Christian Religion. They therefore constitute what we need to embrace and walk in true Kingdom Culture. It is through ministry of the Word that the Church will be prepared and made ready for return of her Groom:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 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
(Ephesians 5:25-27).

Please intentionally study this and the other resources in the series prayerfully under unction of Holy Spirit with your Bible to confirm all the points made. As you train, necessity is upon you to make your vessel available for Holy Spirit to use to transmit these empowering truths to other saints who yearn for empowerment!

The Lord gave the word: great was the company
of those that published it (Psalm 68:11).

And the things that thou hast heard of me among
many witnesses, the same commit thou to
faithful men, who shall be able to teach others
also (2 Timothy 2:2).

May Elohim, our heavenly Father make you the instrument
of His Grace He designed you to be!

Chapter 1

Prologue and Introduction

Prologue

The curriculum of the Global School of Ministry is designed by the Lord to deliver practical outcomes through the anointed word. Rather than engage in academic disputations, the courses are developed with the clear intent to open eyes of understanding of students, transform hearts, renew minds, and challenge all to embrace the sovereign rule of Yeshua, Jesus. The courses are interconnected revelation and there are some concepts that are emphasized across the board. To provide students and the Body a fuller understanding of Eschatology or study of the end times, 6 courses have been developed:

Dispensations, Seasons and Times – Life from end of the Flood to the end of the age.

Understanding the End Times – Focuses on the various prophecies of what will precede the end times and their fulfilment.

7 Letters from Heaven – An exposition of the letters of Yeshua through John the beloved to the 7 Churches of Asia Minor.

The Things to Come: What Next? – This explores the various events which the Bible indicate would close out the human age on this side of eternity.

The groundbreaking work:

Completing the Unfinished Reformation – Provides a clear road map of what the elect need to do to perfect the work Holy Spirit began with Martin Luther in 1517 fits into systematic kingdom eschatology.

The 6th work:

Revelation Unveiled – A verse by verse, theme by theme commentary/exposition of the Book of Revelation, which is the subject of this work.

Introduction

One of the greatest and most successful attacks of Satan against the Church since the 4th Century has been to induce a state of blindness. The result is that certain portions of the holy scriptures which reveal the way home was obscured and unknown. The true Church as the Bride, Body of Yeshua, and agent of His Kingdom on this side of eternity cannot be fulfilled until it reconnects to her Groom, Head, and King at His Second Coming which is a certainty. The Church cannot be fulfilled until it enters the manifest phase of the Kingdom to rule and reign with Yeshua, Jesus and spend eternity with Elohim. We therefore consider it a real tragedy that most Christians have these wrong reactions to the Book of Revelations:

IGNORANCE OF WHAT IT SAYS AND WHAT IT MEANS.

FEAR OF SOME CHAPTERS AND VERSES WHICH
CONTAIN STRONG LANGUAGE.

DISDAIN FOR SOME OF THE INTERPRETATIONS MADE
BY BIBLE SCHOLARS.

Some Christian churches including the Anglican Communion, exclude the Book of Revelation entirely from their public readings. In this course, we will engage in a commentary of the Book of Revelation for the benefit of the remnant who yearn to know the truth.

Methodology

As with other works of the Authentic Kingdom Culture movement, we will wait on the Lord to minister light and life through the holy Word. We will not approach this critical book with any preconceived notions or ideas. Rather, the course will unfold as we feel led by the Holy Spirit. Where He gives us clarity, we will state so. Where there is no clarity, we will let the word speak to the reader as it is. We have a witness in our hearts that every Christian with basic literacy can read and understand the Book of Revelation going forward. In this way, the final reformation of the Church can truly take place.

All readers are urged to read the Book of Revelation for themselves with this commentary as a helpful guide. Like the saints at Berea, this is the pathway for security in the Lord.

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (Acts 17:10-11).

In a real sense, saints who study the book of Revelation and take it to heart will behave like the wise virgins.

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch

therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh (Matthew 25:1-13).

Key features of the Book of Revelation

Within pages of the Book are such extraordinary revelations as these:

- Various ways the Church may veer off track and be found wanting - Revelation chapters 2 and 3.
- The end of the Church age which is the rapture - Revelation chapter 4.
- The remnant of Elohim from among Jews and Gentiles who would be sealed and thus preserved from trouble in Revelation 7.
- Rise of the anti-Christ, his personality, and assignments as Satan's human proxy. The False prophet who would validate the anti-Christ and push the world into the Beast Economic system represented by the taking the mark, name, or number of the anti-Christ - Revelation 13.
- Consequences of eternal perdition which await those who participate in the Beast Economic system - Revelation 14:9-12.
- Granular details of the Great Tribulation. Whereas Daniel, Jeremiah, Yeshua Jesus, and Paul spoke of the Great Tribulation, it is in the book of Revelation that the scope of divine judgement on those who

dwell in the earth realm is outlined in the Seal, Trumpet, and Vial judgements. A companion book titled *The Things to Come: What Next?* deals with this.

- The Judgement of both Mystery Babylon (The Religious wing in union with governmental/political system) and Commercial Babylon which deceived the world through Mammon worship are detailed in Revelation 17 and 18.
- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb when the Church will be formally decorated is discussed in Revelation 19:6-9.
- The Second Coming of Yeshua, Jesus to vanquish the anti-Christ, False Prophet and armies of the Gentiles massed against Israel at the Battle of Armageddon - Revelation 16:12-16, Revelation 19:11-21.
- The chaining and locking away of Satan in the Bottomless pit for 1000 years - Revelation 20:1-3.
- The manifest phase of the Kingdom of God in the earth realm when Yeshua will physically rule this earth from His Throne in Jerusalem. Faithful saints who overcame and were raptured as well as Tribulation saints will reign with Him as joint heirs - Revelation 20:4-6.
- The loosing of Satan from prison and another chance to tempt those humans who lived as subjects of Yeshua during the manifest Kingdom. The reality that these who enjoyed the goodness of the Lord could be deceived is captured. This is also when the

war of God and Magog will take place - Revelation 20:7-9.

- Final sentencing of Satan to eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone - Revelation 20:10.
- The Great White Throne Judgement – when all the unrighteous and sinners of all ages and all generations will be summoned before the Just Judge. Since they rejected the free gift of Salvation, they will be judged from their works out of their records. The guilty as well as death and hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternal perdition - Revelation 20:11-15.
- The Current earth, first and second heavens will be totally taken away for the new earth and heavens to be - Revelation 21:1 (See also 2 Peter 3:10-12).
- The New Jerusalem and ultimate triumph of the Church - Revelation 21.
- Eternity of the saints triumphant with Elohim - Revelation 22. By this time, the mystery of Elohim would be accomplished - Revelation 10:7.

As the good ultimately triumphs over evil and the fate of the righteous is clearly contrasted with the fate of the wicked, the book of Revelation is a book of Hope. It is a book which edifies the faithful and quickens their faith as they continue their pilgrimage and life assignment. Those who should be fearful are sinners and backsliders. This book certainly encourages faithful saints to watch, pray and complete their assignments, knowing that there are sure rewards of eternal value. This recurring theme at the

beginning and ending of the Book is designed to keep saints on their toes with their lamps constantly burning.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1:7).

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown (Revelation 3:11).

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Revelation 3:20).

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame (Revelation 16:15).

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book (Revelation 22:7).

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:12).

If we are open to what the Lord will unveil in the Book of Revelation, it will empower us to know with fairly accurate certainty the journey ahead so that we can make the right adjustments so that we can breast the tape of life.

In this commentary of the Book of Revelation, the series of visions of the future showed to John about AD 95 provided the Church of Yeshua, Jesus a clear view of future events that would come upon the earth realm and how the human age as we know it will end. That the Book of Revelation should be widely read, extensively taught throughout the Church is emphasized by these passages.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (Revelation 1:3).

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book (Revelation 22:6-7).

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:10-12).

In chapter 2, we will do a commentary of Revelation 1:1-20. We will continue to take this cautious approach.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Share three things you learned from this chapter. 2. What new insight did you gain from the lessons in this chapter?

Chapter 2

Commentary on Revelation Chapter 1:1-20

We will now proceed to a verse-by-verse commentary designed to bring clarity to specific verses or passages.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw (Revelation 1:1-2).

COMMENTARY

- The Book is a revelation of Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah. It is essentially about Him Who, as the Second Adam, will close out the human age when He returns. Above and beyond all else, the truths in the book speak of Him and events leading to His return and establishment of the tangible, manifest phase of His Kingdom.
- Yahweh, our heavenly Father gave Him the revelation to show His servants.
- The Book is about things which must shortly come to pass. From about AD 95 when this book was written, it has been over 2000 years. As Peter explained, we deem the time 'long' because of our human mindset which differs from the Father's frame of thinking.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-9).

- o What the Father gave is what Yeshua, Jesus signified by His angel to his servant John the beloved.
- o John bare record of the Word of God and the testimony of Yeshua, Jesus and all the things He saw.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (Revelation 1:3).

COMMENTARY

This is the ONLY book in the whole Bible with a radical package of blessing promised to these categories of people:

- o Those who read. Reading this Book on a personal basis will bring blessings.
- o Those who hear, online or in person, are blessed.
- o Those who diligently incline their hearts to learn, understand and do what the Book says are blessed. This principle was expounded in Joshua 1:8.
- o The time is at hand! There is a sense of urgency transmitted through the verses, and passages in the book of Revelation.

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood (Revelation 1:4-5).

COMMENTARY

- The message was primarily delivered to the 7 churches of Asia Minor. The number 7 represents completion. To that extent, the message is also one for the entire Church age until the manifest Kingdom is established.
- The message is from He Who is, was and is to come. This also reflects the Name of our heavenly Yahweh – The I Am Who I Am.
- The message is also from Holy Spirit. The 7 here is not about 7 different spirits but captures the fullness of Holy Spirit just as declared in Isaiah 11:2.
- The message is also from Yeshua the Faithful witness. He was the first to rise from the dead as 1 Corinthians 15 expounds. He is also the Prince of the kings of the earth – all authority and power is given to Him as He said.
- And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18).

Ultimately all human authority derives validity from Him.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law (Romans 13:1-8).

- o In other words, the Triune Elohim is fully aligned in release of this message to the Church.
- o He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood – this is a picture of perfect redemption.

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen (Revelation 1:6).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua made us kings and priests unto the Father.

- We function in a measure of these two offices as Kingdom citizens and ambassadors at this present time. Our present priesthood is done mainly through the ministry of reconciling souls of the lost to the Father through the good news (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). It is also executed through intercession for the well-being of others as Jeremiah 5:1 and Ezekiel 22:30 say. We exercise our kingship by passing decrees and exercising authority in the Name of Yeshua, Jesus and legislate in the natural through the spiritual realm.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19).

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 18:18-19).

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. 28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways (Job 22:27-28).

- o In the manifest Kingdom this is fulfilled as joint heirs and co-rulers, we will in a physical sense over specific nations in the earth realm.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together (Romans 8:17).

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

- o Yeshua deserves glory and dominion following successful conclusion of His earthly assignment.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1:7).

COMMENTARY

- o The Second coming of Yeshua will be visible to all humans in the earth realm. He Himself said so.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise

false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:23-27).

The angels who appeared to the saints on the day of ascension said as much:

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

- o The Jews who rejected Yeshua at His first coming would wail at His coming.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed

is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (Matthew 23:37-39).

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and ending.
- He Is, was and will come
- He is the Almighty. His divinity is clearly established in the book of revelations.

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9).

COMMENTARY

- The person who did the writing is John the beloved. John displays humility by calling himself our brother and companion in tribulation.
- We learn that he received the visions of the Book of Revelation while banished on the Island of Patmos, a windswept hard rock off the west coast of Turkey in the South Aegean region. Church history says John was dropped into a Cauldron of hot boiling oil but was preserved from death by Elohim. Yeshua had prophesied that John would not see death until He beheld His glory (John 21:21-24). Frustrated that

they could not kill him, his tormentors banished him to the Island of Patmos.

- Though John was suffering intense persecution; his spirit was not broken. He had a good attitude which made him open to receive this important message for the Church. It is important that we understand that the fires of affliction cannot destroy Christians. Rather, the best outcome of fire is to refine our lives so that we come forth like gold.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 1:7).

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea (Revelation 1:10-11).

COMMENTARY

- John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. This could mean the Lord spoke to his spirit-man. It could also mean an out-of-the-body experience such as Paul had in 2 Corinthian 12:1-7. Whichever is the case, John was given profound revelations that were documented for our learning.
- The voice of Yeshua in His new state was as that of a trumpet.

- Yeshua introduces Himself for the second time as the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last. He opens and closes the pages of revelation of Elohim to humans as the exclusive access to the Godhead.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake (John 14:5-11).

- John was instructed to document the visions into a book. As Habakkuk 2:1-4 says, important messages of Elohim are best preserved when written down.
- The names of the 7 Churches who received the message first and who represented the entire Church age are listed: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. All of them are located in Asia Minor in the area of modern-day

Turkey where they are in close proximity to each other.

