

The Seven Spirits of God

TheMindofChrist.net

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February 2022

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PREFACE

There is a subject too little understood by God's people in these closing days of earth's history. But it is of necessity that those who plan, who are striving to make up that number who "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth," who are "without fault before the throne," should study this subject out for understanding.

SEVEN SPIRITS IN REVELATION

It is only in the Book of Revelation¹ that we find reference to the Seven Spirits of God. Four times only do we find this phrase "seven Spirits" appearing. Each reference, especially when understood in its context, conveys important truths. But more than this, the order of each occurrence is important in the overall picture Jesus desires the reader to grasp. We will look more closely at these matters in the Revelation Segment.

1. Keep in mind, all the books of the Bible meet and end in the Revelation {AA 585.1}. The Holy Spirit impressed John in vision to write out just what was revealed to him. Since the Holy Spirit had given similar pictures or impressions to O.T. writers, John was just recording what had already been written beforehand, but from the viewpoint, insight, and vision Holy Spirit gave O.T. prophets, for the last days.

It needs to be understood that these 7 Spirits are in actuality the 7 attributes of the Holy Spirit which human beings need in the work of overcoming for this last generation.

Before looking at the order or the important truths as given in the Revelation, let us first look at where these “Seven Spirits” come from in the Old Testament.0

SEVEN SPIRITS - ISAIAH 11

Turning our attention to the book of Isaiah, we see these “Seven Spirits” listed. Note this passage in Isaiah 11:

- 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
11:2 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;
11:3 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:
11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

A) The Branch

These verses in chapter 11 of Isaiah are full of vital meaning. Let’s examine each text in its order:

Vs.1 –Sets the foundation—Christ (the Rod and Branch) grows out of the stem the roots of Jesse.²

Vs.2 –The Spirit of the Lord rests upon Him³

[six of these spirits—attributes of Holy Spirit are listed in their order].

But the 7th is not simply listed as the other six are listed, why? Instead, Hebrew poetry as typical throughout Scripture, is invoked to elaborate on #7 as seen in the next few verses.

2. Rev 5:5 -Christ the root of David. {John under inspiration, borrowed from Isaiah this truth.}

3. cf Luke 1:35, Matt 1:18,20

Vs.3 –Tells us that Holy Spirit makes “the Branch” of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. [This word is uniquely chosen in the Hebrew, for it is the only time mentioned in Old Testament. This word, H7306 “*ruwach*” is defined as *quick understanding* --it means—to smell, scent, perceive, breath, and odor.

The first time this word is used in the Bible (the Law of First Mention) is in Genesis 8:21. When Noah right after the Flood, built an altar to God and offered burnt offerings of every clean beast and clean fowl. It was a sweet savour (odor) the Lord smelled.⁴

So how are we to make sense of this in light of this term “quick understanding?”

The Branch had discernment in the “fear of the Lord” (for He came to do His Father’s will, John 4:34). This pleased His Father as a sweet odor. But there is more for our contemplation. This phrase, “the fear of the Lord” is the sixth spirit. Notice it is repeated here in verse 3. This is not just for emphasis, but to show us at least two things:

- 1) The first six spirits as a whole are connected with the 7th, which comes to us not simply stated as the first six, but in the poetic Hebrew style so prevalent throughout Scripture (as we will now focus on).
- 2) The sixth spirit is inextricably attached in principle to the 7th spirit, not only in how the passages (vs.2-3 and by extension through verse 5) are written, but in a similar fashion to the “sevens” in the book of Revelation—seven seals, trumpets, and plagues particularly.⁵

B) Seven Spirits /6-Fold Attributes

Before we look at Isaiah 11 from the beautiful poetic style the Hebrew is written in, we need to recap that the “7 Spirits” are actually the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit. {Isaiah 4:4 does state the 7th simply, but this will be looked at briefly under the next segment.} These attributes are essential to the character development God’s people MUST experience to be sealed, to equip them for the latter rain and at last stand through the time of trouble without an Intercessor in the Most Holy Place of the Sanctuary in heaven.

4. cf Eph 5:2 – Christ gave Himself for us as a sacrifice to God –a sweet smelling savour.

5. See APPENDEX Footnote 5

When we look at the application in the Book of Revelation, this picture will become very exciting to the serious Bible student. Think of it as a mining operation for precious ore in Holy Writ. God has so authored this Book in such a way that some truths on the surface are easily grasped, others are at various deeper levels for the serious student of the Word. What a privilege that He has structured the Scriptures in this fashion, we should be ever grateful.

