

YOUR FIRST DAY IN HEAVEN

Message 12

Words: 6935

INTRO: This is our last message under the title of *Your First Day In Heaven*. Our passage for this series has been Revelation 6:9-11 which says:

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

We took a detour to explore the tabernacle and to come to some understanding of the history of the white robes of our passage. The NT takes for granted that the reader of the NT is familiar with the OT, which in our day is not the case. When we come to this passage and it speaks of an altar, it expects us to know the biblical teaching regarding the altar. When it speaks of the white robes, it expects that we know the history of the OT.

Our fourth and last point that we are now bringing to a close is what happens after the altar. My proposition to you was that the white robes are given at the laver, not at the altar. So these happen, in my understanding, after the altar.

Let me make a recommendation here. Take it for whatever it is worth. We sing that when we get to heaven we want to see our Savior first of all. May I recommend that we will want to see ourselves first of all? I am not talking about a narcissistic look at ourselves. You see the laver was made of the women's copper mirrors. Why would it be made of mirrors? Probably the oldest mirror is water. The laver had both. At the laver, at the Word of God, we get a look at ourselves morally. When women go

somewhere to see almost anyone, before they go they take a look at themselves in a mirror. I don't see anything wrong with that; unless of course, it is for the sake of vanity or pride. When they go to see their beloved, without question, they will first look in a mirror.

The Lord Jesus, according to Ephesians 5, wants His bride without spot or wrinkle. Here is what I think. At the altar we are a distance from the tabernacle. At the laver we are closer and it is the last place we come to before we come into the presence of our Lord. And I propose, nobody will go past this laver without taking a look at themselves in the mirror to see if all is in order before they come into the presence of the king!

D. The White Robes Of Revelation 6

1. The Laver

Now I was going to show you the parts of the tabernacle mentioned in the book of Revelation. But I won't have time for that. We would have seen the Holy of Holies, the ark of the covenant, the candlestick, the altar of incense, the brazen altar and the laver. But for the sake of time we will limit ourselves to our subject, the laver.

I have proposed to you that the white robes are given at the laver. So now our question is, does the laver appear in the book of Revelation in heaven? Well, we go first to Revelation 4:6:

Re 4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. The song we sing, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy speaks of this sea of glass. And here is the question, what does this sea of glass speak of?

I was surprised that I could not find much strong support for the view that this speaks of the laver. I have no doubt that it does, but you may wish to

know that support for this view is not as strong as for the rest of what I have given you.

But there are many that make this connection. Let me give you parts of John Gill's comments here. He gives the views of some others and then he says, "Others think the ordinance of baptism is designed, of which the Red sea, through which the Israelites passed under the cloud, was an emblem; and which may be compared to a "sea of glass", for its transparency, it clearly expressing the sufferings, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and to crystal, for its purity; and to all this for its cleansing nature, as it leads unto the blood of Christ; and its being before the throne may denote its being the way of entrance into the Gospel church.

"Others think the blood of Christ is meant, in allusion to the brazen sea in the tabernacle, which was made of the looking glasses the women brought, and for the priests to wash in, before they entered on business, #Ex 30:18 38:8, and to the molten sea in the temple, which was for the same purpose, #1Ki 7:23. Christ's blood is the fountain opened to wash in for sin, and may be compared to a sea for its abundant efficacy in cleansing from all sin; and it is this which makes way to the throne, and to him that sits on it; and is a special privilege enjoyed by those who come to Mount Zion, or into a Gospel church state; there is always this laver to wash their garments in, and make them white..." end quote. He goes on to share how he differs but here you understand what connections others, besides myself have made to this molten sea.

Matthew Poole says, "A sea of glass like unto crystal; another allusion to the tabernacle or temple, in which was a sea, that is, a large vessel full of water; it was for Aaron and his sons to wash their hands, and feet, and sacrifices in, #Ex 30:19 1Ki 7:23; it was ten cubits broad, five cubits high, and thirty cubits about. Here it is

said to have been of glass; this, probably, signified the blood of Christ, in which all those souls and services must be washed which are accepted of and acceptable unto God. Its being represented here as of glass, may signify the purity and spotlessness of him whose blood it was. Other guesses there are many at the significancy of this sea of glass, but this seems to me most probable, because the use of the sea in the temple is made good in Christ." So you can see that connection is made to the laver by these men with regard to the sea of glass.