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength (Revelation 1:12-16).

COMMENTARY

The things John saw when He heard the majestic voice is worth unpacking for our learning:

- He saw 7 golden candlesticks. These represent the Churches of Asia Minor which represent the Church age.
- He saw a personality who looked like the Son of Man in the middle of the golden candlesticks. This shows us the way Yeshua values and treasures His Church: He is in the midst of it as the Centre and Circumference. This is consistent with what Yeshua said in Matthew 18:20.
- The attire of Yeshua conveyed royalty. Following successful conclusion of His first earthly mission in the incarnate state, He ascended to heaven where He

was crowned with glory and honour which was laid aside for the redemption mission (John 17:1-5; Philippians 2:5-11).

- In terms of visage, His eyes were piercing like a flame of fire while His feet was burnished like bronze and voice as the sound of many waters.
- While Yeshua walked in the midst of His Church, He held the Pastors in His right hand.
- Yeshua, Jesus is the Word and the sharp two-edged sword proceeding from His mouth simply paints a practical picture.
- The countenance of the glorified Yeshua is as the Sun in full strength.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:17-18).

COMMENTARY

In His Incarnate state, Yeshua, Jesus had a very close relationship with John who was His confidant. John was also among the inner circle of 3 (Peter, James, and John) who were given privileged access others did not enjoy. In that state, Yeshua postured as the Lamb of Elohim. Here, John was confronted with the reality of the glorified King.

- The glory of the personality of Yeshua dazzled John and he was slain under the anointing of His Presence.

- Yeshua had to reassure John that he was in safe hands ‘Fear Not’. This same message is for us. Issues of the end times are not designed to instill fear into saints. Rather, they should act as inspiration to encourage us to continue and finish the journey, in spite of challenges we encounter.
- Yeshua announced Himself as the First and Last; He Who lives but was dead.
- Yeshua also announced the reality that following His resurrection and ascension, He is alive for ever more. This is good news for the Church that was and is going through troubles to know concerning our Head and Groom.
- Yeshua also announced the reality that His earthly mission was indeed accomplished: He has the keys of Hell and of Death. He came to save His own from these two tools Satan used to control lives of humans.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Let us remember the immediate context in which the Book of Revelation was given and written. Christians were under massive oppression and repression by the Roman Empire. Many were brutally killed for their faith during the reign of Emperor Domitian who was on the throne from AD 81-96.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; (Revelation 1:19).

COMMENTARY

This passage holds the key to systematic understanding of the whole book of Revelation. What was revealed to John for documentation contained these specific timeframes:

- The things which thou hast seen – these include the Revelation of Yeshua in His glorified state and confirmation of His Divinity in Chapter 1.
- The things which are. This is a record of the current state of the Church as expounded in the audit report of Yeshua on the 7 churches of Asia Minor as detailed in Revelations 2 and 3.
- The things which shall be hereafter. This is an account of life in both the heavenly and earthly realms from the date of the rapture of saints till end of the age and sneak peek into eternity. These are covered from Revelation chapters 4 till 22.

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches (Revelation 1:20).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua wanted John to understand the unfolding vision so that he could write with certainty and authority.

- The 7 stars are the Pastors or overseers of the Churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. As His

under shepherds, Yeshua holds them in His hands. He treasures, protects, and guides those He gives the sacred responsibility of tending His flock. Because of this, it is important that those they lead do not allow familiarity deception to induce a state of disrespect or dis-honour.

- o The 7 golden candlesticks are the 7 churches of Asia Minor. Those who are genuinely interested in the End Times will do well to intensely study the 7 Churches of Asia Minor so that we can discern what Yeshua wants and what He dislikes in His Body. As associated resource, 7 Letters from heaven does a deep dive into the subject matter. It is available for free download on the websites of this commission. There are video lessons on same available on Facebook and YouTube.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share any 3 things you learned from this chapter 2. In what way does Revelation 1:19 offer a reliable strategic framework for understanding the book of Revelation.

Chapter 3

Yeshua's Audit of the 7 Churches Part 1

Let us grasp the historical context of this chapter. The Church was birthed on the day of Pentecost about AD 27. In AD 95, just about 68 years later, Yeshua did something absolutely amazing. He personally conducted an audit of 7 city churches in the region of Asia Minor which is modern day Islamic Republic of Turkey. We are not told why He chose the particular churches for the assessment. However, we can make some safe deductions:

- The number 7 indicates perfection. It is possible therefore that Yeshua chose 7 city Churches with features which collectively represent the state of the entire Church both in that dispensation as well as throughout the Church age.
- The region of Asia Minor was a vibrant centre of the gospel in the era.
- A careful study of the letters to the 7 Churches will therefore reveal what Yeshua desires to see in His Church and what He dislikes.
- To that extent, understanding Revelation chapters 2 and 3 and making the necessary adjustments will enable individual saints and Christian congregations and ministries to make the necessary adjustments before the day of the Trumpet.

In Revelation Chapter 1 Yeshua made the 7 churches the addressees of the letters:

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne (Revelation 1:4).

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea (Revelation 1:11).

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; 20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches (Revelation 1:19-20).

The full details of the audit report of Yeshua, Jesus on the Churches of Asia Minor, and their implications for believers of all ages are documented in a companion resource titled ‘*7 Letters from Heaven*’ which is available for free download on the ministry websites. What we shall do in this chapter is to summarise the key message of Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

*Assessment/Audit of two opposite
Churches: Ephesus and Smyrna*

The zealous Church at Ephesus which lost its first love.

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; (Revelation 2:1).

COMMENTARY

The first church to be assessed is the one in the city of Ephesus. The Lord had used three key vessels to impact the saints in this city: Apostle John, Apostle Paul, and Timothy. This was a rich heritage indeed. The spiritual identity of the true Kingdom church as the Bride and Body of Yeshua and habitation of Elohim by His Spirit were articulated in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. The identity of saints as products of grace is also in that epistle. Paul posted his outstanding protégé, Timothy to oversee the Church and gave him clear instructions on administrative precepts for running it.

- Yeshua addressed the Pastor/Overseer of the Church.
- Yeshua holds Pastors/Overseers in high esteem. Those He calls, He upholds, protects, provides for, and directs the course of their lives.
- Yeshua lives and walks within His Church, just as He said in Matthew 18:20.

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted....6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate (Revelation 2:2-3, 6).

COMMENTARY

Here King Yeshua makes His audit report:

- Yeshua knew the works of the Church at Ephesus.
- The Church had a record of labouring for the Lord.
- The church walked in patience which is both a fruit of the Spirit as well as a good virtue.
- The church could not tolerate evil doers.
- The Church was matured enough to evaluate claims of those who called themselves Apostles but were not called by Him (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).
- They endured much for His name's sake.
- Despite the enormous work, they did for the Lord and what they endured, the Church at Ephesus did not faint. They had endurance.
- This church hated the deeds of Nicolaitanes, just like their Head did. The Nicolaitanes were a sect of Christians who wanted to be prominent, be appreciated, celebrated, and elevated above the brethren. It is the spiritual foundation of the 'ecclesiastical' and 'episcopal' leadership system that sits on top of a pinnacle which the saints cannot approach, except with fear and trembling. With time, this sect seemed to have settled on wearing of priestly robes to distinguish the clergy from the laity. Essentially it repudiated the priestly order of Melchizedek established by Yeshua. In other words,

it repudiated the concept of ministry as service to the saints as defined by Yeshua in Matthew 20:25-28.

Peter had also explained the essence of true ministry in 1 Peter 5:1-4.

- o Overall, this seemed to be the profile of a zealous, active, and dynamic church indeed.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love (Revelation 2:4).

COMMENTARY

Despite these major ‘achievements’, Yeshua saw a major deficiency that was a mortal flaw: Loss of their first love! Love of Elohim and fellow humans is the primary basis of the Church as Matthew 22:36-40 says. Because Love is the core essence and property of Kingdom culture, any deficiency of it would negate the entire Christian witness.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:34-35).

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,

and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent (Revelation 2:5).

COMMENTARY

- In spite of what could be termed a fatal flaw, Yeshua did not throw out or reject the Church at Ephesus.
- Rather He called them to acknowledge their backslidden spiritual state.
- He called them to repentance.
- He called on the Church to recover their lost axe head or first works of Love.
- He warned that failure to heed His instructions would lead to permanent state of apostasy and consequent removal from Him as a church.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7).

COMMENTARY

- The audit report ends on a positive note as Yeshua unveiled possibilities for overcomers. He does not impose a solution but rather asks the church to respond.

- He made an outstanding promise to overcomers: access to eat of the tree of life in the midst of Paradise.

The principle that a living dog is better than a dead lion is appropriate in this letter (Ecclesiastes 9:4-6).

*The Poor but spiritual rich, faithful
church at Smyrna*

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; (Revelation 2:8).

COMMENTARY

- The letter is also addressed to the Pastor/Overseer of the Church at Smyrna.
- Yeshua addresses Himself as the first and the last.
- He also referred to His death and resurrection – ‘*which was dead, and is alive.*’
- In other words, Yeshua wanted to reassure the faithful Church that He was with them through their troubles as a faithful saviour.

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:9).

COMMENTARY

This was one of the two Churches which passed the inspection test of the Head and Groom of the Church. It was a church which endured hardness, shunned materialism, and remained faithful to their calling as His elect.

- He knew their works, tribulation, and poverty. This speaks of His Omniscience, and Omnipresence.
- Though they suffered tribulation and material poverty, they were faithful in serving Him. From a heavenly perspective, they were rich!
- He knew the blasphemy of those who claimed to be Jews but in reality served Satan's purposes (perhaps in hindering the gospel).

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

COMMENTARY

- The Lord did not promise them deliverance from their afflictions but rather exhorted them to fear none of the things they would suffer. Suffering for His Name sake is an integral part of the gospel and those who teach otherwise are engaged in 'another gospel'.
- He gave them an idea of some things that they would encounter: the devil would cause some of them to be imprisoned as part of their trial of faith.

- o He also informed the church at Smyrna that tribulation for 10 days lay ahead. The number 10 could mean a complete cycle of trouble.
- o He exhorted them to be faithful, even unto death because a crown of life awaited them for suffering for His sake.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death (Revelation 2:11).

COMMENTARY

- o Yeshua invites action based on what the Spirit said.
- o He promised that overcomers will not be hurt of the second death because faithful people will partake in the first resurrection if they complete their life pilgrimage before the Day of the Lord and be raptured if alive (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:49-55).

*Please remember to download and study the **7 Letters from Heaven** on the website: www.kingdombooksclub.com

ASSIGNMENT

1. What did the Lord find commendable about the Church at Ephesus? 2. What was their primary deficiency? 3. What did Yeshua recommend as the way forward? 4. What did Yeshua find commendable concerning the Church in Smyrna? 5. What did you learn from the reality that Yeshua did not prevent them from experiencing trouble?

Chapter 4

Yeshua's Audit of the 7 Churches Part 2

We will continue with our commentary on the book of Revelation. In chapter 3 we started to consider the audit report on the 7 churches of Asia Minor conducted by Yeshua, Jesus.

*The audit report on Pergamos: the
Church that opened the door to a False,
Toxic Doctrines*

REVELATION 2

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; (Revelation 2:12).

COMMENTARY

In the third audit report, here are the details:

- The letter was written to the Pastor/Overseer of the Church at Pergamos. Yeshua esteems legitimate spiritual leaders appointed by Him highly. He sees them as guardian angels over His flock. Peter also spoke of this elevated esteem in 1 Peter 5:1-3.

The city of Pergamum is located on the most northern point among the 7 cities of Asia Minor

- o Yeshua introduced Himself and emphasized His bona fides as the Living Word. He Who ‘hath the sharp sword with two edges’.

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth (Revelation 2:13).

COMMENTARY ON THE POSITIVES

- o He started by declaring knowledge of their works.
- o Like the others, He started the assessment by commending this church. He knew where the Church dwelt: its location was the very seat of Satan. This implies that the powers of darkness operate from the city of Pergamum. Historically, Pergamum was home to four major deities of Hellenistic religion: Zeus, Dionysius, Asclepius and Athene. In addition worship of the ruling emperor was a big deal.
- o Despite the inclement environment, they held fast to His Name and did not deny faith in Him.
- o He commended them for clinging to Him even when Antipas, a faithful servant was martyred.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate (Revelation 2:14-15).

