

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

P. O. B o x 2 7 6 5
B u r l e s o n, T e x a s 7 6 0 9 7

Email: woody@dtgministries.org

18 November 2009

Filled with Eyes (Rev 4 & 5)

Introduction

The book of Revelation is highly symbolic and rich with imagery, and when understood correctly, explains the workings of the Spirit in the inward man. In the study of the Seven Churches, it was explained how the seven cities represent a progression of spiritual mind-sets through which a person goes by their experiences after accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is a learning process wherein the Lord teaches us to LISTEN to the Spirit (seven spirits). All seven lamps being lit, represent a fullness of truth and God's understanding (seven eyes) so that we can move forward.

The Tabernacle in the wilderness is a parable of the entire spiritual journey, which is also paralleled by the Feasts. A priest enters the first compartment daily to tend the lamps. On the north side is a table with bread furnished by the tribes of Israel (Lev 24:8), called 'show bread' or 'bread of the presence' in various versions of the Bible. A more accurate rendering of the Hebrew concept is 'bread of persons' (Ex 35:13), as the two piles of bread represent the preincarnate and incarnate Christ. Only a priest can enter, and only a priest can eat from the bread. A priest is a type for a person who is daily hearing and doing as the spirit of Christ leads, also called 'abiding' in Christ. **1 Jn 2:24:** *Let that (voice) therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

The real evidence of those having the truth will be seen in the changed lives of the people who have received God's knowledge and put it into practice. While growing into the stature and fulness of Jesus Christ (Eph 4:13), we become one in the Father and Son (Jn 17:20-21). This will be accomplished in the 144,000 before the return of Christ, and in the rest of the church after his return. The result of this growing experience (seven churches) is to be sealed, or,

confirmed (Rev 7:1-3), that we are dwelling in the heavens - spiritually. Chapters four through six explain how a person becomes sealed, or, as the Bible puts it, ascends into the heaven (Ps 24:3-4).

Jesus, called the faithful witness, is washing us with the water of the word (Eph 5:26), which includes doctrinal correction about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Only then, can the full significance of the cross be realized. It is with this knowledge, and the putting of self under the authority of Jesus that makes *us kings and priests unto the God and Father* (Rev 1:6). A spiritual king is not being ruled by the flesh, but all thoughts are in subjection and obedience to Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Those coming to this level of understanding are like clouds full of water, in whom Jesus comes (Rev 1:7) in the last generation to give the gospel to a world which is on a self-destructive course.

Rev 1:10: *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.* To be “in the spirit” is to have the spirit of God in you (Rom 8:9), which is the 'new man' when we are taught by the spirit of Christ (Eph 4:21-24). The new man is further defined in **Col 3:10:** *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:* So, by hearing and doing what the voice of God is telling you, in the day when He comes to you, is to be receiving His knowledge. It is interesting to note that a large portion of the teachings concerning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in John's writings, and he is the only disciple to go to the cross with Jesus. He is, therefore, a type of those in the last generation who have learned to take up the cross daily. These are the ones answering the call to abide in Christ (in spirit) in the day of his revelation (the Lord's day).

Chapter Four

Revelation 4:1-2a: *1. After this I saw, and beheld, a door having been opened in the heaven: and the first voice, which I heard as a trumpet, speaking with me; saying, Come up here, and I will show to you what must come to pass after these. 2. And immediately I was in the spirit...* (Greek) Remember, Jesus said to those in Laodicea, *I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will dine him, and he with me* (Rev 3:20). “Come up here,” i.e. in the heaven, is the voice of the Spirit which invites each to come

into fellowship with Jesus. Heaven represents spiritual knowledge, and the door being opened is the spiritual understanding of my heart. To be in spirit is to be in a mode of listening to the Spirit of Christ. Here is how this ascension is described: **Rev 7:2:** *And I saw another messenger ascending from a rising of the Sun...* (Greek) **Mal 4:2:** *...unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

This ascension is the “born from above” (KJV - born again) experience about which Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:8-12. I was taught that I was born again when I was baptized. However, the initial response to the call of the Spirit is ‘conversion,’ a change of direction in our thinking from the fleshly to the spiritual. But then, like me, everyone leaves their ‘first Love’ as explained in the study of the Seven Churches.