Dr. John F. Walvoord, probably the most eminent Evangelical scholar on prophecy ever, has written this in his book on Revelation, "Apart from indicating that the sea of glass is like crystal, John gives no further explanation of the meaning of this sea. As in other portions of the book of Revelation, however, John expects the reader to draw conclusions from similar scenes elsewhere in the Bible. There seems to be an analogy or comparison to the sea of brass in the Tabernacle in the Old Testament or the molten sea in the Temple. Both were lavers or wash stands designed for the cleansing of the priests, and contained water used for various ceremonial rites. This may represent the sanctifying power of the Word of God" (109).

Now you will notice he is very cautious in his comments but the conclusions I have come to are the very same things that suggested themselves to him. Then he says, "No sure interpretation of the sea of glass may be advanced." Although that may be true, no other matter anywhere in the Bible suggests itself to me at all. If it does not speak of the laver one can only guess what it speaks of. Furthermore, other interpretations are certainly much more questionable and do not have historical ground to them. To me, there is no question of what it speaks.

But Walvoord did say this, "As in other portions of the book of Revelation, however, John expects the reader to draw conclusions from similar scenes elsewhere in the Bible." I think rather, that it is the Lord that inspired this book that expects the reader to draw his conclusions based on other Scriptures, and nothing suggests itself like the laver, which I am confident is what is intended here.

You will remember some time ago when I spoke of the laver that Solomon made, I mentioned to you to remember that they called it a sea. That seems to me a very direct reference to this sea. Then, as it is described here, it is a sea of glass. We have seen that the laver was originally made of the lookingglasses or mirrors of the ladies that gathered at the temple. We have also seen that the water pictures the Word of God. And it is in the Word of God we get to see ourselves. And I believe this sea is of glass, that is a hard substance, because it pictures the water, but in it they could see themselves like in a mirror. And when a person arrives here after coming from the altar, I believe he will look into this mirror and see himself. And what will he see? A reflection of the image of Christ! Here will be the highest moment any believer will ever have reached! And when he has seen himself thus perfected, it is now that he recognizes that he is fit to go into the Holy of Holies and see God the Father! A lady that looks into a mirror and is content with what she sees before she meets her beloved, is the picture here!

Turn to Revelation 15 now, another most interesting passage. We begin in verse 1:

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the

beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.

Here we are once more at the laver, the sea of glass. And we see those who have been victorious over the antichrist. And most interesting is that they stand on the sea of glass. They have harps and they sing the song of Moses. Now there is not complete agreement over which song of Moses it is, but some make connection here to the baptism of Israel when they had crossed the Red Sea and they sang one of the songs of Moses. That is fitting.

But further, there is an addition to the sea of glass now from what we had in chapter 4. It is a sea of glass mingled with fire. One writer I read made an interesting connection back to Matthew chapter 3. Turn to it. This was where John the Baptist was baptizing and look at what he said and we begin in verse 10:

10 "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

I have not time to show you, but according to Daniel's prophecy, they were here within two years of Daniel's 70th week. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." It was right there before them. Now we know that Israel rejected their king, and that is why the Church age came in. God's clock for Israel stopped there. It will not tick again until

the tribulation begins. And so they stood just before the time described in the book of Revelation. Verse 11 now:

11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Do you notice the similarity to this sea of glass? It pictures water and fire, two elements that do not go together. All will be baptized, either in water or in fire. So notice verse 12:

12 "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

In Revelation 15, this baptism of fire is about to begin. And if you will read on from here, seven angels come out now with bowls, a laver is a bowl. And they pour out their bowls on the earth. Could it be here that we have the fulfillment of Matthew 3:12? This is well possible.