COMMENTARY ON THE NEGATIVES

- Yeshua had a few things AGAINST them! The fact that they had some good reports did not excuse their failures. The Lord is a righteous judge who expects moral excellence from His own.
- The church was spiritually porous, infiltrated those who held the doctrine of Balaam. In bible history, he was the backslidden prophet who out of covetousness gave Balak the king of Moab the secret to defeat Israel in their wilderness journey: idolatry and adultery (See Numbers 22, 23, 24, 31:16 along with 2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 1:11). These two spiritual forces have invaded the organised and independent Churches today as ministry is now themed after the entertainment industry and fan worship.
- The church also tolerated those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which Yeshua found repugnant.
- On the whole, it appears the church was porous spiritually like a city without walls. This made it easy for false, toxic doctrines and their purveyors to gain access. It was only a matter of time for such falsehoods to wreak havoc from within through an inside out process.
- In verse 15, Yeshua reiterated a point He made in verse 6 when commending the Church at Ephesus: In spite of their issues, the Church at Pergamos also tolerated those who did the deeds of the Nicolaitanes which He Himself hated. There is ABSOLUTELY NOTHING GOOD that can come out of religious

systems which encourage leaders and ministers to stop serving in love and humility, seeking for vain glory and ungodly deification. The blasphemous titles preachers are called 'His Grace', 'Your Lordship', run contrary to the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek which Yeshua established.

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth (Revelation 2:16).

COMMENTARY

- o Despite the grievousness of their sins, Yeshua did not throw out the Church at Pergamos but rather demanded repentance. Proverbs 28:13 and 2 Corinthians 7:10-11. No sin is too bad for Grace to fix but the starting point of redemption is to acknowledge sin, confess same in humility, without shame and receiving forgiveness from the Father on the basis of the blood which Yeshua shed at the Cross.
- o Yeshua will fight backsliders with the sword of His mouth. The very word they believed on, proclaimed, and lived by would convict them unto damnation when people turn back from truth.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought

worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:26-31).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it (Revelation 2:17).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua does not control actions and reactions of those who are indicted. He asks for those who have ears to hear what His Spirit is saying.

- For those who overcome, He promised to give them to eat, the Hidden Manna. Manna which Israel ate in the wilderness was for a season Exodus 16:13-18. But Yeshua is the ever-satisfying Bread of Life which sustains more than physical food.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world (John 6:51).

- o He also promises to give overcomers a white stone with a new name written which only the recipients will recognise. In the absence of a clear insight, we rely on this scripture for safety.

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29).

*Audit Report on Thyatira, the Church
which tolerated Jezebel*

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; (Revelation 2:18).

COMMENTARY

Unlike the other 2 cities with strong religious backgrounds, the city of Thyatira was a secular one without strong attachments to any deity. It was a commercial with many guilds of tradesmen in Pottery, Cloth making, and dyeing based on its wool produce which was well known. Located about 30 miles southeast of Pergamos, Thyatira was also a military city. The first convert of Paul in Philippi was Lydia, a merchant from the city (Acts 16:11-16).

COMMENTARY

- o Yeshua again wrote to the authority He set over the Church.

- He announces one of His redemptive Names ‘the Son of God.’
- His eyes are like flame of fire – penetrating without limitation with which He knows all that transpire in His Church.
- His Feet like fine brass. This describes part of the Majesty of His glorified being. Most people have been deceived to cling only to the image of the helpless Baby in the manger or half naked Man hanging on the Cross. The glorified Yeshua dazzles in glory, no wonder John was slain in the Spirit when he beheld Him in Revelation 1:14-17.

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first (Revelation 2:19).

COMMENTARY

- He knew their works because of His Omniscience and Omnipresence. Nothing is hidden from Him. Faith without works is dead and those who believe are required to do works consistent with their faith.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men (Titus 3:8).

- They had Charity. A fundamental quality according to John 13 and 1 Corinthians 13.

- They had the grace of service. This is another foundational quality in the Kingdom based on John 13:1-17 and Matthew 20:25-28.
- They had Faith. This is another foundational kingdom pillar as Hebrews 11:1 and 6 and 2 Corinthians 5:7 say.
- They had Patience. One of the most powerful fruit of the Spirit which equips saints with grace to be overcomers.
- They knew and believed. That the last is more than the first. This was proof of maturity.

Negative Report

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not (Revelation 2:20-21).

- Despite an excellent report, they had a major negative report. The Church at Thyatira tolerated a woman He labels as Jezebel to wreak havoc on morality. This could be physical immorality that spread across the church due to moral failure by a high-profile authority.

It could also be spiritual immorality – where an illegitimate authority hijacks authority and uses manipulation,

intimidation, and fear to control leadership just as the original Queen Jezebel did to king Ahab. Both physical and spiritual dimensions of immorality open the door of oppression and demonic invasion.

- More than her individual failure, Jezebel is on an evil assignment to seduce true servants of Yeshua to commit fornication as well as eat things sacrificed to idols. This would bring real corruption and mixture to the Church.
- Though given space to repent, this fellow refused.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works (Revelation 2:22-23).

COMMENTARY

- The Lord would smite the head strong sinner, Jezebel into the bed of affliction, possibly a strange disease.
- Her cohorts in sin would be judged with great tribulation, except they repent of their sins.
- Her children – either natural children or spiritual – would be slain.
- The punishment of Jezebel is designed to make the Church aware of the consequences of sin and the reality that Yeshua is Omniscient and Omnipresent.

- o Yeshua rewards people according to how they live and serve.

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star (Revelation 2:24-28).

Promises

- o The Lord promised not to lay any burden on the innocent.
- o He exhorted those who have been faithful to hold fast to good conduct and true doctrine until He comes.
- o Overcomers are promised power over the nations.
- o Overcomers will rule and reign as kings over nations and peoples in the millennial reign of Yeshua based on the authority Yeshua received from His Father (Matthew 28:18, Psalm 2).
- o Yeshua promised to give them the Morning Star. This is Himself as their ultimate reward.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 2:29).

COMMENTARY

The Lord does not force anyone to listen to Him. Obviously, it in the best interest of saints and sinners alike to hear what He says by His Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share as briefly as possible, what you learnt about the Church at Pergamos: what was wrong and adjustments Yeshua wanted it to make. 2. Please share as briefly as possible, what you learnt about the Church at Thyatira: what was wrong and adjustments Yeshua wanted it to make.

Chapter 5

Yeshua's Audit of the 7 Churches Part 3

We continue the discussion of Revelation chapters 2 and 3. In this chapter, we will focus on Yeshua's audit report on the churches at Sardis and Philadelphia which are opposites in terms of profile and destiny. We will continue the pattern of leading readers into the Word, not outside of it. We therefore encourage all readers to prayerfully study the Book of Revelation on their own, seeking help of the Holy Spirit for understanding.

REVELATION CHAPTER 3

*Audit of the seemingly living but
spiritually dead church at Sardis*

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; (Revelation 3:1)

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua again addresses the letter to the Pastor/Overseer He set as under shepherd.
- The church was located in Sardis, a very wealthy City about 30 miles southeast of Thyatira and former capital of the Roman province of Lydia. According to a commentator, the city was in two locations: first on a mountain top but later expanded to the valley following population increase. The religious

foundation of the city was based on worship of Artemis, the goddess of fertility and Emperor worship.

- o Yeshua introduced Himself as He that had the seven Spirits of God. This meant that He walked in the full measure of the Holy Spirit as written in scripture.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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; (Isaiah 11:1-2).

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him (John 3:34).

Our King promised that if we die to self and hand over our beings completely to Him, we will walk in this degree of full anointing of Holy Spirit!

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit (John 12:24).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask

any thing in my name, I will do it (John 14:12-14).

- o Yeshua, Jesus also introduced Himself as He Who holds the 7 Stars. This point is so emphasized in Revelations chapters 1, 2 and 3 that no sincere reader can miss the meaning. He appoints and esteems spiritual leaders highly and undertakes to protect, provide for, and guide them. He also holds leaders to high standards, requiring them to observe high ethical standards over and above societal requirements. When they miss the mark, He has a Kingdom pattern of exercising discipline, restoration, or condemnation. Where leaders descend into criminality, church councils are expected to cooperate with law enforcement which Elohim can use to impose discipline or temporal punishment in order that their souls can be saved. All ministries and congregations need to go back to the Bible to understand and practice this subject.

...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead (Revelation 3:1).

COMMENTARY

- o Yeshua reminds them of His divine nature as Omniscient and Omnipresent when He says '*I know thy works*'. Those who forget this truth often play games with God to their own hurt.
- o Yeshua gave a damning assessment of Sardis:
 - It had works – dead unproductive works based on the fleshly exertions not Holy Spirit led and empowered.

- It invested in reputation management. It had a name that suggested it was alive but in reality was a dead spiritual entity. This situation happens when Pastors and brethren are overly concerned with appearances and projecting image of ‘successes’ based on the wrong metrics such as Attendance figures, nature of Buildings and quantum of Cash generated by the ministry.
- When Churches hire Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing gurus to burnish, package and promote their images, this can mask the state of rot and spiritual death the ministry is facing - worldliness, materialism, shunning of holiness, lack of love, unity, and not making disciples for instance.
- Though humans may be impressed with slick marketing, advertising and social media promotional techniques, heaven is not fooled by such smokescreens

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God (Revelation 3:2).

COMMENTARY

- o Yeshua counselled the Church to be watchful. This is a virtue all end time saints need at individual and congregational levels. When saints are watchful, fiery darts of Satan in the form of negative/evil thoughts, concepts and ideas can be discerned and shut down before they develop into strongholds that result in speech, attitudes and actions that are sinful

and obnoxious. Let us watch our thought lives and guard the loins of our minds,

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak (Mark 14:38).

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:13).

- Yeshua also counselled them to strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die. Because of the tendency to seek out something positive in lives of the churches, He urged them to identify qualities of value – no matter how small which could be nurtured to produce life.
- Their works were not found perfect before Yahweh. Dead works include activities done outside of spiritual gifts or out of humanistic ideas, competition or striving for pre-eminence.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will

come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee (Revelation 3:3).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua, Jesus reminded them of their beginning which was obviously better than their latter state.
- He called upon them to hold fast to the original concepts of the gospel and repent for their backslidings.
- He warned that if they refused, they would be taken by surprise at His coming. If this was so for those who lived in the first century of the gospel, the warning is even more relevant and urgent for us in the 21st century.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (Matthew 24:42-44).

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer (1 Peter 4:7).

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy (Revelation 3:4).

COMMENTARY

In the midst of the darkness and poor state of the Church at Sardis, Yeshua found cause to state some good news:

- There was a remnant who did not defile their garment. They did not allow attitude and actions of the vast majority to sway them.
- He promised that such saints would walk with Him in white – His righteousness!,
- He proclaimed them as worthy!

Lesson: Serious saints should not follow the multitude to do evil. In the midst of the gross darkness of our generation, Elohim has preserved a remnant by His Grace (Romans 11: 1-6).

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:5-6).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua ended the assessment of Sardis with promises.

- Overcomers shall be clothed in white raiment – His Own holiness.
- Those who repent will not be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life. This debunks the theory of eternal security.

- o He will confess their names before His Father and the Holy angels.
- o Yeshua again does not force any one to repent and change their ways. He calls on those who have ears to hear to respond to this audit report.

*Audit of the Faithful Church at
Philadelphia*

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; (Revelation 3:7).

COMMENTARY

The 6th Church was located at Philadelphia also known as the city of brotherly love which is derived from Greek. Ancient legend says that the city of Philadelphia was founded by citizens of Pergamum as a frontier city to the central plains of Asia Minor. Reportedly given to learning, the citizens reportedly drove away the Barbarians and opted for Greek language and culture. The original city was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17 (while Yeshua, Jesus was in His incarnate state. Because of the strong aftershocks, many people opted to live off the city limits. In the midst of a city with such a historical background, Yeshua found a group of His called-out ones who were faithful beyond measure.

- o Like the other letters, He wrote to the Pastor/Overseer. He holds them in His hands and to

them, He commits precise details of what He wants each unit of His Church to be.

- o Yeshua, Jesus called Himself ‘He that is Holy’. Everything about Him is Holy and True with absolutely nothing impure. He calls us to walk in this same nature and lifestyle of moral excellence and purity of heart, thoughts, mind and will.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

- o He also referred to Himself as He that is True. Yeshua is Who He is with no falsehood or dark part. He wants us to embrace a life of transparency and sincerity, making no room for another version of our beings. That is the essence of the new creation (John 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- o He that hath the key of David. David and Abraham were the two Patriarchs of Israel who featured most prominently in the genealogy of Yeshua. As the most outstanding king of Israel, David mirrored in the natural what Yeshua would be in the spiritual as the King of Kings and Lord of lords. They of dominance and authority which David exercised were the inheritance of Yeshua.
- o Only Yeshua has the capacity to open doors which no man can shut. This is an outworking of the reality that He wields ultimate authority and power over the earth realm.

- o Only Yeshua has the capacity to shut doors which no man can open. These are possible because He is the head of all Principality and Power

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18).

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Colossians 2:9-10).

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name (Revelation 3:8).

