

1 ☐ A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 16

2 ☐ ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART

3 ☐ REVELATION 4:3-6

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.

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.

5 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.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

4 ☐ REVELATION 4:7-11

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.

8 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.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honor 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 honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

5 ☐ ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN

- This is the organization of the saints set in as they receive their rewards according to their positions with God

6 ☐ ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART

7 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The entire first chapter of Ezekiel is another picture that Ezekiel was given of this time and organization right after the Rapture
- Ezekiel was shown this wheel in the middle of the wheel
- This shows the glory of God and His bride, His church
- This applies to the church today also because it shows that the ones in the bride make no moves without it being a move that God says move; God says go, you go, God says stay, you stay
- You do all things according to Him because the Scripture teaches that He is the head of this body

8 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

9 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The body that is Christ cannot do anything by itself
- This chart shows the entire body of the bride after the Rapture
- Ezekiel is describing the same things that John saw in Revelation and he also uses earthly words to describe the heavenly things He sees
- The word beast is used to depict power
- We must do all the works we are called to do while we still can here

10 ☐ **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1**

1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3 the word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him.

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

11 ☐ **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1 cont.**

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the color of burnished brass.

8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side ; they four also had the face of an eagle.

12 **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1 cont.**

11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like

burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the color of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

13 **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1 cont.**

17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

21 When those went, these went ; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the color of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

14 ☐ **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1 cont.**

23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of a host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

15 ☐ **EZEKIEL: CHAPTER 1 cont.**

26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

27 And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

16 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

17 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 4:3

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.

- There is no attempt to name, much less to describe, absolute Deity
- John could see only the beauty and brilliancy of the power and glory of God
- The rainbow was mentioned by both John and Ezekiel
- The rainbow is the seal of God's promise

18 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The rainbow is reminding Him, as well as the people on earth, of His promise to all generations and to all times to never again totally destroy all of the earth as He did in the flood
- The earth is to be redeemed
- There are two ways of purging to redeem:
 1. Blood
 2. Fire
- People maybe purged by blood but the earth must be purged by fire

19 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The nations that refuse the Blood will be the ones that pass through the fire

Genesis 8:21-22

21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savor; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth: neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

20 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- This promise will be there, right at the Rapture
- We won't be like Noah and ride it out with every living creature being destroyed
- Sin will be eradicated but the earth not destroyed
- All the nations will have to pass through the fire

21 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

2 Peter 3:9-10

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering 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.

- This is much like what was said of Noah in Noah's day that the earth was utterly destroyed by the flood

22 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- In the Day of the Lord the earth wasn't destroyed and made new again it was simply cleansed by the fire

2 Peter 3:11-13

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 While 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.

23 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- It is not a new earth and not even a new heaven
- It is redeemed earth and redeemed heavens
- Every one of the last 7 plagues carries fire

Revelation 6:14

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

24 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 8:7 & 10

7 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.

10 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

ivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

25 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 16:8-9

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

- The earth is literally on fire, but the fire does not come to all parts of the earth at the same time
- People will live through it
- The nations are still here when it is all over

26 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- God will keep His promise and He will not again destroy all mankind or every living thing
- The fires we see are sent from God and are therefore supernatural in origin
- The wheel in the middle of the wheel carries out God's orders
- Heavenly things are never symbolized
- What we are seeing here, these actions, is supernatural from God to the earth
- Great numbers will not take the mark of the beast because of these supernatural happenings

27 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

28 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- On earth God's people are divided into churches
- In heaven churches lose their identity
- We will be part of the one bride without respect of where we came from
- The saints will be divided into new organized groups
- The work has not ended, only the methods have changed, and a new element has been added
- Here God's people do not dispense judgement, they dispense grace
- Judgement is coming and the saints will be the agents of judgement just as they are agents of grace

29 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The work which the saints must do after the Rapture is greater than that which they face now
- Organization is necessary and the saints will be organized according to the qualifications, works and callings of right now
- The groups of saints are called by names that may seem strange to us but we must remember John was in heaven and he was seeing things that had never been seen on earth so there are no earthly words to describe it

30 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- These words are not adequate, but they are all we have and they do give us a picture
- John first describes here the 24 elders; they sit upon 24 thrones
- They are not the closest to the throne; these would be the living ones in verse 6
- The number 24 is a representative number, there will actually be a very great number of these elders
- The 24 elders represent saints of both the Old Testament and New Testament times
- This is the same as the 12 patriarchs and 12 apostles represent the saints of both dispensations

31 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The 12 tribes represents the nations in the Old Testament
- The 12 apostles represent the individuals in the New Testament
- In the Old Testament they had 12 elders, that served continuously, as judges of the 12 tribes
- There are also guests of the bridegroom

32 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 21:12

12 and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

- The Scriptures do not tell us why these names are written here and on the 12 foundations in verse 14
- The saints in heaven are identified by their clothing, by their work

and by their position

- Their clothing is always white, they wear crowns and they sit on thrones

33 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- Their work involves redemption, including preaching the gospel and the administration of the judgements and plagues
- Later their work will include the reconstruction of all things during the 1,000 year reign of Christ

Revelation 3:5

5 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.

34 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 19:8

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 2:10

10 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.

35 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

Revelation 3:11

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

- Another group of saints in this heavenly army are called the 4 living ones (beasts in KJV) in verse 6
- These are in the midst of the throne, the 24 elders are seated around the throne
- Another groups of saints are called the 4 horsemen, we get into detail about them as we go on

36 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

37 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- These titles represent groups of organized saints not individuals
- The cherubim represents the power of God
- The cherubim are heavenly beings who will be present but all the work will be done by the saints

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels ? how much more things that pertain to this life?

38 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

39 ☐ **REVELATION 4:8-11**

8 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.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honor 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 honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

40 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN CHART**

41 ☐ **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The living ones lead all heaven in praising God and are next under Jesus in authority in carrying out the program of redemption
- Living ones, elders, horsemen, and others - all redeemed ones - "execute the judgements written" in the seven-sealed book that is about to be opened

Matthew 19:28

28 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 throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

42 **ORGANIZATION IN HEAVEN cont.**

- This lesson stresses the importance of your work here, the importance of being faithful, of being diligent, of redeeming your time
- The urgency of the day is here
- God has been trying to get us ready, patiently teaching us, and then now not quite so patient that we may be ready
- There is no place in the raptured bride for one that does not work for Him and give all to Him

43 **END GRAPHIC**