Book of Revelation – A Cursory Overview of the Book Series REV-65 - --Revelation Review--

REVIEW OF REVELATION

It is God's purpose to have a people embrace the broad spectrum of truth, before the end comes. [Remember, the sealing of the Holy Spirit, involves a settling into truth—both intellectually and spiritually—so that the saints cannot be moved!]

It is needful to grasp a variety of metaphors in this process. [This is partly why Jesus used so many illustrations in the gospel account, especially from nature to express what the Kingdom of Heaven was like.]

The Book of Revelation is the greatest revelation of the Bible, as a document (a book). In many respects it's a prophecy expressive of who the people of God will be and what they will experience in giving the final message to a lost world.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is that written record of both the *Testimony of Jesus* and the *Faith of Jesus* combined in His church. Paul adequately expressed it in these terms:

"The unsearchable riches of Christ" he preached was "to make all men see what the fellowship of the mystery" consisted, "which from the beginning of the world had been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

And for what purpose or intent was this revelation given? 1- To have it "be known by the church." 2- To "make it known by the church." Or

To show "unto the principalities and powers in the heavenlies, by the church the manifold wisdom of God." {Ephesians 3:9, 10}

Let us keep in mind that

"In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end." $$--{AA 584.2}$$

If we consider the book of Daniel which compliments the Revelation, we will find that "one is a prophecy, the other is a revelation" (AA 585.1). Since all the books of the Bible meet and end in the Revelation, we can expect the major teachings (doctrines) of Scripture in the Revelation. In the beginning of the Bible, we note—*the Creation Story, the Fall of Man, the Plan of Redemption and the Great Controversy theme.* When sin entered our little world, not only was grace made available, but the entire "Plan of Redemption" went into operation and begin to be revealed to Adam and Eve. The Great Controversy which was taken up on earth (Genesis 3), in the Fall of Man, revealed a concept which God uses all the way through the Bible to restore human beings into His lovely image. It is the concept of *Judgment*, as we've become familiar in our study of the book of Revelation. [We need to expand our minds re. this concept, for it is much broader in scope than we have realized.]

Note this explanation:

Judgment is the process by which God draws the sinner, who is in a selfcondemned state, to Himself by treating him as though he is righteous (i.e. with the presumption of innocence). This is accomplished through a series of questions designed to move the 'individual(s) mentally to think "through the process" of the person they have just become due to their morally inferior decisions.

Ex: The authentic case for understanding is also the original case for consideration: *The day when Adam and Eve sinned.*

Jesus came into the garden, as was his custom at that time of day, asking Adam 'where are thou?' {prior to his fall--Adam "responded as soon as he heard his footsteps in the garden and hastened to shorten the distance between him and his Maker."-RH 1/26/1897 par.13}. The Lord treated Adam no differently, i.e. with the presumption of innocence. Then through asking questions, not only to arrive at truth, but to help the 'guilty pair' think through the process of who they had become due to their 'morally inferior decisions.' Hence, the question, "Who told thee that thou wast naked?" How did this information come into your head? It wasn't the picture I gave you; someone else influenced you and put this wrong picture of Me in your head to make this 'inferior decision.' Further, the Lord wanted Adam to realize that his fear and self-condemnation were a consequence of his actions. Jesus wanted Adam to seek repentance of heart and to know that Christ's love for them had not changed. [Note Isaiah 1:18; 53:1; and Luke 19:10]

This is always God's intent and purpose in Judgment—a repentant heart.

Back to the book of Revelation. Now with this expanded version of 'Judgment' in mind let us review the book from this perspective.

Since we have just finished Revelation 20, the Executive Judgment is still fresh on our minds. But let us return to the early part of the book and note how the first aspect of Judgment, with this expanded understanding, is actually what prepares "the remnant" of His people to stand on Mt. Zion with Him, before probation closes.

The diagram below will help us see the big picture in this review lesson and hopefully aid us in appropriating it into our lives to be among that 'remnant' people.

The Sanctuary Teaching

1) Who are being examined? 2) What's their verdict? 3) Who faces the execution? [Below the answer line, give biblical support in the book of Revelation. i.e which chps?]

<u>INVESTIGATION</u>	<u>VERDICT</u>	<u>EXECUTION</u>
Ans		

4) The Sanctuary teaching shows up early in the book of Revelation, which is the plan of redemption in symbol. Judgment is an integral part of understanding this system of truth. Match the chapters with the sanctuary language below

One like Son of man in the midst of 7 Lamps	 Seal of the Living God
Walketh in midst of 7 golden lamps	 A great Multitude clothed with white robes before the throne and the Lamb
I will give to eat of the hidden manna	 Angel stood at the altar having a golden censer
Shall be clothed in white raiment	 Rise & measure temple of God, the altar,& them
Make a pillar in the temple of My God	 Two olive trees and the two lampstands
White raiment that thou may be clothed	 Temple of God opened in heaven, ark seen
Sit with Me in My Throne	 They overcame him by The blood of the Lamb
7 Lamps of fire burning before	 War against those that keep commandments Book of life of the Lamb
the throne Stood a Lamb slain 7 Spirits of God sent	 slain from foundation of Lamb on Mt Zion with
forth into all the earth	144,000 standing
Souls under the altar slain for word of God	 Patience of the saints keep commandments and faith of Jesus

Did you notice how many crucial verses are linked directly with the sanctuary in these chapters above? Most of which are also tied to the theme of Judgment.

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Temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened	
Temple was filled w/ smoke	—— His wife arrayed in fine
Great Voice out of the	linen white and clean
temple saying to 7 angels	Shall be priest of God &
Great Voice out of the temple, from throne,	Christ / reign 1000 years
saying, It is done	

It was interesting to note that sanctuary language hardly showed up in any of the chapters dealing with the 'dwellers of the earth.' This brings us to our last question.

Why do you think that is the case? _____

We will go over more in our Monday night study on this review, but hopefully this Review lesson will help you in not only acquainting you with what we've studied through the book these last two and half years, but encourage you to press on to obtain the benefits of the Sanctuary in the closing up of the Day of Atonement, in the Judgment of the Living process.

Revelation 21 and 22, like Genesis 1 and 2 before sin entered, is after sin and sinners are no more. We will now finish out the book the next few weeks with joy looking forward to the reward the Lord has for his faithful saints.

What a journey this has been. How much the Lord has taught us. We can only praise Him for His marvellous grace to us and through His power overcome on our own account, as this last statement invokes:

"Now we Christ's purchased possession, must become soldiers of His cross, and conquer in our own behalf, on our own account, through the power and wisdom given us from above. The influence of the cross of Calvary is to vanguish every earthly and spiritual evil power; and we need to know the plan of the battle, that we may work in harmony with Christ."

- RH September 29, 1891, par. 1