A detailed study on these Seven Spirits / 7-Fold Attributes will be forth coming in the near future by this author. We will examine each of these spirits/attributes from Scripture and how best we can apply them to our lives in the work of overcoming.

Let us next look closely at Isaiah 11 and this fabulous Hebrew poetic picture.

C) 7th Spirit – Hebrew Poetry

The passage in Isaiah 4:4, which was briefly referenced in B) above, does simply state the “spirit of judgment” in tandem with the “spirit of burning” (closely related). In essence, the Lord is speaking in summary language in this passage of the work of all seven spirits or attributes, the 6-fold list recorded in Isaiah 11:2 and the more elaborate 7th spirit in verses 3 through 5. As is clearly stated, it is a work of cleansing ‘washing away the filth’ and ‘purging the blood’ of His remnant people who are ‘written among the living in Jerusalem’ (4:3) {which describes the sealing of His people worldwide}.

*When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion,
and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the
spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. -Isaiah 4:4*

A viable reason why the 7th spirit is simply stated here, before the list in Isa 11 is because God was describing the work of cleansing /sealing /blotting out of sins in this passage. Only the 7th spirit is necessary to reference since it encapsulates all the rest, all the other six spirits.⁶

The diagram on the following page reveals this poetic style known as a chiasm. Bible writers use chiasms to convey deep spiritual truths to the discerning reader.⁷

6. In the same sense that the proclamation of third angel’s message encapsulates the first two messages of Rev 14. This can be understood simply by studying the subject out in accordance with the SOP. This idea is also understood in the ‘Laodicean message’ (the 7th Church) which in essence incorporates the other six churches. Thus, it would apply here re. the 7 Spirits of Isa 4:4; 11:2-5.

7. Chiasms are literary devices where typically two matching parallel thoughts are expressed in a reverse order sequence once the pinnacle passage is reached (stated).

Here we see in typical poetic fashion the Hebrew style that runs throughout the Bible, the 7th spirit /attribute of Isaiah 11:3-5.

C Holy Spirit will make [the Branch] of quick understanding
– with righteousness shall He judge the poor and
– reprove with equity for the meek of the earth -vs.3

How He judges us

D **He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth**

D **with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked**
-vs.4

Destruction at the
2nd Coming for all
not protected by
His righteousness

C and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins,
and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. -vs.5

How He clothes us

We will examine this structure in greater detail when we return from the Revelation application study in the next section. But suffice it to say, quick glance will indicate a pattern of judgment /destruction-death /protection in the C-D-D-C statements.

APPLICATION--BOOK OF REVELATION

We now turn our attention to the Book of Revelation where we find four passages in the book with this phrase, “seven Spirits of God.” These four passages are Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; and 5:6. We now look at each in this order—

REVELATION 1:4 - Seven Spirits before His Throne

REVELATION 3:1 - He that hath the Seven Spirits of God

REVELATION 4:5 - Seven Lamps of Fire Burning before the Throne
which are the Spirits of God

REVELATION 5:6 - In the midst of the throne stood a Lamb as it had been **slain**
having Seven Eyes which are the Seven Spirits of God

Did you notice that each passage, builds? It is the principle known as 'Repeat and Enlarge' so prevalent in the prophetic books of Scripture. This principle builds on the former reference or perhaps first reference of a subject, and in repeating it adds to what was already stated.

REVELATION 1:4

- Seven Spirits before His Throne

Context: > from Him which Is, Was, and Is to come (M.H.P)
> 7 Spirits (Work of the Holy Spirit) (H.P)
> from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness (CY)

The Work of Holy Spirit in the Holy Place

He that hath an ear let him hear.

REVELATION 3:1

- Christ, the One who hath the 7 Spirits of God & 7 stars

Context: > 5th church with a message of sealing/blotting out of sin
[The mention here of the 7 Spirits is two-fold:
1) The 7 Spirits are necessary in the work of overcoming, especially during the sealing process when that time comes in the contemporary application.
2) The fact its mentioned here in the 5th church links a tie to the Sabbath, with in the 4th Commandment contains the seal.

He who holds His church in His hand in a revolted world has promised – I will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb 13:5), for we are the apple of His eye.