COMMENTARY

- o As Elohim, Yeshua knew everything about the church at Philadelphia. He sees beyond the surface and knows the thoughts, intents, and propensities of His saints and indeed all humans!
- o He assures this faithful Church of an open door which no human could shut. No matter what we go through at this present time, holding on faithful will cause us to walk in this blessing.
- o The main reason for this blessing is that though they had a little strength, they faithfully kept His word and refused to deny His Name. They were not ashamed to be identified publicly with Him. These scriptures are worth reading, meditating, and praying in:

Romans 8:28-39, Romans 8:16-18, 2 Timothy 2:11-13.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth (Revelation 3:9-10).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua promised to humble those who belong to the synagogue of Satan who claim to be Jews but were not to worship before this faithful Church.
- He undertook to prove His love for the Church at Philadelphia to those who were compromisers and unbelievers.
- Because they kept the word of His patience, Yeshua promised to preserve them as His faithful remnant from the hour of temptation that is coming upon the world. It is this kind of assurance that Paul spoke of in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 to reassure the faithful remnant that Elohim has not appointed them to wrath but to obtain the ultimate dimension of salvation from the troubles ahead. This is a great boost to the issue of pre-tribulation rapture.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which

cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name (Revelation 3:11-12).

COMMENTARY

- Yeshua announced that He is coming quickly. This theme is repeated in some other passages in the Book of Revelation because it is designed to prepare saints for this reality. Those who give heed and receive the grace to watch and pray will not be swept aside by the raging tempest of ungodliness.
- He makes promises to overcomers: they will be made pillars in the Temple of Elohim.
- Overcomers will be secure in Elohim for all eternity. Those who complete their pilgrimage by death, or the rapture cannot be plucked out of the hand of Elohim in all eternity.
- Yeshua promised this faithful Church will have the Name of Elohim written on their foreheads.
- He promised that they would also be branded with the name of the New Jerusalem.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:13).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua invites all to hear what the Spirit says to the Churches. The clear message to faithful saints is this: there will be rewards in eternity!

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please write a short summary of the assessment of the Church at Sardis and the recommendation of Yeshua.
2. Please write a short summary of the assessment of the Church at Philadelphia and the recommendation of Yeshua.
3. What new things did you learn today?

Chapter 6

Yeshua's Audit of the 7 Churches

Part 4

We now come to the last of the 7 churches of Asia Minor. In a sense, the picture painted of the Church at Laodicea mirrors, to a great extent, state of the Church in the Last Days. We will use material on this church in the book *7 Letters from Heaven* for this chapter with minor edits.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; (Revelation 3:14).

COMMENTARY

Verse 14 contains two broad messages

- The addressee of the letter was the overseer of the Church in Laodicea. As the authority who heaven vested with the vision, Yeshua always addressed him/her first. He who is the spring and circumference of all authority always validated and fostered authority in the earth realm. Liberty and Order are like two wings of the Kingdom Bird. With none, the Bird will crash, unable to fly. Those who want liberty without the order caused by presence of leadership often slide into license. Those who desire Order without liberty will regress into dead works and rituals of religion. True leadership is used by the Holy Spirit to create the enabling atmosphere for the balance provided by both wings to be in place so sons of Elohim can flourish and soar.

- He introduced Himself. As we saw in previous notes, Yeshua deemed it needful to define Who He is so His audience would look beyond the vessel who brought the message to focus on Him and His word.

He described Himself as:

The Amen. This means He is the True One and the conclusion of all things in His Church.

The Faithful and True Witness. This is a self-evident truth about Himself. He is faithful to the Father who sent Him and faithful to all His saints. He is also faithful to His Words, watching over them to ensure performance. What He sees of His Church and what He says are true and cannot be contested.

The beginning of the creation of Elohim. Some people have seized upon this word to validate their claim that Yeshua was a created being and therefore not divine. Those words simply mean that Yeshua is the One who began the Creation of Elohim. This interpretation is consistent with the Truth Holy Spirit presented to the Laodecian Church in the letter Paul wrote to the Colossians. The epistle to the Colossians contains exposition of the divinity of Yeshua.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in

heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; (Colossians 1:12-19).

- o Yeshua is Head of all things in the sense that they are subject to Him. This thought is validated in this scripture:

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Colossians 2:8-10).

It should be noted that apostle Paul, by the Spirit instructed the epistle to the Colossians should also be sent to the Church at Laodicea so they must have been fully aware of the Divinity of Yeshua as articulated above.

And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea (Colossians 4:16).

Let us read the additional testimony of John, a man who understood Yeshua deeply:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made (John 1:1-3).

Please take time to read these other passages on the subject matter of the Divinity of Yeshua: John 8:58; Philippians 2:8-11; Titus 2:13. In the Book of Revelation, He is called the Alpha and Omega.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (Revelation 3:15).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua, decided to use imagery drawn from what the people knew and experienced to render His assessment of the Church in Laodicea. The City had a water supply problem. Blessed with some hot springs located outside the city, they used an aqueduct to ‘pipe’ the water into the city. But by the time the water arrived, it became lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. The Church in Laodicea had embraced the norms or culture of their host city! The operating environment had become their operating system and worse still, they were oblivious of their true state. Yeshua used the imagery of what brethren in the Church experienced daily (Lukewarm Water supply) to address their true spiritual condition.

- He knew their works. From His elevated position in heaven, all things are exposed to the eyes of Yeshua. Whatever actions and the motives behind them are known to Him, and it amounts to self-deception for any saint to think otherwise!

- o The Church was Lukewarm. Yeshua preferred they were either Cold or Hot. Water which is cold is refreshing and quenches thirst. Water which is hot is medicinal, cleansing the intestines and fighting cold at the source. But when water is lukewarm, it serves no positive purpose but becomes an irritant, even upsetting the system of some consumers! Drawing from this imagery, Yeshua was in effect saying they were an irritant to Him! To be hot means to be passionate in a relationship with Yahweh; fervent in Spirit and zealous in His Kingdom business (Matthew 6:19-34)! That is the state He wants us to be in 24/7, leaving no room for the flesh, the world or Satan. To be cold is to be lifeless, lacking the vibrant presence and power of the Holy Spirit. To be lukewarm is to be so ineffectual because of a mixture of both spiritual and carnal properties in life and ministry, lacking the sharp cutting edge of true zeal based on Grace and Truth. It is to be in a state of Secular Humanism in which principles of the world drive Church decisions, policies, and practices. It is to come to a place where neither Elohim nor Satan can lay full claim to the life and focus of a minister.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (Revelation 3:16).

COMMENTARY

Verse 16 contains a serious indictment: Yeshua said their lukewarmness would lead to total rejection! Just as people spew out lukewarm water when it riles their taste buds, the lack of spiritual fervency and inability to live out the Kingdom culture made the continued stay of this church on earth untenable. In Matthew 5:13-16 Yeshua had laid out the

principle that when Salt loses its savour, it becomes only fit to be trodden under foot!

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men (Matthew 5:13).

Yeshua clearly also debunked the dogma of eternal security in this passage. That a saint or Church can be spewed out means rejection is possible at the end Hebrews 6:4-8 and Hebrews 10:26-30 spell this principle out more clearly.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked (Revelation 3:17).

COMMENTARY

Verse 17 gives us an insight into why the Church at Laodicea descended too low:

- o The Church boasted in the wrong things! It was set up to manifest the King and His Kingdom, but it got drowned in the filthy lucre of Babylon! Babylon absorbed them and her values re-configured their mindset to the degree they were actually glorying in their shame, boasting about material possessions they had stacked up. In effect, this Church made the main things minor and majored on the minor things. They turned Matthew 6:19-34 upside down and thought the King would be impressed. This same spirit has run amok and is ruling the Church of the end times!

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26).

- o What Yeshua saw of this Church which it failed to see of itself was that it was wretched, miserable, blind, and actually naked! It was a mockery to the Cross and a shame to heaven! This same tendency is replicated world-wide today as Churches abandon preaching, teaching, and lifestyles of Holiness unto Yahweh; Love; Unity; Service; Empowerment of saints to function as Royal Priesthood in favour of secular humanistic sound bites and the utilitarian gospel. The result is that multitudes flock to the Church not to seek the heart and face of Yahweh but to get more 'blessings'. They do not go to seek ways to love Him more in pure worship but to receive new strategies of how to use Him to get what they want!

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see (Revelation 3:18).

COMMENTARY

Despite its wretched estate, Yeshua did not close the door of mercy! He provided them a window of opportunity to find redemption. It comprises these:

- o He counselled them to get true riches which come from Him alone.

- He also counselled them to get His righteousness, which is the only acceptable raiment of the Kingdom. It is His righteousness alone which covers the nakedness of its emptiness.
- Eye salve – because they suffered from spiritual glaucoma, Yeshua was calling on the Laodiceans to seek from Him, the true eye salve which could heal their sight. He used what the saints at Laodicea were familiar with as spring board for teaching them spiritual truth. The city had a world-renowned medical school which produced a special, effective ointment/lotion to cure eye problems.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne (Revelation 3:19, 21).

COMMENTARY

What a loving King our Yeshua is!

- He rebukes from a heart of love, not willing that any should perish. That is why He calls for repentance which makes people to walk in the justification which comes from His Blood.
- He rebukes and chastens (disciplines) those He loves.

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the

chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed (Hebrews 12:4-13).

- o Divine Exaltation was promised to those who received and walked in His counsel. The greatest privilege in all eternity is to be exalted to sit with King Yeshua on His Throne. If we pay the price to emulate Him, it will come to pass, just as He was exalted after His passion (Philippians 2:5-11).

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame,

and am set down with my Father in his throne (Revelation 3:20-21).

COMMENTARY

- It is significant to note, Yeshua was once secure on the Throne of the heart of the Church at Laodicea. Unfortunately, in Revelation 3:20, He was now standing outside the door of their hearts, so to say. Their preoccupation with wealth had pushed Him out! Self had taken His place. How sad!
- He expressed willingness to enter any heart which opens up to receive and enthrone Him afresh! He promised a new beginning of fellowship based on the grace of Justification. He does not gate crash into lives of humans against their will!
- He also promised the status of co-heir with all who would overcome present challenges. This is consistent with some scriptures which offer us insight into the awesome privileges of the redeemed in the hereafter.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we

suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope (Romans 8:12-20).

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:22).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua called upon the Laodiceans to hear what the Holy Spirit was ministering to them through the letter He sent. There is no record His warnings were heeded. According to G. Davis Dean, Laodicea was devastated by an earthquake towards the end of the 5th Century AD. He also averred that between 1049 and 1190, Laodicea was overrun by the Byzantines, Turks, and Crusaders. Christians in the City began to emigrate en-masse. By the 1800's nothing more was left. Neighboring communities had turned Laodicea into a stone quarry! It had been spewed out of Yeshua's mouth and its candlestick removed, as it were!

Saints, please prayerfully continue with us on this journey of discovery of the mind of Yeshua concerning His Church. This is one journey you cannot lose but will rather gain by knowing what He desires to see and what offends Him. Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 should be basic reading for anyone who bears the burden of Yeshua for His Church!

ASSIGNMENT

1. Kindly summarise what Yeshua had to say concerning the Church at Laodicea? 2. What adjustments do you need to make as a saint, in the light of this message?

Chapter 7

Summary of Yeshua's Audit of the 7 Churches Part 5

While the letters were written to these 7 Churches, the messages of Yeshua mirror how the Church age would pan out over the years. The Lord had showed through Paul the apostle that there would be a great falling away from the truth and the gospel which will precede the emergence of the anti-Christ. In a real sense therefore, the audit report provides us an insight of how this would work out.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall

send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12).

*The Forensic Analysis by The Master
Preacher and Teacher*

A strategic Overview of Key issues in the Letters of Yeshua to the Seven Churches reveals some interesting details of where 5 out of 7 missed it.

SPIRITUAL FEATURES OF THE AUDIT REPORT OF THE
7 CHURCHES

Ephesus: Loss of First Love (Revelation 2:1-7).

Smyrna: Remnant that would suffer persecution with Grace (Revelation 2:8-11).

Pergamum: Opened door to a False Teacher (Revelation 2:12-17).

Thyatira: Gave room for Jezebel to control it (Revelation 2:18-29).

Sardis: Had a name to be alive but really dead spiritually (Revelation 3:1-6).

Philadelphia: Faithful remnant which endured patiently (Revelation 3:7-13).

Laodicea: Full blown backsliding through lukewarmness and false prosperity gospel which elevated pursuit of

material and financial assets above the spiritual state. (Revelation 3:14-22).

In effect, the falling away of the Church started with loss of first love in the 4th Century and ended with full blown backsliding and glorying in material acquisitions in the 21st century.

General Exposition of the Messages

In each Audit, Yeshua, Jesus:

- Addresses the Pastor/Overseer as He calls each Church by Name.
- Identifies Himself with a particular imagery of glory or description of His exalted status as Head of the Church.
- Outlines the Audit report on each particular Church.
- Reproves where they are in the wrong.
- Commend virtues or good qualities in them.
- Makes promises of reward or punishment that are appropriate.
- Urges them to hear what is being said by the Holy Spirit.
- With this framework we also see a profound truth: His love and mercy is unfathomable. He was therefore not in a hurry to reject or throw away those

who missed the mark but gave room for recovery and redemption.

