

Session 5 The Sea of Glass like Crystal (Rev. 4:6; 15:2)

I. BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4-5)

- A. Revelation 4-5 give us the most insight into the beauty of God's Throne in all of Scripture. They describe the Holy of Holies of the Eternal City called the New Jerusalem. What God put around His Throne expresses His beauty to creation.
- B. There are two Thrones highlighted by John. The Father's Throne and Jesus' Throne at the Father's right hand. These two Thrones manifest the one authority of the Godhead and are both under the same rainbow and are surrounded by the same crystal Sea.
- C. The reality of the Sea was revealed to John so as to strengthen the perseverance of the martyrs. When we see the diamond city, created by God, then the glory of this brass city (earthly glory) greatly fades. No matter how big and polished our brass trophy is in this age, it fades before the diamond city. We gain courage when we see our personal destiny related to this Sea and City.

II. THE SEA OF GLASS LIKE CRYSTAL

² A Throne set in heaven...³ He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the Throne...like an emerald. ⁴ Around the Throne were 24 thrones (elders) ...⁵ From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the Throne (Holy Spirit). ⁶ Before the Throne was a sea of glass, like crystal... (Rev. 4:2-6)

² I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast (Antichrist)...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. ³ They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God..." (Rev. 15:2-3)

- A. God shines forth like a jasper stone (crystal or diamond) with translucent splendor. He appears like a sardius stone (deep red gem) with His fiery desire and burning passion as seen in redemption and judgment. The jasper and sardius give us insight into what God looks and feels like. An emerald rainbow speaks of God's covenant mercies over all the activity of His Throne (Gen. 9:13-16). The emerald rainbow speaks of how God acts in tender, life giving mercy.
- B. Lightning speaks of the release of divine energy and light. Thunderings speak of personal and corporate divine messages with power. Throughout the Eternal City, divine lightning strikes individuals and corporate gatherings with impartation of His power as does the thunder. The voices or sounds speak of God's music that fills the City (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).
- C. The seven lamps of fire speak of the Holy Spirit's work and presence (Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 5:6). This fire beautifies and anoints all that comes nearest to God.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him... (Dan 7:10 NAS)

III. THE CELESTIAL SEA IS DIRECTLY DESCRIBED FOUR TIMES IN SCRIPTURE

- A. Moses, Ezekiel and the Apostle John saw different qualities and features of the Sea. Each added more insight. Moses starts with the least information. Ezekiel adds to it. John's adds far more. In other words, the Scripture gives us a progression of revelation of the Sea. Each of the four passages focuses on specific points of emphasis. There are several secondary passages that supplement these four main passages.
- B. Since the Sea is our greatest and final destiny, we must take time to meditate on it and study it. Our highest pleasure and destiny are manifest in our times before the Throne on the Sea.
- C. Moses received the first revelation of the Sea in Ex. 24 (approximately 1500 BC). Moses was the first to see this heavenly ocean as the supernatural gathering place of celebration and intimacy. He referred to it as a sapphire pavement (Ex. 24:10). Moses experienced a group visitation that included 74 men who worshipped and ate a covenant meal with God. They are in God's presence for only a brief time, then Moses went into God's presence for forty days (Ex. 24:17-18).

1 Now He (God) said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD (Rev. 4:1), you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near the LORD... 9 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity (like crystal) 11 But on the nobles (70 elders) of...Israel He did not lay His hand (kill them). So they saw God, and they ate and drank. 12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain...I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written...17 The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. Moses was on the mountain 40 days... (Ex. 24:1-2, 9-12, 17-18)

²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (Ex. 33:20)

- D. The elders worshipped God from afar. This is speaking in absolute not relative terms. In the absolute sense of the New Jerusalem, the saints will be on the Sea of glass for long periods with resurrected bodies (without the limitations of our fallen bodies) in face to face worship of God (Rev. 22:4). In Ex. 24 they saw God's feet not his face. Moses saw God's back (Ex. 33:20-23).
- E. Ezekiel received the second revelation of the Sea (approximately 600 BC). Ezekiel saw the same sapphire pavement. He described it as an awesome or terrifying crystal firmament (expanse; NAS) before Jesus' sapphire Throne (Ezek. 1:16-28). He saw Jesus' Throne as sapphire (blue). The firmament is a crystal floor extending out from Jesus' Throne that goes out into the vast Sea. It is the same color as the Son of God's Throne. It is a sapphire pavement and a sapphire Throne.
- ²² The firmament...was like...an awesome crystal...²⁶ above the firmament...was...a Throne...like a sapphire stone...with the appearance of a man (Jesus) high above it...²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow...was the...brightness all around it. (Ezek. 1:22-28)*

- F. John received two revelations of the Sea (approximately 90 AD). He is the first to call the pavement (Moses) or firmament (Ezekiel) a Sea because he saw its vastness. Its size probably parallels the size of the Eternal City which is 12,000 furlongs (1500 miles) cubed (Rev. 21:16). This is a vast Sea not a lake or pond.
- G. John saw the rainbow like Ezekiel saw and the fact that it was a gathering place like Moses saw.
² I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)