Another thing that I was taught is that all are now living in the Laodicea era. But, the truth is that most are scattered in various churches (mind-sets) before Sardis, because the churches are spiritual experiences through which one passes while growing in grace and knowledge - God’s knowledge. A person that has come to the Laodicea mind-set, has a correct doctrinal understanding of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which today, not one major religious organization teaches.

Voice like a trumpet: Moses was instructed to make two trumpets, of which there were four uses (Num 10:1-10), types of which are all used in Revelation. 1) to call an assemble - Rev 1:10, 12; 2) to make a move - 4:1; 3) an alarm of war - 9:1-21; and 4) joyful celebration - 8:1-13. The seven churches represent the gathering to the voice of Christ - the Spirit speaking to the assemblies. Twice, it is mentioned that Jesus speaks with a voice like a trumpet. He is calling each of us into a heavenly way of thinking so that we can filled with the love of Christ and the fulness of the Father (Eph 3:19). Verse two below, describes this abiding experience as *a throne set in heaven*, or in my spiritual understanding, as God is placed on the throne of my heart. It is the promise to Laodicea (Rev 3:21).

Rev 4:2b-3: *2. ...and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting upon the throne; 3. and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper stone and a sardius: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, like an emerald to look upon.* (ASV) A ‘stone’ is a symbol of a

spiritual concept, like Christ, the Rock with Israel in the wilderness, 1 Cor 10:4; and the Cornerstone of our spiritual foundation, Eph 2:20. Color, in general, represents a spiritual quality of understanding - positive or negative. A stone, no matter its color, becomes more precious when shaped and polished. The 'shaping and polishing' is the 'fine-tuning and clarification' of Bible concepts as God increases our understanding.

The Father, through the Son, shows to us two concepts of His only Son, begotten in eternity as a divine Son, and begotten in Bethlehem as a man of flesh. After his resurrection, Jesus is portrayed as sitting at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33). Jesus said: **Mt 11:27:** *All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.* (RSV) It is a position of authority of which we are invited to partake.

The rainbow around the throne is like 'emerald' to look upon. Emerald is a green stone, and green is the color for righteousness (Ps 52:8; Job 8:16; Lk 23:31), and God's righteousness is the way He thinks. There are seven colors in a rainbow, which is a symbol of the fulness of God's understanding and knowledge that we can obtain by hearing what the Spirit says. Receiving spiritual riches is presented in Scripture as being in the heavens, which happens in our minds as we receive the thoughts of God (cf 1 Cor 3:16-19; 2 Cor 6:16). By changing our thoughts, our outward actions change and we become more Christ-like.

Twenty-four elders: **Rev 4:4:** *Round the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders* ⁽⁴²⁴⁵⁾, *clad in white garments, with golden crowns upon their heads.* (RSV) Similar in use to the Hebrew, the various forms of the Greek word *presbuteros* ⁽⁴²⁴⁵⁾ are used to describe the aged, man or woman, as a comparison of one's age to another, and especially with respect to leaders. The 24 Elders in Revelation are "sitting on thrones, clothed with white, and have gold crowns (4:4)." They have a knowledge of the cross (5:5), worship the Father and the Lamb (4:10; 5:8, 14), have harps and gold vials full of odors (5:8), understand and recognize the 144,000 (7:13-17), are able to see the end of all things (11:16-18) and they are present at the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:4)."

The 24 old men represent the "old man" (old way of thinking) that has been renewed in the spirit of truth, much like Paul described: **Eph 4:22-24:** *22. ye are to put off concerning the*

former behavior the old man, that is corrupt according to the desires of the deceit, 23. and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24. and to put on the new man, which, according to God, was created in righteousness and kindness of the truth. Col 3:9-10: 9. Lie not one to another, having put off the old man with his practices, 10. and having put on the new, which is renewed in regard to knowledge (full, correct, precise), after the image of Him who did create him; Rom 6:6: 6. this knowing, that our old man was crucified with [him], that the body of the sin [nature] may be made useless (Greek - inactivated), for our no longer serving the sin (nature); 7. for he who hath died hath been set free from the sin [nature]. (Young's literal Bible) ['nature' supplied by the author as implied by the context]

Why 24 Elders? The most significant use of the number 24, pertaining to Elders, is in 1 Chronicles 24:1-19 when King David, by the inspiration of God, divided the sons of Aaron, the priests of Israel, into 24 orders. The Levites, teachers of Israel, were also divided into 24 divisions, and were given to Aaron (Num 18:6) to do the service of the temple (cf Lk 1:8-9). The 24 elders are indicative of a person, who in type, has become a priest, one who is abiding in Christ daily. They are clothed with white raiment (God's righteousness, His thoughts), and have crowns (knowledge) of gold (faith of Christ), and they have entered the first compartment wherein are the seven lamps.