- o His clear words reveal that there is no eternal security for those who willingly refuse His love and mercy. Rather, eternal damnation awaits them.

As Head of the Church, Yeshua wants us to not only take our places effectively as organic parts of His Body in the earth realm, He also wants us to persist in being functionally aligned with and to Him till the very end! He is able and willing to uphold us – if we let Him!

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24).

Oversight role of true spiritual leaders

All 7 letters were addressed to the Pastors/Overseers of the 7 churches of Asia Minor. True leaders, who He upholds and esteems highly, are to have that same mind and be invested in watching over the flock. To feed them with food and watch over their souls and thus make the same ready for eternity and His return is a sacred responsibility not to be taken lightly! Paul the Apostle captured the essence of Kingdom responsibility of leaders when he wrote to saints in Galatia and Corinth:

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you (Galatians 4:19).

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. 3 I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you. 4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation. 5 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears (2 Corinthians 7:1-5).

Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Corinthians 11:1-3).

A Strategic Overview of Key issues in the Letters of Yeshua to the Seven Churches

Now that we have completed exposition of each of the 7 letters from Heaven letters to the Churches, let us do a strategic overview of this Kingdom assessment Yeshua found necessary to conduct on His Church within the first

century of its existence in the earth realm. A quick overview shows that the letters are divided into seven parts:

- o The Bible Reference.
- o Name of the Church addressed (and in each case, He cited relevance of the vessel to who He committed oversight as Pastor).
- o Introduction by Yeshua of Himself.
- o Commendation (or not from Yeshua).
- o Rebuke (or not) from Him.
- o Recommendation on the way forward.
- o Promise to those who take heed to His words and overcome.

In this chapter, we shall present this overview in a single volume designed to help those who wish to dig deeper to do so.

*Bible Reference Revelation. 2:1-7 Letter
to the Church at Ephesus*

INTRODUCTION OF YESHUA

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; (Revelation 2:1).

COMMENDATION

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Verse 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate (Revelation 2:2-3).

REBUKE

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love (Revelation 2:4).

RECOMMENDATION

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent... He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; (Revelation 2:5, 7).

PROMISE

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7).

*Bible Reference Revelation. 2:8-13 Letter
to the Church at Smyrna*

INTRODUCTION

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; (Revelation 2:8).

COMMENDATION

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:9).

REBUKE - None

RECOMMENDATION

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; (Revelation 2:10-11).

PROMISE

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death (Revelation 2:11).

*Bible Reference Rev. 2:12-17 Letter to
the Church at Pergamos*

INTRODUCTION

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; (Revelation 2:12).

COMMENDATION

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth (Revelation 2:13).

REBUKE

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate (Revelation 2:14-15).

RECOMMENDATION

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth (Revelation 2:16).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; (Revelation 2:17).

PROMISE

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it (Revelation 2:17).

*Bible Reference Rev. 2:18-29 Letter to
the Church at Thyatira*

INTRODUCTION

...These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; (Revelation 2:18)

COMMENDATION

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first (Revelation 2:19).

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come (Revelation 2:24-25).

REBUKE

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works (Revelation 2:20-23).

RECOMMENDATION

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 2:29).

PROMISE

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star (Revelation 2:26-28).

*Bible Reference Rev. 3:1-6 Letter to the
Church at Sardis*

INTRODUCTION

...These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; Revelation 3:1).

COMMENDATION

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments Revelation 3:4).

REBUKE

...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead Revelation 3:1).

RECOMMENDATION

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee (Revelation 3:2-3).

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:6).

PROMISE

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his

name before my Father, and before his angels
(Revelation 3:5).

*Bible Reference Rev. 3:7-13 Letter to the
Church at Philadelphia*

INTRODUCTION

...These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; (Revelation 3:7).

COMMENDATION

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name (Revelation 3:8).

REBUKE - None

RECOMMENDATION

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown...13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:11, 13).

PROMISE

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship

before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience,
I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation,
which shall come upon the entire world, to try them
that dwell upon the earth. 12 Him that overcometh
will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he
shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the
name of my God, and the name of the city of my
God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down
out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon
him my new name (Revelation 3:9-10, 12).

*Bible Reference Rev. 3:14- 21 Letter to
the Church at Laodicea*

INTRODUCTION

...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and
true witness, the beginning of the creation of
God; (Revelation 3:14).

COMMENDATION: None

REBUKE

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor
hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then
because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor
hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17
Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased
with goods, and have need of nothing; and
knowest not that thou art wretched, and
miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
(Revelation 3:15-17)

RECOMMENDATION

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see... 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 3:18, 22)

PROMISE

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any men hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that over cometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne (Revelation 3:19-21).

The sketch above helps us have in one volume an overview of the framework of the audit report on the 7 Letters as written by Yeshua, Jesus, the Groom and Head of the Church. Let us receive it with gratitude and take additional time to reflect on the letters to locate which of these churches speak of the reality of our lives as His saints and congregations in the earth realm.

Recommended further reading: *7 Letters from Heaven* published by Kingdom Books Club.

ASSIGNMENT

1. What are some issues that strike you concerning any or some of these seven Churches of Asia Minor? 2. What personal challenge are you taking away from this section and chapter?.

Chapter 8

Commentary on Revelation Chapter 4: The Throne Room of Heaven (1)

INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter of the Book of Revelation, Yeshua gave John a clear framework of three principal phases of the visions he would receive.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; (Revelation 1:19).

As we noted in the first chapter, using this framework, the entire Book can be neatly split into these:

- Revelation chapter 1: The things which thou hast seen. This describes the vision of the glorified Yeshua which John saw.
- Revelation chapters 2 and 3: The things which are. This describes state of the Church. The 7 churches of Asia Minor represent the Church age.
- Revelation chapters 4-19 and 20-22: the things which shall be hereafter. These describe what will take place in heaven and on earth after the rapture of the Church leading to the Second Coming of Yeshua in Revelation Chapter 19. Revelation 20 deals with imprisonment of Satan, his Millennial reign, and eternal end of the unrighteous. Revelation 21 and 22 deal with issues of eternity.

*Verse by verse commentary of Revelation
chapter 4*

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter (Revelation 4:1).

COMMENTARY

Let us break down this loaded verse.

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven”:

This speaks of after end of the church age and beginning of a short new window of time that will be manifesting in both the heavenly and earthly realms.

“and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither”.

Here an angel with a voice that sounded like a trumpet invited John to come up hither to the heavenly realm. In line with the concept of the rapture, we can co-relate this with the voice of the angel and trump of Elohim in 1 Corinthians 15:50-55 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 which herald the rapture of saints.

“and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter”.

The language used here is clear: what John would be shown from chapters 4 to the end of the book are not things that had happened in history before or current in his days. He would be shown things that must be hereafter” This belies concepts espoused by the preterists who claim that the events of Revelation started happening in AD 70 with destruction of Jerusalem by General Titus and his invading Roman Army.

*“And immediately I was in the spirit:”
(Revelation4:2).*

COMMENTARY

Apart from the first reference to being in the Spirit in Revelation 1:10, John again makes it clear that his being inducted into the heavenly realm was in the Spirit. Whether his spirit alone, spirit and soul or his whole being was raptured to experience heaven is not defined. We can only conjecture through the case of Paul the apostle in his own experience noted in:

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter (2 Corinthians 12:1-4).

*“and, behold, a throne was set in heaven”
(Revelation 4:2).*

COMMENTARY

The central focus of the heavenly realm which John saw was the Throne of Elohim! It is the focal point of everything so much so that on his induction into that realm, what he saw was a set throne.

*“and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald”
(Revelation 4:2-3).*

COMMENTARY

- John saw that the Throne was not empty but rather occupied. John was not permitted to see the very face of Elohim. What he was permitted to see was the glory of the Divine presence. It was a majestic, glorious divine presence which could only be described by the beauty of some rare minerals: Jasper and Sardine stone.
- John also saw a rainbow round about the Throne glorious like an emerald. This is an amazing sight indeed. One deduction we can make is that the Elohim Who created heaven and earth and has all Omnipotence of power, able to do whatever He wants places a permanent memorial of His covenant with mankind and the earth realm around His Throne so that no matter what happens with humans, He would stick to this word announced after the flood:

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. 17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth (Genesis 9:8-17).

Let us continue with our study of Revelation chapter 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 (Revelation 4:4).

COMMENTARY

Elohim was not alone in the Throne room of heaven. There were 24 Elders who were seated around the Throne of Elohim, clothed in white raiment with crowns of gold on their heads. Let us break this down for deeper comprehension. Who are they? These do not seem to be angelic beings. Nowhere in the Bible do we see angels wearing crowns. Rather, these appear to be humans who overcame and are enthroned.

- **Clothed in white raiment.** This is the righteousness of Elohim in Yeshua that is the portion of those redeemed by the Blood.
- **Crowns of gold.** There is anecdotal evidence that the redeemed who complete their earthly assignments with distinction will be crowned in the heavenly realm. Let us remember the words of apostle Paul in

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

The statement attributed to these 24 elders confirms that they are redeemed humans from the earth.

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:8-10).

- o Since there were 12 tribes of Israel and 12 Apostles representing the Old and New Covenant respectively, it is safe to assume that the 24 came from both tracks.
- o Yeshua had this spectacular promise for the apostles

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).

That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:30).

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5).

COMMENTARY

Two principal sights are manifested in the Throne room:

- o Lightnings and thunderings and voices proceeded out of the Throne
- o Holy Spirit is pictured as seven burning lamps. The 7 connotes perfection or completeness of His presence as in previous scriptures:

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; (Revelation 1:4),

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: (Isaiah 11:1-3)

We need to remember these things about the Book of Revelation:

- o It is one in which there is blessedness for reading, hearing and doing according to what is required by the Lord.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (Revelation 1:3).

- o The Lord gave the book of Revelation as a compass that leads saints home to Him. Those who study the Book diligently and walk in the light of the truth therein will be graciously enabled to complete their pilgrimage gloriously.

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book... 10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy

city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Revelation 22:6-7, 10-21).

It is sad therefore that Religious leaders of Christendom have partnered with the enemy to put a lid on this book of light. Majority of Christians go through life without reading, studying, or walking in the light of the truth therein. We are therefore thankful to Elohim Who has graciously poured out His Spirit upon the Word so that we are able to study, understand and walk in the light of truth.

We will continue this study of Revelation chapter 4 in the next chapter. Please share this message with friends and family on and off Facebook.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share 3 things you learned from this commentary of Revelation chapter 4. 2. What will you do with the lessons in this chapter?

Chapter 9

Commentary on Revelation Chapter 4: The Throne Room of Heaven Part 2

We will continue the commentary of the Book of Revelation chapter 4 in this chapter. From the previous chapter, we saw the reality that the Throne of Elohim is the focal point of life in the heavenly realm. This is the control room of heaven from where everything in that realm and the earth is ordered. We saw the similitude of Elohim on the Throne and description of His awesome presence and glory. We also saw the reality that Elohim is not a lonely God Who is distant from His creation. There are 24 Elders who are seated on thrones around Elohim. Our study suggest that the 24 most likely are the redeemed out of the Old and New Covenants.

*Continuation of Verse-by-verse
commentary of Revelation chapter 4*

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5).

COMMENTARY

Two principal sights are manifested in the Throne room:

- o Lightnings and thunderings and voices proceeded out of the Throne.

- o Holy Spirit is pictured as seven burning lamps. The 7 connotes perfection or completeness of His presence, as in previous scriptures:

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne (Revelation 1:4).

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: (Isaiah 11:1-3).

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

COMMENTARY

In front of the Throne of Elohim, John saw what he described as a sea of glass which looked like crystal. We see what looks like a clear sea of glass which looks transparent like crystal

and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf,

and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle (Revelation 4:6-7).

John saw four living creatures within and around the Throne of Elohim. The word 'beasts' is generally considered an inelegant rendering of the creatures which John saw.

COMMENTARY

*Description and identity of The Living
Creatures*

...and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind (Revelation 4:6).

- The living creatures otherwise called beasts were 4 in number.
- They were in the midst of the Throne of Elohim and round about it. This speaks of extreme proximity to Elohim.
- They were full of eyes before and behind. This speaks of their extraordinary insight and points to the reality that they are angelic beings, unlike the 24 Elders who seemed to be humans redeemed from the earth and translated into the heavenly realm.

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle (Revelation 4:7).

COMMENTARY

The living beings are described further. We can only make some conjectures here that are not theological facts.

- The first had the appearance of a Lion. This may speak hint at one of the identities of Yeshua, Jesus as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. It may be that what is projected here is His quality of courage and boldness in undertaking the redemption mission when He did.
- The second looked like a Calf or Ox. This speaks of strength in service, which is another undisputable quality of the Messiah who came to serve humanity.
- The face of the third looked like a human. This may be a reference to His identification with humanity in the Incarnation.
- The 4th angelic being looked like a flying Eagle. This may possibly hint at the Majesty of His glorified state.

