

“After these things I looked and behold a DOOR opened in the heaven, and that first voice which I heard as of a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Ascend hither and I will exhibit to thee things which must come to pass after these. And immediately I was in the spirit: and behold a THRONE was established in the heaven, and upon the throne One sitting. And the One sitting was in appearance like to jsaper and a sardine stone, and a RAINBOW circled about the throne in appearance like to an emerald.

And circling about the throne were TWENTY_FOUR THRONES and upon the thrones I saw the twenty-four ELDERS sitting, having been invested with white garments; and they had upon their heads golden coronal wreaths.”

This is the translation from Eureka by Dr John Thomas one of our first pioneer brethren.

Sections to read from his book. Volume 2 p17 – 45 Brown , Blue p1 – 30, Red p 1 - 26

As we have stated before the book of Revelation deals with some significant questions:

When will the Lord Jesus return?

How will the saints know that it is so?

What happens in the interim between the two advents of Christ?

How to identify your own position in that unfolding period of the darkness of the gentiles, the era of the madness of the pigs!

This next chapter takes the narrative forward but specifically follows on from the previous section. There is a change of context highlighted by the use of the phrase “After these things”. This is used several times in the book to denote such a switch. The previous two chapters dealt with the spiritual state of the seven Ecclesias in the first century when the Apostle John was still alive, and now switches to the future after the return of Christ. John sees these details as a representative of all mortal saints.

The first chapter set out three aspects of the book:

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| 1 | The things which thou hast seen | Visions of future glory |
| 2 | The things which are | Present condition of the Truth |
| 3 | The things which shall be hereafter | The unbroken chain of history |

The door to this future was opened up by the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ who had already seen something of that period, in an earlier vision Matthew 17v1-9. The Apostle was invited to “come up hither” and join those already there. This included him in the immortal state as he will be part of the assembly before the throne as a sanctified and glorified individual. From that vantage point he would be enabled to be shown “*things which must be hereafter*”. That is things future to the mortal John, not the immortal saint. As such he would be looking back into history but to events still future to the first century Ecclesias. This use of tenses needs to clear if we wish to digest the information the Holy Spirit presents to the reader. If we are not paying attention, then we will miss out and make false assumptions which will lead us astray. We will have been deceived! Let this not be so amongst us, pay attention to God’s plan.

John saw these things from the vantage point of the spirit. It was in heaven but which heaven? That there are several heavens is clear from any exposition of the biblical subject. That man has put out his own opinions and theories is sad but we must step carefully not to stumble on this or other matters. That this is not Heaven the very dwelling place of God is clear because John saw *"and behold a throne was set in heaven"*. This is not the throne of the Almighty, which is white, but an emerald or green throne. This contrasts with a sapphire or blue throne as per Ezekiel 1v26. The emerald throne represents Christ enthroned on earth (hence green not blue). That it was set shows that it will happen at a certain point in time future to John's revelation. This is the Davidic throne restored to the Son of David at the head of a saved nation of Jews. One sat on the throne. The description of this person sitting was said to be like jasper and sardine stone. The stone of Israel was prophesied in Genesis 49v24. Jesus is that stone, also said to be THE SHEPHERD! The stone which the builders rejected! But the sheep will hear the voice of the shepherd. All must listen for His Master's Voice!

That two stones are used shows that Jesus is a fusion of two, the flesh and the spirit. The flesh now glorified AND God honouring. The spirit remaining the same in both states, the same consistent Lord Jesus Christ. If only we were more like him! Jasper is red like Adam, of the earth earthy, but now very good once more, as God intended! Sardine is also red but a transparent red! Hence linked with the spirit but one emanating from the flesh, the flesh and bones of the immortal saints with Christ as their head. He can be seen in either state, but he is the same character.

Circling the throne was a rainbow the symbol of God's covenant with the earth that He would never destroy is again with water as He had in the days of Noah. Genesis 9v12-17. Rainbows are seen after rain is in the heavens (another type) and the water allows the refraction of light to form the beauty God intended but was at first unseen. Ps 72v6.

Although there was one special emerald throne in this vision of things to come, there are also other thrones. Upon these twenty-four thrones were sitting elders. They were the immortal saints in representation. There will be more than 24 of them! The One Body at any time are the little flock, but as they are to rule as Kings over the wider population, they must be less than the rest of humanity or their role as kings would be not necessary. That they are kings is seen by the crowns of gold upon their heads. These crowns stand in opposition to the other crowns of which the revelation has more to say later. That the crowns are of gold not only shows their value but also should point the reader to the tried nature of their faith, 1 Peter 4v7. Also, the Greek is "stephanos" which are victory wreaths, not merely an inherited bauble signifying royalty by accident of birth but the earned status of a victor, they will have overcome as Christ directed! Is it not significant that the last blessing to the faithful in 3v21 is *"to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne"*. They are clothed in white raiment because their bodies are now at peace, have lost their earlier propensities and been transformed from filthy rags to clean garments, washed white in the blood of the lamb. The number twenty-four symbolises the order of the priesthood of the New Age in comparison with the original temple organisation, where singers and governors are patterned 1 Ch 24,25