Rev 4:5-6a: 5. *And out of the throne go forth lightnings and thunders and voices. And seven lamps of fire [are] burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6. Also before the throne, [is] a sea of glass, resembling crystal. ... (Greek Interlinear) Everything, from the court to the Ark of the Covenant, is considered to be 'before the throne' of God, and He speaks from above the ark (Ex 25:21-22).*

Lighting is an amazing feature of nature. I have read stories of people struck by lightning and being killed, while others, lived to tell the story. Lightning is a very powerful force that can knock bricks off buildings, start fires and split trees. When I was a youngster, lightning struck one of the oak trees in front of our house with such force that the soil above one of the roots of the tree looked as if it had been plowed for several feet out from the tree. Light is a symbol of the words of truth that give understanding (Ps 119:130; 43:3). Think of how powerful is God's word, instilling in anyone who desires, the ability to overcome the sin nature. Lightning, then, is a powerful revelation that pierces the darkness of the mind, accompanied by rebuke (thunder -

Ps 104:7) **Jer 10:13:** *when he utters his voice, there is a tumult [abundance] of waters (spiritual thoughts) in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain, and brings forth the wind (Spirit) out of his treasures.* (ASV) Waters, vapors, lightnings, rain and wind - all are symbols of God's spoken word, each of which bring a different shade of meaning to the student of the word. (Cp Job 38:22-30)

The 'lamps of fire' represent an understanding of my experience of returning to my first love. I now have a level of God's understanding (seven spirits) which enabled me to ascend out of the sea (worldly influence) to the mountain of God (Ps 24:1-6). The voices from the Father and the Son speak, like lightning, words that penetrate into the depths of my soul, and begin to rebuke (thunder) the source my sin problems. The winds of strife are gone (Isa 57:20-21) and the waves (pride) of the sea are calm (subdued), but the sea is not dried up yet (cp Isa 51:10 & Rev 21:1). It has become crystal clear that I have been carrying error gleaned from the world's way of thinking (sea). **Mt 8:26:** *And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.* (ASV)

Four Beasts: **Rev 4:6b-7:** 6. ... *and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.* 7. *And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.* Literally, the Greek word for 'beast' means 'living creature.' A common element of all four symbols is that of strength.

Lion: **Pr 30:30:** *A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turns not away for any.* Beasts are symbols for thoughts. The strongest human attribute is our pride, which drives everything that is not from God. Jesus, in his human nature, brought pride under control, as prophesied by Isaiah - *the lion shall eat straw like the ox.* (Isa 11:7). Our pride is subdued in the Son of God, then the lion symbolizes a ruler, a king.

Calf: A young bull (calf) was the offering for priests who sinned because of error, not knowing it at the time of the act (Lev 4:2-3). The untamed bull becomes a calf that lies down and feeds with the lion (Isa 11:6) - i.e. thoughts brought into harmony with God's way of thinking.

Face of a man: The unconverted man *through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after*

God: God is not in all his thoughts. (Ps 10:4) Jesus, as a son of man, was given authority over all flesh (Jn 17:2). It is his heart of flesh being given to those who are willing to hear with spiritual ears (Eze 36:26). **2 Cor 4:6:** *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* **Ecc 8:1:** *Who is as the wise man? and who knows the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom makes his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.*

Flying Eagle: Of all birds, the eagle is considered the most majestic, and its main attributes are swiftness and strength. It is also a bird that preys on and consumes the flesh of other animals. When God gave mankind the flesh of animals to eat, it was a picture of what our thoughts, as clean and unclean. Only animals considered to be clean were offered as sacrifice, indicating that an inward change of the way a person thinks has to happen before God can begin to correct our understanding. The source of what a person once believed to be of Divine origin, actually came from the flesh. But God changes our thinking so that fleshly thoughts are consumed: **Ex 19:4:** *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians (worldly thoughts), and how I [lifted] (into heaven) you on eagles' wings (a spiritual heart), and brought you unto myself.*