2. The commissioning to service

But I want you to see another purpose of the baptism at the laver. The washing at the laver was a commissioning to service for God. Keep your place in Revelation and turn to Leviticus 8 while I read Revelation 6:9-11:

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Now let us go to Leviticus 8 and we begin in verse 1:

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

3 "and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

4 So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

5 And Moses said to the congregation, "This is what the LORD commanded to be done."

6 Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

7 And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him.

8 Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.

9 And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

10 Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.

You see, here at the laver they were consecrated. And what were they consecrated for? For priestly service in the tabernacle! And what are those who come past the laver in Revelation 6 consecrated to? Well, come with me to Revelation 7 now. We begin in verse 9:

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

So John sees a great white robed throng. They are standing before the throne. The laver was said to be before the throne in chapter 4, and so it was in the OT. Only there the veil hung before the tabernacle. But now that has been opened. And these, that have gotten the victory over the antichrist are there before God with what? White robes! White *stolees*, or *stoles*; priestly garments. They have palm branches in their hands! This is how they used to come to the temple during the feasts. You will remember this from when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the donkey. And when they came, they sang the Hallel, or praise Psalms. And here they cry out, *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

And when they do that, listen to what follows:

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

But that is not yet all. Look at the next verses:

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

You see, those we saw under the altar earlier are in this white robed throng. And they made their robes white, not in water, but in the blood of the lamb! And why do they come past the laver? Well, look at verse 15:

15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

The picture throughout the Bible is consistent. They come to the laver and are consecrated to the service of God Almighty, just like the OT priests were consecrated to God's service, so are they. Just like the NT believer, at baptism, is consecrated to God's service, so are they now in heaven. Here is the final fulfillment of that which was pictured at the laver in the OT right from the very beginning!

And maybe you say, "Just a minute. At the altar they were told to rest a while, but here they are serving God. Doesn't sound like rest to me."

Go to the book of Hebrews. Oh how much is here. We begin in chapter 3 and verse 7:

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

What was that rest? The rest of perfect faith! That is what is pictured by Canaan. The Christian who enters this rest on earth has ceased from his own strivings and has entered the rest of faith though he is fully active in service for God! We read on:

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";

5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest."

6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

10 *For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.*

11 *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*

You see, this white robed throng has entered that final rest, though they are in service to God! I want to suggest something to you. When we get to heaven, and we have come past the altar, I recommend that we won't want to see Jesus first of all. That is what we sing, and we mean it well. But when women go somewhere to visit or if they go to see someone special, they first check in the mirror to see if they are presentable.

I recommend that when we come past the altar, the first thing we will do is go to the laver to check to see if we are fit to go see our Savior. And we will look into this divine laver, and what will we see? A true Christian. You know what 'Christian' means? It is a *Christ one*. Here in this laver we will see a true *Christ one*. We will see ourselves after we are fully conformed into the image of Christ. And when we have been to the laver, we will go with joy to see the king, the King of kings, our King!

Let me take you to one more passage. We go to the book of James. Go now to the book of James. We start at 1:25. James writes:

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

And what is this perfect law of liberty? I propose to you that it is the laver that holds the water of the Word of God. So, let us go back to verse 21 and begin again:

21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

23 *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;*

24 *for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.*

25 *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

Is the connection to the laver not everywhere present in this passage? And what is this looking into the perfect law of liberty? It is when you look into the Word of God, and the reflection of my life is exactly like the teaching of the Word. Let me give you an example. When I was a new Christian I had a habit I greatly struggled with. It was cigarette smoking. I had started when I was fifteen years old and I finally quite when I was 22 years old. I can hardly describe how tenaciously this thing held on to me. I confessed my sin until I thought God would be tired of me, and through that I finally got the victory. When I struggled, it was a requirement I wished was not there. When I got the victory, I was glad it was there that I was free. It was only after I quit that I saw how destructive it was. Now when I look into the Bible, and I look at my life in light of cigarette smoking, my life in that area is exactly like the Bible. That is only a small sample. The same is true for lying, for adultery, for stealing and any other sin. When I overcome, it becomes a law of liberty. That is how God wants me to overcome in

all areas of life. So the book of Revelation makes wonderful promises to the Overcomer.