We state again that these are mere conjectures and not based on a specific revelation.

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come (Revelation 4:8).

COMMENTARY

The angelic beings or living creatures are further described with an introduction to some aspects of their assignments.

- o Each of them had 6 wings about and full of eyes within.
- o Their primary assignment seems to be to worship Elohim as the Thrice Holy One.
- o It also seems that one of their primary preoccupations is to proclaim the awe-inspiring Name of Yahweh: Which was, and is, and is to come.

Let us remember that when Moses inquired of His Name and Identity, this was the response:

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you. 15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations (Exodus 3:13-15).

David Guzik in his Enduring Word commentary had these to say of the beings:

“From comparison with Ezekiel 1:4-14 and 10:20-22, we understand these creatures to be cherubim, the spectacular angelic beings surrounding the throne of God. Satan was once one of these high angelic beings, according to Ezekiel 28:14.

Cherubim were also prominent in design of the tabernacle, particularly in the Most Holy Place (Exodus 25:17-22 and Exodus 26:1-31) The Scriptures show us that the tabernacle is a model of the throne of God, in some manner (Exodus 25: 8-9). *b. Full of eyes in front and in back... full of eyes around and within:* Their multitude of eyes indicates these living creatures (not “beasts” as in the KJV) are not blind instruments or robots. They know and understand, and have greater insight and perception than any man.

- i. These beings of great intelligence and understanding live their existence to worship God. All failure to truly worship is rooted in a lack of seeing and understanding.
- ii. The way these super-intelligent beings worship God reminds us that our worship must be intelligent.” (Guzik, David. “Enduring Word Bible Commentary)

David Guzik quotes Trapp who says “Our service must not be rash but reasonable, Romans 12:1, such as wherefore we can render a reason. God hates a blind sacrifice, a Samaritan’s service, when men worship they know not what nor why, John 4:22.” (Guzik, David. “Enduring Word Bible Commentary)

And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:9-11).

COMMENTARY

In these three verses, we learn some profound truths about the heavenly realm and what happens constantly at the Throne of Grace.

“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever”

The 4 Cherubim are specially invested in worshipping of Elohim and magnifying His Holy Name. From what follows, we also discern that they also act as worship leaders in the heavenly realm who inspire others to follow suit.

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying”

As the Cherubim magnify Elohim, the 24 Elders fall down or prostrate before Him in adoration. The crowns they receive from Him are what they cast down at His Feet signifying acknowledgement that who they are and whatever accomplishments are all by His Grace and He therefore deserves all the glory, all by Himself. The lesson should not be lost on us who are on this side of eternity that who we are as the redeemed and all things we have as assets are products of His Grace. This reality should drive our attitude towards Elohim. Walking in this consciousness delivers us from pride which He hates with passion.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (1 Corinthians 4:7),

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble (James 4:6).

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (1 Peter 5:5-6).

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

The words of this celestial song carry much weight. It is one we who are on our pilgrimage should commit to heart and utter as many times as we are prompted by Holy Spirit. Let us break down the song:

- Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, honour, and power – all the redeemed should walk in the light of this truth on a 24/7 basis.
- For thou hast created all things – this is self-evident truth that all the redeemed should know and celebrate. That the Creator of the whole universe had such a high value for us that out of Himself, He raised a Blood sacrifice in Yeshua for our redemption is humbling. That He would admit us into His holy family, make our hearts the dwelling place of His Spirit is truly staggering. That He would cause us to sit in heavenly places with Yeshua at the right hand of the Father, far above all principality, power and

every name that is named in heaven and on earth is dazzling in its profundity.

- o and for thy pleasure they are and were created. – All of us and all of creation were created and should exist for the pleasure of the Creator, Elohim. As the Cherubim and 24 Elders and hosts of the heavenly realm sing this reality day and night, those of us in the earth realm should pick up the sound from heaven and align with them. More importantly, this song becomes real when our consecrated lives, when wholly surrendered to Him, exist and function for His glory.

Heaven is full of songs and this one is the kicker of some more to come. Before we leave this chapter, let us gain deeper understanding of the Living beings/beasts.

The Cherubim

As said before, the living creatures (also called ‘living beasts’ in the King James Version) are the special class of angels called the Cherubim – first mentioned in Genesis when assigned to prevent the expelled Adam and Eve from gaining access to the garden of Eden.

And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of

Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life (Genesis 3:22-24).

These angelic beings are so special that they spread their wings over the Throne of Grace. That reality is pre-figured in the way images of the Cherubim made of pure gold

Lucifer was in this angelic class as a Cherubim before He fell and became Satan.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee (Ezekiel 28:13-15),

Understanding the book of Revelation will fill our hearts with awe, inspire us to surrender all to Elohim and keep our eyes fixed on the Throne of Grace. No true saint will study this book and remain the same.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share 3 things you learned from this commentary of Revelation chapter 4. 2. What will you do with the lessons in this chapter?

Chapter 10

Revelation Chapter 5 The Sealed Scroll, The Lion and Lamb

The Heavenly realm where Elohim has His Throne controls things which happen in the earth realm. Before the Great Tribulation takes place in the earth realm, we are given a picture of the preceding events. Revelation chapter 5 introduces us to the reality that Yeshua alone is qualified to flag off the awesome events that will be unfolded from Chapter 6. The Lamb is also the Lion. He Who was Incarnated as a Baby completed His assignment and functions as a righteous Judge over the earth realm. Those who refuse His redemptive work will earn the just recompense of their sins.

Commentary of Revelation chapter 5

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals (Revelation 5:1).

COMMENTARY

- The Father is seated on the Throne.
- In His right hand is a scroll (book) written both within and outside (on both sides of the scroll which is unusual since writings are normally within them).
- The scroll is sealed with 7 seals. This signifies fullness of the divine counsel within.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? (Revelation 5:2).

COMMENTARY

- John saw what he described as a ‘strong’ angel.
- The angel proclaimed authoritatively (with a loud voice).
- The question the angel asked set the stage for emergence of the only One who is qualified to open the book (scroll) and also loose the seals.

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon (Revelation 5:3-4).

COMMENTARY

What happened after question of the strong angel is of interest:

- No one in heaven or in the earth realm was able to open the book or look into what is therein.
- John wept much that no one was qualified to open the scroll and loose the seals. He had received an incredible promise in the preceding chapter which seems in danger of not coming to pass.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with

me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter (Revelation 4:1).

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof (Revelation 5:5).

COMMENTARY

- One of the 24 Elders introduced in Revelation 4 consoled John.
- He announced the identity of the only one Personality Who was qualified for the divine act.
- The Personality has two redemptive names: Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David.
- This Personality had prevailed and therefore qualified to open the book and loose the seals.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth (Revelation 5:6).

COMMENTARY

- The Lamb of Elohim was pictured as slain (possibly the Blood of Redemption which was shown to the courts of heaven on conclusion of His Mission on the resurrection morning).

- He is pictured as standing in the midst of the throne, the four living creatures (Beasts) and the 24 Elders.
- He is depicted as having 7 horns and 7 eyes. The horns stand for strength.
- The 7 eyes stand for fullness of Holy Spirit with which He functions as Isaiah 11:1-3 and John 3:34 state.

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne (Revelation 5:7).

COMMENTARY

Yeshua steps up to the plate and took the Scroll (Book out of the hands of the Father)

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:8-10).

COMMENTARY

On taking the Scroll from the hand of the Father, some things happen:

- The 4 Living Creatures and 24 Elders fell down before The Lamb.

- In their hands are harps.
- Also in their hands are golden vials (bowls) full of odours which are the prayers of saints. This shows that no prayer is wasted. Though it may take time to manifest, all prayers that are consistent to the will of Elohim will be answered.
- They sung a new song which exalted the stature, and redemptive work of Yeshua during His Incarnate state:

“Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

- They also projected the outcome of the finished work of the Cross: the redeemed will function with these glorified beings in the heavenly realm:

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing (Revelation 5:11-12).

COMMENTARY

- John heard the voice of an innumerable company of billions of angels who were around the throne, the living beings (beasts) and Elders).

“and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;”

- The multitude of angels were engaged in what they do best: worship. The words of worship and praise are profound:

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever (Revelation 5:13-14).

COMMENTARY

- All created beings in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth and in the sea are moved to worship The Father and Son with a profoundly worded song:

“Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

- To this, the 4 Living Beings (Beasts) voice concurrence: ‘Amen’.

- o The 24 Elders fell (prostrated) and worshipped Elohim Who lives forever.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share any 3 things you learned from this chapter.
2. What will you do with the lessons in this chapter?

Chapter 11

The Seal Judgements of the Great Tribulation

Exposition of Revelation chapter 6

Revelation chapters 4 and 5 are visions of heaven and the throne of Elohim featuring unending worship by the 24 Elders, 4 living beings/creatures (called ‘living beasts’ in the King James Version) and billions of angels. In Chapter 5 we saw a specific challenge: who was qualified to take the scroll (or Book) from the hand of The Father? The answer was only Yeshua, Jesus. As the Lamb Who was slain and prevailed over Satan and humans, He secured, as it were the sole capacity to judge the earth realm and all that dwell therein. He had paid the Supreme price in His Own shed blood for redemption of humankind. Unfortunately, Satan has over the years seduced the vast majority of both Jews and Gentiles to reject the free offer of Salvation. Of the minority who received Him and are saved, there would be two categories in the earth realm:

- Those who would take heed to His command to surrender their hearts to Him, become disciples who are essentially fishers of men and disciple makers who live holy, watch, and pray in the consciousness that no one knows the day or hour, judgement for iniquity would come upon the earth. For such, these promises are sure: (John 14:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).

They would be taken away in a swift moment of time and given celestial bodies with which they would live forever

with Yeshua. Called the rapture of saints, this would take place almost simultaneously with the first resurrection of the righteous dead (1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is the presence of this category of saints who represent the true Church, the Holy Bride and Body of Yeshua that restrains manifestation of the anti-Christ and the terrible judgements on inhabitants of the earth realm called the Great Tribulation.

- o From the uniform testimony of scriptures, most believers would miss the rapture. This would not necessarily be because of overt or covert sin. It would seem that the cause of this state of affairs would be lack of watchfulness and prayer; love of the world and pursuit of the best it has to offer or even such things as unforgiveness, ought and weights such as spiritual laziness. Those who bought into Mystery Babylon or a distortion of the Christian Faith because of embrace of partisan politics and co-habitation with governments will together with the vast majority of Jews who rejected their Messiah, go through the Great Tribulation. Because they know the truth about the Beast Economic system (the Mark, Name and Number of the Beast or anti-Christ) as espoused by the False Prophet and the reality that eternal perdition is the portion of partakers (Revelation 13:16-18 and Revelation 14:8-11), they will receive grace to embrace martyrdom. This will be the only pathway through which they will be saved and glorified (Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 7:9-17); Revelation 15:1-4)

This background, which is based on comparing the Books of Daniel with Words of Yeshua, teachings of Paul the apostle and John essentially clears the theological confusion of the Pre, Mid and Post Tribulation controversies.

Revelation chapter 6 shows us the control post from where the terrible judgements that would be experienced in the earth realm (Land, Air and Sea) over 3 and a half years are generated from. It will be a case of ‘heaven sneezing and the earth catching cold’! The events of Revelation Chapter 6 and related chapters are explicated in Great detail in a companion resource titled ‘The Things to Come: What Next? Please download your free copy from the website. What we shall provide here are the barest of commentaries.

*Opening of the Seals of the Scroll and
their consequences*

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see (Revelation 6:1).

COMMENTARY

When Yeshua, the Lamb opened the first seal of the scroll he took from the Father, these things followed:

- A roaring of thunder followed.
- One of the four living creatures invited John to come and see what would follow.

And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer (Revelation 6:2).

COMMENTARY

Here is a breakdown of what John saw:

- A white horse. Ordinarily, this would have signified a man of Peace like Yeshua, Jesus.
- This was, however, not Yeshua, Jesus sitting on the white horse. The person has a bow, which is an instrument of war.
- A crown was given to him, meaning he received authority and power.
- The mandate of this personality was to conquer.
- This is a picture of the anti-Christ who would following the rapture deceive both Israel, Christians who were not raptured and the world to see him as a man who would bring peace and stability to a chaotic world. The agenda he would pursue however would be to conquer and establish himself in global dominance. Many who he deceived would not realise what was happening until they are in the bag, and it would be too late to stop him.

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword (Revelation 6:3-4).

COMMENTARY

- When the second seal was opened, the second living being invites John to come and see. John was invited up to the heavenly realm to receive these revelations of things that would surely come to pass. He documented them faithfully for our learning so that

we can make adjustments and be spared some of the most harrowing events of the Great Tribulation.

