

Christ Fellowship

God's Design in the Greek Scriptures: Revelation

The Heavenly Interlude

Series: The Life of Christ
The 2nd Advent of Jesus
Lesson 42
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- I. The Things Which You Have Seen: The Christ, 1.1-20
- II. The Things Which Are: The Churches, 2.1—3.22
- III. The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter: The Consummation, 4.1—22.21
 - A. The Prologue: The Heavenly Court, 4.1—5.14
 - I. The judgments in the tribulation, 6.1—11.18
 - a. The seven seals, 6.1—8.1
 - b. The seven trumpets, 8.2—11.19

The true attitude of the Church, and that to which all the representations and admonitions of the Scriptures are framed, is to be looking and ready any day and every day for the coming of Christ to seize away his waiting and watching saints. But in faithfully assuming this attitude, and thus hoping and expecting the speedy fulfilment of what has been promised, the Church has been made to see one notable and quickening period after another pass away without bringing the consummation which was anticipated. Eve thought the promise on the point of fulfilment when Cain was born; but He whom she was expecting was yet 4,000 years away. When Simeon took the infant Savior to his bosom . . . he supposed that the time for the consummation had arrived; but it was only the preliminary advent that he had lived to witness. . . . The early Christians were lively in their expectations that yet in their day the standard of the coming One would be seen unfurled in the sky, and all their hopes be consummated; but the days of the Apostles and of the apostolic fathers passed, and still "the Bridegroom tarried." . . . Although the Saviour may come any day, and our duty is to be looking for Him every day, it is still possible that all present prognostications on the subject may fail, as they have always failed; that years and years of earnest and confident expectation may go by without bringing the Lord from heaven; and that delay after delay, and ever repeating prolongations of the time of waiting may intervene, till it becomes necessary for the preservation of the faith of God's people to hear the fresh edict from the lips of their Lord, that "there shall be no more delay." Though the coming of the consummation be slow, it will come. There is not another truth in God's word that is so peculiarly authenticated. . . . Shall we then have any doubt upon the subject? Shall we allow the failure of men's figures and prognostications to shake our confidence or obscure our hope? Shall we suffer the many and long delays that have occurred, or that ever may occur, to drive us into the scoffer's ranks?

Joseph A. Seiss, "The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation," Rev. 10:6.

- A) The introduction, 8.2-6
- B) The first trumpet: earth, 8.7
- C) The second trumpet: sea, 8.8-9
- D) The third trumpet: inland waters, 8.10-11
- E) The fourth trumpet: celestial, 8.12
- F) The announcement of the three woes, 8.13
- G) The fifth trumpet: demonic locusts (1st woe), 9.1-12
- H) The sixth trumpet: demonic horses (2nd woe), 9.13-21
- I) An interlude (testament and testimony), 10.1—11.14
 - 1) The little scroll, 10.1-11
 - a) The angel and the little scroll, 10.1-4
 - (A) The character of the angel, 10.1-2
Cf. Ezek 3.2, 11; 2.9-10; Jer 1.10; Re: "feet," cf Deut 11.24
 - (B) The cry of the angel, 10.3-4
 - (1) The character of the cry, 10.3a
 - (2) The consequence of the cry, 10.3b-4
 - (a) Result: seven thunders, 10.3b
The imagery of the "thunder" may well be as in Jn12.28 when the Father speaks from heaven!
 - (b) Restraint: not to write, 10.4
 - (C) The angel and the oath, 10.5-7
 - (1) The affirmation of the oath, 10.5-6
 - (2) The completion of God's mystery, 10.7
 - (D) The angel and the apostle, 10.8-11
 - (1) The apostle's receiving of the little scroll, 10.8-9a

Often, those who “eat” prophetic Scripture “sit on the edge of their seat” and focus on its quick fulfillment. Like a perpetual “sugar high,” it provides an initial surge of energy and motivation, but will never sustain like a balanced meal of God’s Word. The continual chasing after the latest prophetic conference, while superficially treating prophetic passages and never grasping important aspects of God’s character—His heart for the lost and His ultimate interest in restoration over judgment—is sure to lead to disillusionment and will shipwreck the faith of some. Critics of the Rapture rightfully point to those who continually overemphasize prophetic passages within a shallow framework of Scriptural understanding and are forever watching for Antichrist rather than Christ.

Anthony C. Garland, A Testimony of Jesus Christ: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation (Galaxie Software, 2006; 2006), Re 10:10.

- (2) The apostle’s eating the little scroll, 10.9b-10
- (3) The apostle’s commission from the angel, 10.11
- 2) The temple, 11.1-2
- 3) The two witnesses, 11.3-13
 - a) The ministry of the two witnesses, 11.3-6
 - (A) Their time, 11.3
 - (B) Their ministry, 11.4-6
 - (1) Their portrayal, 11.4
 - (2) Their protection, 11.5
 - (3) Their power, 11.6
 - b) The murder of the two witnesses, 11.7-9
 - (A) The time and means of their death, 11.7
 - (B) The display of their bodies, 11.8-9
 - c) The merriment over the death of the two witnesses, 11.10
 - d) The resurrection of the two witnesses, 11.11-13
 - (A) The resurrection, 11.11
 - (B) The ascension, 11.12
 - (C) The earthquake, 11.13
- 4) The transition between the woes, 11.14