Before I overcame that I lived with a lot of conviction of sin. When I looked into the Word of God, I was convicted. When I witnessed to someone and I reached for my cigarettes I was convicted. And one day I threw myself on the floor of my house-trailer and told God I couldn't do it, and from then on I began to get the victory. And now for 45 years or so, I look into the perfect law of liberty. I am just like Christ with respect to this habit. And now, I am in full agreement with God about cigarette smoking or alcohol consumption or lying.

You see, Christ fulfilled the ceremonial laws. God gave the social laws to governments and said we are to obey them. But the law of God, the moral law is as binding today as ever. He who is a liar is going to hell. Have you gotten to where you hate lying, or cheating, or a host of other sins? If we have not, it is not yet the perfect law of liberty for us. We are not yet like Christ in that respect.

Romans 8:1-2 says:

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

How did the law of the Spirit do that? By convicting me of sin and then bringing me to repentance and finally giving me victory over sin. We do not have to live under sin. Nothing cleanses more than the washing of the water of the Word of God. When we not only stop lying, but we hate lying, in that respect you have become like Christ.

So one commentator said, "The will of God was for Jesus a law of liberty. He came to do His Father's will, He desired nothing else. Blessed state! It was perfection in Him, a blessed example for us. The law is a law of liberty when the will, the heart of man, coincides perfectly in desire with the law imposed upon him – imposed in our case by God – the law written in the heart. It is thus with the new man as with the heart of Christ. He loves obedience, and loves the will of God because it is His will, and as having a nature which answers to what His will expresses, since we partake of the divine nature; in fact it loves that which God wills."

So James 2:12 says, *So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.* How does the perfect law of liberty judge? Well, when it checks you out for stealing, for adultery and on and on, and it finds nothing wrong and you see your reflection in the laver, the Word of God, and there is no conviction of sin because it has been overcome it judges us to be liberated from its clutches. And if and when we fail, 1 John says if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. True repentance requires confession, and confession is the hardest thing of all on our pride. I have seen this in both myself and others, even preachers; and maybe I should say especially preachers.

Nothing cleanses like the laver. And how does it do that? It shows us our faults just like a mirror, and sends us to the altar to deal with our sins and receive forgiveness. Only when we are liberated from a sin does it no longer send us to the altar. And now it has become the perfect law of liberty.

3. The priestly service

But let me add a few thoughts on priestly service to verse 15 which said, 15 *"Therefore they are*

before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

We can learn a lot about heaven from the tabernacle. Can we learn something about the words that they will serve Him day and night in the temple? When it says, *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple...* are we correct in concluding that this is all they do? Well, go to the book of Luke. You see the priests were divided up into singers, gatekeepers and priests. And the priests were divided up into 12 courses. Each course had their own name, and each course served at two regular times of the year. They served 2 weeks every six months. In this way the temple was manned at all times.

So look now at Luke 1:5:

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah.

So you see that he is of the division of Abijah. It goes on to say: *His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.*

By the way, from this verse and from the time of Abijah's division one can come to quite a close date as to when Christ was born. Many think it was in the fall. I think that they make the error of failing to recognize that each division served twice each year, approximately 6 months apart.

Verse 6:

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division,

9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Now we need to spend time here. It was all a very intricate system. During these feast days there were some special services that a priest could only experience once in his life, and if he was not drawn by lot, he would never have the privilege of doing them. And the priests anxiously waited on whom the lot would fall to do some of these very special services. This particular year, the lot for the special privilege to enter the temple to burn incense at the altar of incense fell on Zacharias.

But we noticed that he was of the course of Abijah. Go to 1 Chronicles 24. You see, they did not all serve 24-7. Each course served at the temple only twice a year for two weeks each. And then they all served together during the 3 gatherings of the feast days. All the rest of the time they spent in their own cities which were scattered throughout Israel.

We begin in verse 1:

1 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

2 And Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests.

3 Then David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to the schedule of their service.

4 There were more leaders found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus they were divided. Among the sons of Eleazar were

sixteen heads of their fathers' houses, and eight heads of their fathers' houses among the sons of Ithamar.

5 Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.