- John saw a red horse. Red is the colour of blood and always signifies danger.
- The rider of this horse was mandated to take away Peace from the world which rejected the Prince of Peace!
- In the ensuing chaos, humans reverted to the pristine atavistic tendencies of old, killing one another in reckless fashion.
- A great sword was given unto this messenger of death and destruction to execute his evil assignment.

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine (Revelation 6:5-6).

COMMENTARY

On opening of the third seal, these things happened:, the third living being invites John to come and see. A breakdown of what John saw:

- There was a black horse! The colour black signifies mourning to many.
- The rider had a pair of balances or weighing scales in his hand. This speaks of extreme scarcity and lack

when there will be a necessity for people to weigh food carefully to ensure that every piece is accounted for.

- The prices quoted for agricultural produce would be out of this world: “A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny” Inflation will drive up the cost of food. David Guzik of Enduring Word Bible Commentary says that these prices are twelve times higher than normal and that it means it would cost a full day’s wages to buy the equivalent of a loaf of bread. He quotes Walvoord who says this describes ‘a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities.
- In spite of this bleak scenario, the voice directs that ‘see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.’ Oil and wine represent luxury items which only the rich can afford. While much suffering is going on across the world, the rich and powerful may not feel the full effects because they have the money to buy what they are used to. This truly reflects a state of socio-economic inequity.

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth (Revelation 6:7-8).

COMMENTARY

At the opening of the 4th seal, the 4th living being invites John to come and see:

- A Pale horse the name of whose rider is Death. A great harvest of death seems to be the assignment of the 4th Horse man. Paleness is the colour of dead people. As we have seen so far, the anti-Christ would have slaughtered many people. Wars would have taken away lives of many. Famine would have dealt with a large number of people. Now Death itself was on assignment in the earth realm!
- The gruesome assignment of the 4th horse man is staggering in sheer scale: a quarter of humanity would perish! In today's terms when there are about 8 billion inhabitants of the earth realm, this would mean 2 billion lives wasted as part of the outcome of the early days of Great Tribulation.

“And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

- Statistics like this can be cold! An African proverb says that when the corpse of a stranger is taken for burial, it seems like a piece of wood. Can we realise that these may be people we know and love: relatives, friends, co-workers, and social media contacts? Can we be moved by the sheer scale of these numbers to get into passionate intercession for souls of those we know or are in any form of relationship with?

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of

them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled (Revelation 6:9-11).

COMMENTARY

When the 5th seal was opened, John saw a number of things:

- He saw tribulation saints -in heaven, not the earth! Their souls were reaped and translated from the earth to heaven once they were martyred for the Faith.

“I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:”

- The Tribulation saints demanded justice from Elohim “10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”
- White Robes were given to them, signifying the righteousness of Yeshua, Jesus as reward for their faith in Him.

“And white robes were given unto every one of them;”

- The tribulation saints were asked to rest for a little season, until others appointed for martyrdom sealed their own fate in blood.

“and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (Revelation 6:12-17).

COMMENTARY

When the 6th soul was opened, there was no voice inviting John to come and see. It was an open revelation which consists of these:

- o There were massive fearsome dislocations in the land, and the atmosphere of the world. “there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

This situation seems to fit into the description of the great day of the Lord in some scriptures

Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:6-7).

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come (Joel 2:30-31).

The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, (Zephaniah 1:14-15).

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:19-21).

- o When the shakings and this judgement hit the earth realm, responses of the people are carnal because of hardness of heart!

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (Revelation 6:15-16).

Verse 17 shows that they knew why the shakings were happening. They knew that the wrath of Elohim is the just recompense for their sinful choices and life of rebellion against Him. In the current dispensation when the gospel has been reduced to a set of formulae on how to get rich, be powerful and accumulate all the good of this world, there is the need for the remnant to pause and recalibrate. Trouble lies ahead and let no one be in any doubt about this.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: 26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably

with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:25-29).

Exhortation of Apostle Peter

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto

the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless (2 Peter 3:3-14),

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please briefly describe your understanding of what follows in each of the 6 seals that were opened? 2. What is your personal take away from this chapter?

Chapter 12

The Sealing of the Remnant among Jews and Gentiles

Exposition of Revelation chapter 7

In the beginning of creation, Moses was given a retroactive view of creation and the seismic events which followed the fall of man, including the judgement of the Flood which destroyed sinful humanity except Noah and his family of 8. The Book of Revelation comprises a series of specific visions and revelations granted to John. The idea was for Him to document how the world as we know it would end. The chapters, as arranged, are not necessarily chronological. Diligent readers who prayerfully seek help of the Holy Spirit can on comparing scripture with scripture discern the general flow of the series of revelations.

Chapter 6 dealt with the Seal Judgements. With opening of the first 4 seals we saw the 4 horse men of the apocalypse carrying out various aspects of the judgements which are part of the Great Tribulation. Thereafter as the last chapter shows, the 5th seal revealed tribulation saints under the alter of Elohim – in the heavenlies rather than on earth. The 6th seal ushered in extraordinary disaster in the earth realm with the great personalities seeking shelter from the fury of heaven. Rather than deal with opening of the 7th seal, Revelation chapter 7 takes us through an interesting discourse. It is one in which Elohim, in the specially makes provision for preservation of His elect remnant from the scourge that is the Great Tribulation.

As said in a companion resource, *‘The Things to come, what next?’* ‘one of the wrong doctrines taught by Christian religion is that once the rapture occurs, the doors of Grace and Mercy of God are closed, and no one will be saved during the Great Tribulation era. It is one of the manifestations of Religion to help God through fear inducing messages. What will get the job done in terms of harvest of souls is not scare mongering. Rather, it is the balanced presentation of truth as laid out in the Holy Bible, under unction of Holy Spirit that helps us to grasp the mind of Elohim. As John 8:32 says, it is truth that sets people free. Balanced preaching and teaching should not be confined to the era before the tribulation but also needs to be for both the current and future generations. This teaching will be profitable for the saints who miss the rapture for any reason whatsoever.’

Continuing, that resource states ‘who are tribulation era saints? They are the Elect of Elohim God who will be saved in the midst of the Great Tribulation. The Graciousness and Merciful heart of Elohim is once again revealed: He made ample provision for those who will be saved during the Great Tribulation to still make it into His eternal Kingdom. That Elohim would pause the Great Tribulation account to secure His Own shows how awesome the depth of His love is. This awesome provision of Grace should never be used as an excuse for any saint to be careless with their walk with the Lord. We have an incredible opportunity to live holy by His grace and complete the assignments committed to our trust. After the rapture, life will be hard for believers. They will be excluded from socio-economic activities, betrayed, persecuted, and brutally murdered for their faith.

If thou hast run with the **footmen**, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou

trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? (Jeremiah 12:5).

*Sealing of the Remnant of Israel and
Tribulation Saints*

The intensity of judgement to be poured out on the earth realm necessitates an act of Divine mercy towards His remnant of the natural seed of Abraham (Hebrews) who missed the rapture: He seals them for preservation. Before we go into the verse-by-verse commentary of Revelation chapter 7, let us first understand what a seal is, and check the bible references. Ordinarily, seals are affixed on letters to authenticate the genuineness and authority of the author. In the Bible, a seal is a mark of divine ownership by Elohim, which is placed on the redeemed. Angels, Satan, and all the powers of darkness recognise the seal which is upon the spirit-man of saints.

Purposes

- o Confirmation that the individual was truly regenerated by the Holy Spirit and not merely a ‘church member/goer’ (Ephesians 1:13).

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19).

- The seal releases the basic spirit gifts which define who the saints will be and what he or she will do in the Kingdom. Through the root gifts, all saints (not a few ‘anointed clergy) are endowed with the capacity to all function as priests after the order of Melchizedek (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:7, 1 Peter 2; 9-10, 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- A down payment that if the saint presses in, he or she will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Who hath also **sealed** us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:22).

- It is the identification mark that the individual will ultimately be saved – through the first resurrection or the rapture.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

- The seal is also a mark showing special preservation of the carrier from the wrath which will be upon the earth realm during the Great Tribulation and guarantee that such will NOT take the mark, name or number of the beast but opt for martyrdom.

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain

for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled (Revelation 6:9-11).

Such people are guaranteed to be translated, upon martyrdom to the throne of Elohim where they will await the start of the millennial reign of Yeshua when they will be glorified to function as joint heirs and co-rulers with Him.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

*Verse by verse commentary of Revelation
chapter 7*

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree (Revelation 7:1).

COMMENTARY

John is shown some dramatic scenes in the heavenlies which will affect the earth.

- He saw 4 angels standing on the 4 corners of the earth.
- The angels are pictured as holding the 4 winds of the earth.
- The idea is that by their actions, the wind would not blow on the earth, sea or trees.
- The overall image is that of withholding or preventing things from happening.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads (Revelation 7:2-3).

COMMENTARY

Verses two and three bring clarity to verse 1. This is a breakdown:

- Another angel ascends from the east with the seal of Elohim.
- He cries out with a loud voice to the 4 angels a clear instruction to stay action.

- o The delayed action is to make room for the sealing of specific servants of Elohim God from the two people groups recognized by heaven: the Jews and Gentiles.
- o The seals were to be on the foreheads of the elect possibly for ease of identification.

*Sealing of 144,000 remnants of Elohim in
Israel*

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. 5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand (Revelation 7:4-8).

COMMENTARY

Four angels on four corners of the earth ready to execute judgement were restrained from doing so until the remnant of Israel is numbered. One hundred and forty-four thousand (144,000) of the Jews/Hebrews were sealed. A few interesting things to note include these things:

- o Joseph the son of Jacob, received two portions in his two sons, Manasseh, and Ephraim (called Joseph here).
- o The tribe of Dan is conspicuously omitted. We are not told why this is so. It is possible that the tribe eventually lived out the prophecy of Jacob on his deathbed.

Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward (Genesis 49:17).

The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry in an organised form in Israel as recorded in this scripture.

And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. 31 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh (Judges 18:30-31).

We are not told why the name of Dan was omitted. However, in Ezekiel 48:2 which shows the partition of the Land during the Millennium, the Tribe of Dan receives its due portion.

*Sealing of the innumerable number of
Tribulation saints from among the
Gentiles*

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and

tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; (Revelation 7:9).

COMMENTARY

After the elect remnant of Israel was sealed, John sees a spectacular scene:

- He saw an innumerable company of saints.
- These were redeemed out of the various Gentile nations, kindreds, people groups, tongues (language groups).
- They stood before the Throne and before the Lamb, their Redeemer.
- They were clothed in white robes – the righteousness of Yeshua imputed to them by Grace.
- They had palms in their hands. Palms are symbols of triumph and victory. These had breasted the tape of eternity against all odds, including the reign of terror of the anti-Christ in the earth realm!

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (Revelation 7:10-11).

COMMENTARY

The elect was not quiet but in celebratory mode!

- o They cried with a loud voice.
- o They attributed their victory to Yahweh Who sits on the Throne of Grace and also specifically acknowledged the role of the Lamb of Elohim, Yeshua through Whose shed Blood they experienced redemption (John 1:29).
- o Their proclamation has a domino effect: all the angels stand around the throne with the 24 elders and 4 living creatures (beasts) prostrate before the throne, worshipping the Most High Elohim.

Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen (Revelation 7:12).

COMMENTARY

The content of their song is heart-warming:

- o First to note is the principle of agreement or concurrence typified by the word ‘Amen’. To say amen to a prayer by another is to align with same and declare that we want it to be so as desired.
- o Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might are attributed to Elohim forever.
- o The saints, triumphant, are aware that without Him, they are nothing. We should learn from them and start practicing the concept of attributing everything we receive to Him alone. When we do this, there will be no room for pride or vain glory.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:13-14).

COMMENTARY

The dialogue between one of the 24 Elders and John is interesting, designed to bring clarity:

- The elder asked John, a mere earthling who the multitude are and where they are coming from.
- John wisely decided not to guess, but rather throw the question back to the elder.
- In answering, the elder graphically paints the picture of who tribulation saints are. These are those specially sealed by Elohim and preserved from the Beast economic system (taking of the mark, name and number of the anti-Christ which is the only way of survival offered to those who will live in the era after the rapture (Revelation 13, Revelation 14).
- They opted for martyrdom and walk in the righteousness of their Savior, Yeshua the Lamb.
- They came out of great tribulation means they are delivered from the earth real and are rather in the presence of Elohim in the heavenly realm. The translation from the earth to the heavenly realm of martyrs of that era will be automatic. The delay is only on this side of eternity.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes (Revelation 7:15-17).

COMMENTARY

The language with which the state of tribulation saints is written is clear:

- Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. Their abode is right at the throne of Elohim God. They serve Him in unending worship, just like the 24 elders, 4 living beings and angels.
- and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. Elohim dwells among His people. This is a perfect picture of intimacy.
- All the troubles experienced in the mortal state become a thing of the past!