Another attribute of an eagle is its excellent eye sight. Experts say that, if an eagle could read, that it could read the writing on a coin, the size of a quarter, from a distance of 25 feet. Is your eyesight in the heavens? Because, *Christ is the [strength] of God, and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.* (1 Cor 1:24-25 RSV)

Living creatures: **Rev 4:8:** *And the four beasts (living creatures) had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* Wings are always in pairs, and they represent a spiritual heart, whether good or evil (Zech 5:9), and in this case good (Isa 40:31). Six is the number of man, and three pairs of wings represent a completion in Christ. The pairs of wings can be seen in Isaiah, which describe what he attained, and what he gives to those following in his footsteps. **Isa 11:1-4:** 1. *THERE SHALL come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots* (Rev 22:16). 2. *And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding (1st pair of wings), the spirit of counsel and might (2nd pair of wings), the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord (3rd pair*

of wings). 3. *And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;* 4. *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth* (Rev 19:15), *and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked* (thoughts). It is the character of those nations between our ears that God destroys with a rod of iron (Ps 2:8-9; Rev 2:26-27; 12:5).

These living creatures have been given the heart of a man - the man Christ Jesus, whose attributes are described above as the lion, ox, man and eagle. **Mal 4:2-3:** 2. *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings* (spiritual heart); *and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.* 3. *And ye shall tread down the wicked* (thinking); *for they* (wicked thoughts) *shall be ashes* (burned by the fire of God's word) *under the soles of your feet* (thoughts in subjection) *in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.*

Full of eyes within: The phrase is more accurately rendered "filled with eyes." It is the same as saying that the Creatures have seven eyes, or they are filled with understanding, as given by the Father through the Son. **Zech 3:9:** *For behold the stone* (the concept that Jesus is the Son of God) *that I have laid before Joshua* (high priest); *upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.* **Zech 4:10:** ... *they are the eyes of the Lord* ... It is by receiving the full and correct understanding of Christ that we can clearly see the Father, and have the iniquity of our spiritual land removed.

Which was, and is, and is to come (KJV): All the locations of this phrase can be found by searching on Strong's number 3801, which only appears in Revelation, each time referring to the Father. In 1:8 there may be a tendency to apply the phrase to Jesus. However, note: **Rev 1:8:** *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.* It is the Almighty (the Father - Rev 21:22; 2 Cor 6:18) sitting on the throne (Rev 4:8-9), and saying that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega - everything one needs to know is in the Son. This is similar to **Ps 2:7:** *I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you.* (RSV)

There are variations of the phrase in 11:17 and 16:5, which are beyond the scope of this study. The literal rendering of the phrase is: *the [one] being [present], and the [one who] was [present], and the [one whose presence] is coming.* [supplied in order that the English make sense]. The most popular rendering is *who is, who was, and who is coming*, which will be used in the explanations. While the literal phrase is only seen in Revelation, the concept is implied all over the New Testament. The examples below are the best way to explain how the Father is, was and is coming. Once understood, the concept can be seen in several places in the New Testament:

Mt 16:16-17: *16. And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. **Who is.*** Jesus explained to Peter and the disciples that it is the Spirit of the Father which reveals truth to the heart.

Eph 3:12: *In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. **Who is*** in Jesus.

2 Cor 4:4: *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **Who was.*** The god of any age is self, which causes our blindness. Praise God for all who learn to listen!

Mk 3:29: *But whoever may speak evil against the Spirit of the Holy One (voice of God) absolutely cannot have deliverance (from sin), but is in danger of eternal separation (from the Father). [Greek] (supplied to clarify meaning) **Who was*** because of not listening to the Spirit of the Father.

Mk 10:30: *But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. **Who is coming*** to all who make the commitment regardless of the cost.

Mt 13:43: *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the Sun in the kingdom of their Father. **Who is coming*** because the sealed book has been opened and the tares (corrupt thoughts) are being gathered and burned.

Jn 14:16: *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **Who is coming*** in Jesus as the Spirit of the truth.