6 And the scribe, Shemaiah the son of Nethanel, one of the Levites, wrote them down before the king, the leaders, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites, one father's house taken for Eleazar and one for Ithamar.

7 Now the first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

9 the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

We will stop there. We have come to Zachariah's course, the course of Abijah. You can go right through these and you will find 24 courses.

When these priests had served for two weeks they went back home. Now all throughout Israel there were Levitical cities. They were all placed so that all the people could be served by these priests in daily life. So they served twice a year for two weeks in the temple. They all had places to stay there. Then they all served their people throughout their areas during the rest of the year. And last, on the three great feast times; Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles all the priest courses served together as those were very busy times.

If this service in heaven is anything like that, we see that when it says that they served day and night, that is not all they do. If it is like the

earthly service, each course of priests serves twice a year and that only for two weeks each. But one group or another was always there to serve. When one understands the OT, the tabernacle, the feasts, the priesthood, and the sacrifices it puts life into a lot of the NT. Without some understanding of these things, much of the NT cannot be understood, and baptism cannot be fully understood without understanding the laver and its service.

Now I would by no means claim to understand even most of the significance of the OT. I may have only a partial picture here. But it is enough to show us there is more to a passage like Revelation 6:9-11 than meets the eye.

E. Final loose ends

So, for the rest of our time, let me tie up some loose ends. You may have forgotten, but I asked you to remember a few things. Let me give those. #1: Why does the laver have no measurements? Many suggest it is because it pictures the Word of God which is measureless! Even the dwelling place of God can be measured, but not the Word of God. The laver is round, because the Word of God is endless!

#2: Why did God have them use women's mirrors to make the laver? The laver is a mirror. In the Word of God we get to see ourselves. We get to see if we look like Christ yet or not, or where we come short. Some think it is because of the vanity of women. I do not agree with that at all. God made women to want to look nice. There is nothing wrong with that. It can easily tend to become vanity or pride, then it is wrong. But a mirror is a good thing, and nothing is better for us than the mirror of the Word of God.

#3: When the priests were washed completely, they did not wash themselves. Why not? They had to be consecrated by another, someone over them. That is why we are to be baptized, not to baptize ourselves. #4: The water of the laver was used to wash three things. One was the entire washing of the priest. The second was that the priests

washed their own hands and feet whenever they went in or out of the tabernacle. Why was this? The laver pictures the sanctification of the believer and because we live in a world filled with sin, we need continual cleansing. If a priest did not obey this he was to die. If we do not wash in the water of the Word continually, we are in danger of spiritual death.

#5: The third thing the water was used for was to wash certain parts of the sacrifice. Legs and inwards.

#6: When Solomon made the laver it was called a sea. I told you to remember that it was called that. Well, the reason I wanted you to remember that is because twice in the book of Revelation a sea of glass that sits before the throne of God is mentioned. It is one of the biggest clues that this sea of glass refers to the laver.

CONCL: And so, we bring these messages to a close. And here is what I see for our first day in heaven, and I do not know if it will only take a day, but it will be the beginning. We come first to the altar. Let me first be careful to say that if we live in known sins such as are given in Romans 1; 1 Corinthians 6 and Galatians 5, we will never arrive at this altar. We will arrive at the Great White Throne judgment and be cast into hell.

But for those who do arrive at this altar, all that needs dealing with will be dealt with here. We are not talking about things that are listed in the major sin lists in the Bible, or sins of willful disobedience. Such will never arrive at this altar. And when that has been done, all our works will be placed on the altar, and we will be tested to see what we will receive for our life's work as a Christian.

Then we will go to the laver. We sing about wanting to see Jesus first when we arrive in heaven. I think when we are done at the altar, like almost all women who go and look in a mirror before they go out somewhere we will want to go see if we are fit to stand before the Creator of the universe. And for that, we will need to go to the laver.

And if we have arrived at the altar, and once we are done there, when we come to the laver, it will be a mirror and we will

behold a clear, clean person who has been conformed to the image of Christ. And there we will be commissioned to service, and with joy we will serve the Lord in His tabernacle! Our first day in heaven. Oh, to live in such a way that there might be much left on the altar when the fire is done with it!