REVELATION 4:5

- Seven Lamps of Fire Burning before Throne which are the Seven Spirits of God

Context: > A Throne Scene (Judgment) (M.H.P incl H.P)
[Similar language to Dan 7:9, 10]
> Lightnings, thunderings and voices
[ref the beginning of Investigative Judgment]
> Before the Throne, a sea of glass

The Work of Holy Spirit in the Most Holy Place

REVELATION 5:6

- In the Midst of the Throne stood a Lamb as it had been slain

Context: > Book in Father's hand who sits on the Throne
> Only Lion of Judah /Root of David Prevailed to open the sealed Book
> 24 elders /4 living creatures worship

Implicates Investigative Judgment

Lamb's 7 eyes, the 7 Spirits of God that are sent forth to all the earth

The opening of the seals in the contemporary application indicates the sealing is occurring during the Judgment of the Living.

Work of Holy Spirit in all the earth applying the Christ's Final Atonement from Most Holy Place

The Branch Shall Fill the Earth with the Knowledge of the Lord Isaiah 11

A A Branch shall grow forth out of the roots, and a rod out of the stem of Jesse -vs.1

B The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon [the Branch]
—the spirit of wisdom and understanding -vs.2
—the spirit of counsel and might
—the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord
—the spirit judgment (Isaiah 4:4)

—those 7 Spirits which come out of that Branch show how His righteousness comes to us {cf Rev 1:4; 4:5: 5:6}

These 7 Attributes of the Spirit developed Christ's character, while on earth, into such a beautiful tapestry that it will one day fill the earth with this knowledge (glory) of the Lord through His people. (cf Rev 18:1)

C Holy Spirit will make [the Branch] of quick understanding
— with righteousness shall He judge the poor and
— reprove with equity for the meek of the earth -vs.3

How He Judges us

D **He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth**
D **with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked**
-vs.4

Destruction at the 2nd Coming for all not protected by His righteousness

C and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins,
and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. -vs.5

How He clothes us

B None of the animals mentioned in verses 6-8 'shall hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.' These will not hurt since the Spirit of the Lord [The 7 Spirits] through His people "shall fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord." -vs.9

A A root of Jesse [the Branch] shall stand as an ensign to those who seek His rest. -vs.10

Sabbath Rest

This chiasmic structure teaches so much to us who examine this passage. Both A statements convey a similar picture, but with the added point that "the Branch" will stand as an ensign—a signal, or banner, or standard for the Gentiles (other verses say for the nations). The B statements reveal the characteristics of the Branch which reproduced in His people will be the knowledge of His agape love which fills the earth. The C statements show how through the judgment He will clothe His people with righteousness by His faith. This clothing of His righteousness will express the internal change within the redeemed. The D statement seems to be the only 'dissonant' note in this passage. But obviously it is a warning to all who will not be clothed with the righteousness of "the Branch." What an incentive to study that which constitutes His righteousness and how to receive it. The seven Spirits are integral in this process of character development. [Click here](#) for more on this subject.

APPENDIX: Re. Footnote 5 on p.3--The seven seals, especially between the sixth and seventh seal show a connection. That connection is Rev 7. Though there is a literal break between the sixth seal (end of Rev 6) and the 7th seal (beginning of Rev 8), yet it is the content of Rev 7 which connects the sixth and seventh seal inextricably. Rev 7 shows who will be sealed and endure through to the end, including the Time of Jacob's Trouble. We see a similar connection (and also a literal break) with the trumpets of Rev 8:6-9:21, covering the first six trumpets. In Rev 10-11:14 there is a literal break, containing vital information, especially in the contemporary application, to connect the 6th trumpet with the 7th trumpet. {BTW the third angel's message also contains a similar pattern.} Though it is not as obvious to see this pattern in the seven last plagues, we do see a separation between the sixth plague and the 7th, (the 6th bringing about a condition that results in the 7th plague). The obvious verse showing the separation is Rev 16:15, containing the words of Jesus Himself (red letter)—a warning and encouragement to His people to “watch, and keep his garments” during the time of trouble. Why does Jesus speak these words here and not at the beginning of the chapter? Maybe it has something to do with what happens under the sixth plague (the three great powers of earth, unite to destroy this little sect via a death decree, who “keep the commandments of God” by the faith of Jesus) .