In Rev 4:8, the first part of the phrase is reversed so that it reads: *Who was , who is, and who is coming.*

When I first came to Jesus, I did not know that it was the voice of the Father drawing me. I thought it was this third God called the Holy Spirit. So, in my understanding, the Father was not present in the beginning of my experience. Chapter 4 of Revelation is a picture of my “born from above” experience when I began to receive the spirit of the Father (who is) and I will continue to grow in His knowledge (who is coming).

Rev 4:9-11: *9. And when those beasts [shall give] glory and honor and thanks to [the One sitting] on the throne, [the One living into the age of the ages], 10. The [twenty four elders will fall] down before [the One sitting] on the throne, and worship [the One living into the age of the ages], and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. [corrected to the Greek]*

We give glory and honor and thanks to the Father by receiving truth and walking according to the principle of the same love He manifested toward us in Jesus Christ. It is the faith of Christ that causes me to bow in humility before my heavenly Father. To cast my crown before him is best explained by **2 Cor 10:3-6:** *3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (God’s knowledge), and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6. And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. Praise God! His mercy endures forever.*

Chapter Five

Rev 5:1-4: *1. And I saw in the right hand of [the One sitting] on the throne a book [having been written] within, and on the backside [having been sealed] with seven seals. 2. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals [of it]? 3. And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to [discern it]. 4. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to*

open and to read the book, neither to [discern it]. [Greek]

The hand represents what one does, or his works, and the right hand indicates works of power, or might (Isa 41:20; Ps 89:13). John sees a book in the right hand of the one on the throne - the Father, indicating there is power, strength, might to who ever can read and understand the book, the one sealed with seven seals. A 'book' is a symbol for the mind. Example: **2 Cor 3:1-3**: *1. Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? or need we, as do some, epistles of commendation to you or from you? 2. Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men; 3. being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables that are hearts of flesh.* The word 'epistle' means letter, and the books of the New Testament are letters written by a believer, either to another believer or a church. Spiritually speaking, when another sees your actions and hears the words you speak to them, which are based upon your thoughts, they are reading your book.

A mighty messenger poses the question, *Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?* Note also, the messenger did not ask who is strong enough, but who is worthy. The same Greek word for 'worthy' is used in a parable about a marriage supper (Mt 22:2-14). Many were called, but did not respond to the invitation - they were "not worthy" (Ibid verse 8). Reflecting on my worldly life, I can see several incidents when the Lord pricked my heart about something. While I did not turn my life around at the time, the prick served as a restraint on the evil I was practicing. Only by looking at my past can I see God's mercy, long suffering and patience with me, and, only by listening to Him, can I understand the effects on me of the things written in my book.

No man, anywhere, was able to open, or, understand the book. **Dan 12:8-10**: *8. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9. And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.* Daniel was unable to understand what he wrote, and the one speaking told him that it would not be understood until the time of the end.

Recently, I read in certain Church's periodical that everything Daniel wrote could be understood except the 2300 days (Dan 8:14), and that this prophecy was understood in the early 1800s. However, their explanation is similar to other Church's explanations in that they apply all of it outward to historical events, which in the 1800s may have been meat in due season (Ps 104:27; Mt 24:45), but not now. Moreover, the historical events have value as to what is to be understood as types of spiritual things (1 Cor 2:13; Col 1:9), especially the thoughts and intents of the heart (Dan 2:30; Heb 4:12).

Dan 12:4, 11: *4. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.... 11. And from the time that the daily (sacrifice) shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.* These verses have not been understood inwardly, until this generation. It is easy to see that worldly knowledge has increased, as in technology. But it is an increase of spiritual knowledge that is needed to change a person inwardly. The key that makes me know that this is happening in our generation, is the revelation that the abomination making people desolate (cf Mt 24:1-20) is the misunderstanding concerning the character of the Father and the Son. Without this foundation, one cannot grow.