IV. THE SEA: GROUPS WHO EXPERIENCED PROPHETIC TOKENS OF THE SEA

- A. These are prophetic pictures of group visitations that give us insight into what we will experience on the heavenly Sea and what we experience in part in the End-Time Church.
- B. A group visitation was seen in on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19; all Israel) and Ex. 24 (74 elders). They saw dimensions of what occurs when the saints stand before God on the crystal Sea.
¹⁶ There were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people...trembled. ¹⁷ Moses brought the people...to meet with God...¹⁸ Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire...and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (Ex. 19:16-18)
- C. A group visitation is seen in 2 Chr. 5-7 as tokens of the crystal Sea glory breaks into the Solomon's Temple with fire, wind, sound, and noises from another world on 120 priests
¹¹ When the priests...¹² and the Levites who were the singers...stood...having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them 120 priests sounding with trumpets...¹³ when the trumpeters and singers were as one...in praising and thanking the LORD...the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2 Chr. 5:11-14)
¹ When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven...and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² The priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. ³ When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down...they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped... (2 Chr. 7:1-3)
- D. A group visitation occurred in the Upper Room with fire, wind and sound on 120 intercessors.
² Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:2-3)
- E. In the Millennial Kingdom, God's people will experience tokens of the Sea.
⁵ The LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. (Isaiah 4:5)

V. THREE TRANSITIONAL GENERATIONS

- A. God revealed dimensions of the Sea to the two transitional generations (Moses and the apostles). I believe the third transitional generation or the generation in which the Lord returns will experience more than the previous two.
- B. What the 144,000 experience on Mt. Zion in (Rev. 14:1-3) is perhaps something like what the apostles experienced for 40 days when Jesus appeared to them (Acts 1:3).
- C. In August 1984, I had a heavenly experience in which I saw part of the leadership of a worldwide young adult prayer movement. The Lord showed me a portion of the sapphire Sea which spoke of the unveiling of the knowledge of God.

VI. FIRE ON THE SEA (REV. 4:6; 15:2)

⁶ ***Before the Throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rev. 4:6)***

² ***A sea of glass mingled with fire, and those...standing on the sea of glass. (Rev. 15:2)***

- A. At the center of this Sea is a royal palace called the Throne of God which is also the Holy of Holies in the Temple in heaven.
- B. The Sea of glass is filled with flaming fire and is the place the saints gather together before God. This crystal sea is spectacular and unique. It is the gathering place of the redeemed or the heavenly “conference center.” The saints will gather from all through the city on the Sea. One challenging dimension of a large open air meeting is sound and sight. This place will have great sound with fantastic lights. It is a place of joy and unity being the pinnacle of celebration of our intimacy with God. The saints in heaven will gather there before the Rapture (Rev. 15-16).
- C. We will gather in the Holy of Holies on the sapphire sea before a sapphire throne. These celebrations are central events in eternity.
- D. We will live in the New Jerusalem and will visit the Sea many times. We will live and work throughout the City and the New Earth, but will be called to city wide convocations on the Sea. We will not spend every day there. There will be holy convocations when God calls the whole Kingdom together. We will be doing our work in the Kingdom of God, then when the conference times come, we will stop everything in the city to gather on the Sea.
- E. When we stand on that Sea, we will experience many supernatural dynamics: sights, colors, sounds, waves of glory, fire, the seven lamps or torches, wind, fragrance and the music along with the divine energy that comes with lightning and thunder and wind. The Sea of glass is mingled with the flaming fire of the Holy Spirit that is resting on the saints. The activity on the Sea will penetrate to the deepest parts of the saints who stand there with a resurrected body that is receptive to all that occurs on the Sea.

- F. The vibrant presence of God will be experienced in the greatest way on the Sea. The air currents of God on that Sea will go right through our being with power.
- G. The terrifying, sparkling, awesome crystal fire and glory will penetrate our spirit and body. The power of God will blow like air currents across the Sea. Our humanity will reach the heights of joy and glory on that Sea.
- H. The Sea is before the Throne probably on all sides, thus, it may surround the Throne. There is a vast ocean of beauty that sparkles like a diamond. It is a crystal sapphire sea with deep blue color radiating through it. It is terrifying in its radiant splendor. It has many supernatural qualities related to it. It is hundreds of miles in each direction and extends beyond what the eye can see.
- I. Moses saw the Sea as a pavement of sapphire (deep blue in color; Ex. 24:10). The pavement is the same color as Jesus' Throne (Ezek. 1:26). There is a specific relationship between the people on the sapphire Sea to the human king on the sapphire Throne.
¹⁰ They saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. (Ex. 24:10)
- J. This Sea results in a great light shining before God's Throne of light (Ps. 104:2). The rainbow, sapphire, and fire will all be reflected by the crystal Sea.
² Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment... (Ps. 104:2)
- K. The bronze sea (1 Kings 7:23-26; 2 Kings 16:17). In the Old Testament, in Solomon's Temple there was the molten sea of brass, it was 24,000 gallons. It was the largest piece of furniture in the Temple. It is positioned right before the ark and the mercy seat and speaks of being washed before coming near to God. There were 24 orders of priests in David's organization of the Temple.