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat”

- The reason for their everlasting joy is Yeshua, Jesus their Lord who takes responsibility for their wellbeing, continuing His role as the Great and Good Shepherd:

“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters;”

- We see the ultimate: the end of all pain, and sorrow by the sovereign action of Elohim: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Brethren, let us be encouraged to make the main thing, the main thing: embrace Grace to have an intimate relationship with Elohim as true disciples of Yeshua, ensure completion of the Great Commission as we walk in love and unity with other disciples.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share any 5 things you learned from this chapter.
2. What will you do with the lessons in this chapter.

Chapter 13

The 7th Seal and 4 of the Trumpet Judgements

Exposition of Revelation chapter 8

The seal judgements started in Revelation chapter 8 to flag off the Great Tribulation or season of judgement and pouring out of the wrath of Elohim upon inhabitants of the earth realm. Their assignment was just the beginning of the woes which lie ahead for those who reject the mercy and grace of Elohim. After the 6th Seal judgement, there is a pause. As Revelation Chapter 7 in our last chapter, the purpose of the pause is to give room for the elect remnant among the Jews and Gentiles who only Elohim knows are sealed. While it appears, the Jewish remnant was sealed to be preserved for special assignment during that short window of time, the fate of the Gentile remnants shows that the seal preserved them from embracing the Beast Economic System, just like the blood on the door posts of Jews marked them out for exemption when the angel of death struck Egypt on the Passover night. Sealed from suffering eternal perdition, they receive Grace to gladly suffered martyrdom. They were translated to the presence of Elohim in heaven and asked to wait for other tribulation saints whose souls would be reaped from the earth realm during the Great Tribulation.

*Verse by verse commentary of Revelation
chapter 8*

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour (Revelation 8:1).

COMMENTARY

Revelation chapter 8 opens with an extraordinary scene. Heaven is a place of constant worship with voices of the 24 Elders, the 4 living beings and billions of angels. Here we are given the picture of silence in heaven for a space of about half an hour. It is like the inhabitants of the heavenly realm are trying to catch their breath over what is about to be released in a series of judgements in the earth realm.

And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2).

COMMENTARY

Angels who appear to be in high office due to their proximity to the throne of Elohim are given 7 Trumpets. The sounding of each Trumpet will herald specific judgements in the earth realm during the Great Tribulation.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake (Revelation 8:3-5).

COMMENTARY

The next aspect of the vision is vivid.

- John saw another angel other than the 7 holding a golden censer full of incense.
- The incense is to be offered along with prayers of all saints on the golden altar in front of the throne of Elohim.
- The smoke of the incense, mingled with the prayers of the saints, ascended to Elohim where He is seated.
- As the angel fills a censer with fire from the altar, he casts it into the earth.
- The outcome of the above is that voices, thundering, lightning and an earthquake rocked the earth realm.

And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound (Revelation 8:6).

COMMENTARY

All the above are mere preludes to the Trumpet Judgements.

The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up (Revelation 8:7).

COMMENTARY

At the sound of the first Trumpet, the Great Tribulation increases in intensity from what transpired over the 6 Seal Judgements. These are the Trumpet Judgements:

- Hail and fire mingled with blood is cast upon the earth.
- The ecological disaster which follows is devastating: a third part of trees are burnt up while all green grass is scorched.

And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed (Revelation 8:8-9).

COMMENTARY

At the sound of the second trumpet by the angel, these outcomes follow:

- A great mountain burning with fire (perhaps a fiery meteor) is cast into the sea.
- The third part of the sea became blood (whether this is actual blood or looked like blood is not an issue. The real issue is that such portions of water will not be fit for purpose). By way of context to enable us to understand the scope of the ecological disaster, the US Geological Services estimates that 71 percent of the planet earth's surface is covered with water.
- The third part of marine life (Whales, Sharks, Dolphins, Sea lions, fishes, and various kinds of sea food) just perished.
- One third of all ships would be destroyed. According to the UK government website, as at end of 2020, there were 62,100 vessels in the world's trading

fleet. If we add the many cruise ships, ocean liners, submarines, oil tankers, container ships, private yachts, and various types of boats and canoes ply the oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, and streams, the number would be exceedingly great.

And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter (Revelation 8:10-11).

COMMENTARY

When the third Trumpet sounds, the plagues move to the fresh waters.

- A great burning star falls from the heavens falls upon a third part of the fresh waters of the earth: the flowing rivers, streams, and fountains.
- The name of the star is given as Wormwood. This has a very bitter substance which creates sadness.
- On impact with the waters of the earth realm, a third part of them became bitter and undrinkable. This led to the death of many people.

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise (Revelation 8:12).

COMMENTARY

When the 4th angel sounds the 4th Trumpet, a number of cataclysmic events followed.

- A third part of the Sun, Moon and the Stars were smitten or struck.
- A third part of these sources of natural light was blacked out.
- A third part of each day and night season was deprived of light. In effect, there were shorter days and longer nights during the period.

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! (Revelation 8:13)

COMMENTARY

Following the sounding of the 4th Trumpet, there was a pause. During the interim period, these events are pictured.

- An angel flying in the midst of the heavens proclaims, in a loud voice

“Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth.”

- The reason for this warning is that the remaining 3 Trumpet judgements which are yet to sound would bring great woe on inhabitants of the earth. About one third of people will perish with those three trumpet judgements.

One self-evident truth is that Elohim is as merciful as ever. Even when it was time to legally judge inhabitants of the earth, He spreads it out. Perhaps this is to give room for as many as possible to seek and find Him.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Please share one thing you learnt from each of the 4 Trumpet Judgements. 2. What will you do with the lessons in this chapter?

Prelude to Book 2

The Book of Revelation is one of the greatest expressions of the love of our Father. In chapter 1, we see the 3-fold promise:

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (Revelation 1:3).

The first 8 Chapters of the Book were the subject matter of Book 1 of Revelation Unveiled - a Commentary.

Book 2 will focus on exposition of the depth of truth in chapters 9-18. We will see some of the most intense judgements to be poured out on the earth realm during the Great Tribulation while Book three will focus on chapters 19-22.

The value of the book of Revelation is such that there is a warning for those who disregard its provisions.

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book....10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And,

behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:6-7, 10-12).

May Holy Spirit open the heavens and grant you a deep understanding of the truths in Revelation Unveiled.

Course Impact Assessment

1. Which of the following statements is false concerning the Book of Revelations?
 - Most Christians understand what it says and means
 - Most Christian Fear the strong language in some chapters
 - Most Christian have disdain for some interpretations
2. True or False: Some Christian churches including the Anglican Communion, exclude the Book of Revelation entirely from their public readings.
 - True False
3. True or False: John bare record of the Word of God and the testimony of Yeshua, Jesus and all the things He saw.
 - True False
4. Which of the following is one of the radical blessings promised in the Book of Revelation?
 - Reading the book personally does not bring blessings.
 - Hearing the book personally brings blessings
 - A sense of urgency transmitted through the verses is not necessary
5. True or False: The Triune Elohim is not fully aligned in release of this message to the Church
 - True False

6. True or False: The Jews who rejected Yeshua at his first coming will wail at his second coming.

True False

7. Which of the following statement is false concerning John the beloved.

John the beloved wrote the Book of Revelation

John the beloved wrote the Book in the Tabernacle

John the beloved spirit was not broken in suffering

8. Fill in the blanks: Yeshua also announced the reality that His earthly _____ was _____.

9. Which of the following was revealed to John for documentation:

The things he did not see

The things which are

The things which are

10. Select one of the Key features of Revelation and explain what it is, what is the timing of it, and why is it

Masterclass Curriculum

The curriculum includes 43 courses and is divided into five modules consisting of basic and advanced courses. The basic courses are foundational Christian doctrines and beliefs, based entirely and completely on the bible as well as practical principles and practices concerning Ministry and how to fulfil same.

MODULE 1: CHRISTIAN/KINGDOM FOUNDATION

Course 100: The Constitution of the Kingdom

Course 101: Understanding Elohim

Course 102: Understanding Yeshua

Course 103: Holy Spirit: Who He Is and What He does

Course 104: The 16 Fundamental Glorious Truths

Course 105: The 9 Fundamental C's

Course 106: The Ultimate Three: Faith, Hope and Charity

Course 107: Grace

MODULE 2: THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH

Course 108: The Kingdom Church

Course 109: Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

Course 110: The Church of His Vision

Course 111: The Kingdom

Course 112: The Fivefold

Course 113: Spiritual Gifts: What, Why, How

Course 114: Kingdom Leadership

Course 115: Authority

Course 116: The Great Commission

Course 117: Ministerial Ethics

MODULE 3: KINGDOM CITIZEN AND AMBASSADOR

Course 118: The Call, Cost, and Rewards of Discipleship

Course 119: Ministry: Discover, Pursue and Fulfilling

Course 120: Personal Spiritual Growth

Course 121: Market Place Ministry

Course 122: Women in Ministry

Course 123: Rewards of the Faithful

Course 124: Kingdom Culture in Family and Marriage

Course 125: Kingdom Culture Finance and Stewardship

Course 126: Introduction to Christian Counselling

MODULE 4: DOMINION MANDATE OF THE REDEEMED

Course 127: Signs, Wonders, and the Miraculous

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Course 133: All that Yeshua, Jesus Said and Did

Course 134: Apostasies, Heresies, Errors & the Pseudo-Gospel

Course 135: Priesthood and the Kingdom Church

Course 136: Divine Perspective of Purpose

Course 137: 7 Letters from Heaven

Course 138: Legacies of Yeshua

Course 139: Completing the Unfinished Reformation

Course 140: Strategic Kingdom Leadership

Course 141: Understanding the End Times

Course 314: The Things to Come: What Next?

The curriculum is released free of charge to saints worldwide who are willing to utilise the courses to empower other saints. Training saints to function as the Royal Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek. In some parts of the world, Bible Schools have requested and received the curriculum which they use for training. A great company of saints have been trained and ordained through the process worldwide and serve as mentors to saints participating in the Master Class.

Postscript

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HOW TO BE INVOLVED

If you would like to be part of the elect who Elohim will use to impact and transform the Church worldwide with this revelation, there are various ways you can be involved, depending on your skills:

- Promote these revelations to the wider Body through electronic or print means or via Facebook and other Social Media.
- Be part of those who will use revelations in this course to train other leaders and saints within your loop of Kingdom influence.
- You have the skills/capacity to edit or proofread these materials.
- You can support in any other way: financially or otherwise.

Contact us at: visionarymail7@gmail.com

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Understanding Elohim

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The Holy Spirit: Who He is and What He does

The 16 Fundamental Glorious Truths

The 9 Fundamental C's

Three Ultimate Three: Faith, Hope, Charity

Grace

The Kingdom Church

Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

The Kingdom

The Fivefold

Spiritual Gifts: What, Why, How

Kingdom Leadership

Authority

The Great Commission

Ministerial Ethics

The Call, Cost and Rewards of Discipleship

Ministry: Discover, Pursue and Fulfill

Personal Spiritual Growth

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Women in Ministry
Rewards of the Faithful
Kingdom Culture in Family and Marriage
Kingdom Culture Finance and Stewardship
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Priesthood and the Kingdom Church
Divine Perspective of Purpose
7 Letters from Heaven
Legacies of Yeshua
Completing the Unfinished Reformation
Strategic Kingdom Leadership
Understanding the End Times
The Things to Come: What's Next?

About the Author



Apostle George Akalonu and his wife, Pastor Grace Akalonu were called out of denominational Christianity in 1996 and set apart by the Lord to be instruments of connecting, manifesting and empowering saints to function as His one single Body and Kingdom Church held together by Love. They are visionaries of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program (Annual Master Class series), Global School of Ministry, Global Missions Board and Arise Metropolitan Assembly. From their base in Hornchurch, London, England where they live with their five children: Favour, Elect, Arise, Praise and Destiny, they are vessels through which Holy Spirit empowers countless saints and ministers worldwide through the unique Teach, Train, Equip, Activate and Release process committed to their trust. They also serve as International President of International Ministers Fellowship worldwide. They co-labour with a dynamic army of principal officers, mentors, and other volunteers across the globe.

REVELATION UNVEILED

One of the most critical tackles Satan gave to the Church over the past 2000 year is to paint as dark, the glorious light that is in the Book of Revelation. The Book contains a series of visions of the future that will surely come to pass which Yeshua, Jesus gave to John for His Church, which is backed by a 3-fold promise of blessing for reading, hearing, and doing.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Unfortunately, most ministers and saints avoid the Book like the plague. Some use as an excuse the solemn warning in Revelation 22:18-19 as excuse for avoiding the book.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Clearly, the warning is against distortion or twisting of truth. If the book was not meant to be read, studied, and understood, the Lord would not have directed that it be unsealed for public consumption.

Revelation 22:10-12 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Just as other books of the Bible, it is the Holy Spirit Who gives light, grants insight and understanding. After many years of circling the subject, He has given us the privilege of a systematic exposition of the Book of Revelations. In an easy-to-read manner which runs a verse-by-verse commentary, this book is finally available for all who wish to understand where we are headed as the Kingdom Church, and the eternal fate of the righteous and the unrighteous.

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