Rev 5:5: *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion, [being from] the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, prevailed (i.e. overcome) to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.* The Son of God became the Son of man (root of David) when he was birthed the second time by a human mother, a concept well beyond a any man's understanding. Scientist do, however, understand that much of the emotional makeup of a child begins in the mother's womb, as emotions and feelings are passed to her unborn child, and even continues after birth. Use your imagination, and think about the stresses put on Mary during her pregnancy. When she came back from visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, she was three months pregnant. Do you think her family believed her story? Joseph certainly did not, and others circulated their perceptions about his birth. God had to give Joseph a dream to confirm that how Mary conceived was true. It is evident that the gossip followed Jesus all his earthly life (Gal 4:4; Mt 1:20; Mk 6:3; Lk 4:22; Jn 6:42; 7:27). Jesus took on himself a fallen human nature with all it faults, and went to the cross for mankind, having never sinned. He prevailed to open the understanding of the adversity of the human heart. When you make Mary a spiritual type,

this becomes your experience as you grow in your understanding from spiritual conception.

Rev 5:6: *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.* Again, this must be viewed as happening in the mind - the throne is your mind where the Spirit of God dwells (1 Cor 3:16) in your thoughts (beasts & elders). The reason for the cross and the sacrifice become clear, as the Lamb of God shares his experiences as the divine Son of God and the Son of man. He has a fulness of understanding (7 eyes), which is the fulness of the Spirit (7 spirits) of the Father. (Col 1:19; 2:9)

Seven horns: Horn in Hebrew is *qeren* (7161), the root of which is *qaran* (7160). The root means "to shine" and so, a horn is properly "that which shines." Horns are an animal's defense, its weapons, its majesty. Spiritually, it is indicative of your power and authority which comes from the light you have obtained (what you consider as truth). In a denomination, one's authority is only within the bounds of the Church Creed. When a person receives light from God, he will have authority with anyone who is truly listening to the voice of God in their conscience, no matter their denomination. The seven horns in Revelation are a fulness of the light and authority given by the Father to the Son (Jn 3:35), because he accepted the responsibility as Savior of the world. Jesus became the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 5:8-9) by his experience.

Rev 5:7: *And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.* A key phrase in this scripture is *took the book*, the concept of which is also in chapter 10. The extra phrases are stripped in order to bring out the concept: **Rev 10:8-10:** *8. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel... 9. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up... 10. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up...* Contained in the book in the right hand of the Father is a revelation of self. While God offers it to everyone, He forces no one to take it. For those who take the initiative to know their faults, God will cause you to understand it (cp Eze 3:1-4).

Rev 5:8: *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell*

down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. Again, a 'book' represents a mind. The mind of Christ is the 'book of life' (Rev 13:8), and I receive eternal life by hearing and doing the words he speaks to my heart (Jn 6:63; Jn 5:24, 30). He prevailed to open the book because of his human experience. Therefore, he is able to open my book and show to me the iniquity of my heart. As he does this, my thoughts are being brought into subjection to God's way of thinking. We prophesy from the heart (harp - 1 Ch 25:1) by a testimony of how Christ is helping us overcome sin in our lives. The 'golden vial' is a mind purified with God's righteous thoughts (odors) and which communicates with God (prayer).

Rev 5:9-10: *9. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred (tribe), and tongue, and people, and nation; 10. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on (over) the earth.* The new song is the new experience. (Cf Ex ch 15 for a song of experience). A spiritual king rules (over the earth) his thoughts, in this case with correct spiritual thinking; A priest is someone who has become renewed in the spirit of the mind, abides in Christ and is able to minister to others.

Rev 5:11-12: *11. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12. Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, honor, and glory, and blessing.* "Angel" (32) is a Greek word which means "messenger, one who is sent", and it is derived from a word (71) meaning "to lead, guide, direct." Because these things are happening in John's mind, consider the angels as being innumerable messages, perhaps the voice of the prophets (Act 13:27), sent by God to lead, guide and direct one into the truth. Like children, angels are real, but consider them allegorically. Look at the following example wherein Jesus explains a parable:

Mt 13:37-42: *37. ...He that sows the good seed is the Son of man; 38. The field is the (children of the) world (2889); the good seed are the children of the kingdom (God's way of thinking); but the tares are the children (bad thoughts) of the wicked one; 39. The enemy that sowed them is the devil (1228 - serpent - Rev 12:9); the harvest is the end (4930 - full end) of the world (165 - age, generation); and the reapers are the angels (messengers). 40. As therefore the tares are gathered (by the messages) and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the*

end (full end) of this world (age - generation that experiences it). 41. The Son of man shall send forth his angels (with messages), and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things (corrupt thoughts) that offend, and them which do iniquity (those acquiring a misunderstanding of the law); 42. And shall cast them into a furnace of fire (God's word - Jer 5:14; 23:29; Eze 20:47): (Author's notes) Comments were added to show what happens inwardly to the people of God who will give the last message, and yes, these things will be manifested by individuals in their conduct.

