

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Last time we saw that chapters 4 and 5 are a vision of God the Father on His throne, and Jesus Christ on the throne with Him, and the Holy Spirit proceeding from both the Father and the Son.

As we look this evening through chapter 4, the vision of God, we can recognize several references to the Old Testament scriptures. Each one helps us understand that God who is on the throne is the same God we read so much about in the scriptures. In each reference, God is shown with reference to some historical event in the Old Testament, but with some additional information, that helps us understand Him regarding the things He is about to do, as will be prophesied starting in chapter 6.

TEXT

Revelation 4:2-6a

BODY

4:5a And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices:

Exodus 19:16 - “the voice” or “the sound”

The vision is of God who spoke with one voice when He gave the law at Mt. Sinai, but now is speaking with many voices as His word goes out by many messengers to all the world.

4:5b and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Exodus 25:37

The vision is of the Spirit of God who was with the one congregation of Israel, but is now with the many congregations all over the world.

4:6a And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:

(This interpretation is from B.H. Carroll.)

Daniel 7:2

The vision is of God, who stirred up the nations to produce a series of kings and kingdoms; but now we see that all the tumult of the rise and fall of kingdoms is just smooth and calm to Him.

CONCLUSION

As God made the earth green and beautiful again after He had destroyed it with flood, we can be sure He will make it beautiful again after He destroys it as prophesied in this book of Revelation.

As God saved and blessed Israel as He brought judgment on the wicked nations around them, we can be sure He will save us from the judgment coming on the world.

As God spoke with His voice to Israel at Mt. Sinai, we can know He will be speaking to His people all over the world through many voices.

No matter what troubles will come, as prophesied in the Revelation, the Holy Spirit will go out to all God's people to give us the strength to keep faith in Christ, and to maintain the words and good works that profess Him.

To us, the rise and fall of powerful people and nations seems like a great storm at sea, but God is not in a state of tumult; all is perfectly calm with Him.