Messengers are real people who share God's word. However, it is not the messenger that removes the iniquity of my heart - it is removed by truth being applied to the heart. It is the Son of man who sows the seed and sends forth messages. It is by understanding of the Son's humanity and the Father's purpose for sending him, to not condemn the people of the world, but to save them. By discerning Christ on the cross (brass serpent a figure), we can become aware of our 'old man' and the corruption we carry (tares). The harvest is in the last generation, when God will use a perfected people to give the gospel of truth to the world. All the messages (angels) are pointing to one thing - *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, honor, and glory, and blessing* (Rev 5:12). **Isa 4:3-4:** *3. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remains in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: 4. 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.*

Rev 5:13-14: *13. And every creature which is in heaven (have spiritual thoughts), and on the earth (thoughts from self), and under the earth (under self's dominion), and such as are in the sea (have worldly thoughts), and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshiped him that lives for ever and ever.* The phrase 'fell down' is the Greek word *pipto* (4098), of which the proper meaning is "descend from a higher place to a lower." Metaphorically, it means "to lose authority, to be removed from power by death." The word is used six times in reference to the beasts and elders. What is being described is death to self, humility - the fall of Babylon (Rev 14:8), or, that confused way of understanding the Father and Son - a mind-set

that is a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold (prison) of every unclean and hateful bird (thought - Rev 18:2).

Summary

It is only by looking back at our experiences that we can understand fully, what has happened in our spiritual journeys. The seven churches describe in general terms a life time of experiences, but not necessarily the same length for each person. Chapter seven is the confirmation of those having come to a spiritual completeness in Christ right before the end. Chapters four through six fill in details of how they got there. While the seventh seal, trumpet, and plague describe what is happening at the end of this world, the book keeps filling in details before these final events. Last day events will appear very different from what we have been taught to expect. As it appears now, the great multitude (Rev 7:9) will not understand the book of Revelation until the next world. That does not to exclude there being explanations about the book but there is, however, a difference between hearing facts and knowing what they mean.

What Christian would not want to possess God's understanding of life? Is this concept very well understood or taught today? I think if it were, people might be more open listening to the impressions on their hearts, and to learning new things. Change is almost always difficult, especially when a person has been brought up to believe a certain way.

Our learning must begin with the correct foundation, referred to as 'doctrinal correction', which correction includes much more than just understanding the Godhead. Before a person can advance very far in God's understanding, they need to become acquainted with the spirituality of the law, and the fact that the only way the deeper things can be understood is by listening to the Spirit. Jesus said, *The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* (Jn 6:63) Practically every doctrine taught by man is flawed and must be restudied under the guidance of the Spirit of truth.

God cannot change us unless we come to the point of listening to the still small voice. Only then can the old be blotted out and supplanted with the new. **Acts 3:19-24:** *19. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out (of the book - your mind), when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. 20. And he shall send Jesus*

Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21. Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. 22. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Rev 4:1-2: *1. After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice (Rev 1:10) which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.* This concept is misunderstood, and especially perverted by certain groups today. To be 'in the spirit' is to be in a frame of mind to receive spiritual things from God. **Rom 8:6:** *For to be carnally minded (thoughts not from God) is death; but to be spiritually minded (think like God) is life and peace.* A spiritual mind is a state in which one must enter in order to be cleansed by the washing of the water of the word (Eph 5:26) - It is a state of responding to the impressions of the heart, and operating in the spirit.

When we look at, study and understand the cross, God begins to unravel our iniquity, our perverted thinking. It is the Father, by means of the Son, who gives us a full understanding of our past and what comes after (*full of eyes before and behind*) we are healed. **Lk 2:34-35:** *34. and Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, 'Lo, this [one] (Jesus) is set for the falling and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign spoken against... 35. that the reasoning of many hearts may be revealed.' (Young's) The heart is deceitful and wicked above all things (Jer 17:9) and only God can expose, so that we can receive healing.*

Rev 3:3: *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.*
Isa 35:8-10: *8. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. 9. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: 10. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Amen.*

