

You should listen to last week’s sermon in order to get the full benefit of this sermon. Last week’s sermon may be found, with notes, at <http://tinyurl.com/c53kskb>.

Last week we saw from Revelation 5 that John the Apostle was caught up to Heaven where he saw the Throne of God, surrounded with glory and honor. The book of Revelation gives us in highly symbolic form the end of the Gospel, the triumph of the Lamb of God, that is nowhere better expressed than in Chapters five and six. I hold to a realistic interpretation of Revelation, which means that I think it is prophecy about events from the resurrection of Christ to the end of the world, written in language that describes things that we cannot discern with the senses of the body, but that are seen by faith. I made **Two of Three** points last week **I. The Rich Inheritance of Man; II. The Rightful Heir.**

To summarize thus far: John sees: Twenty Four elders: The entire church of God, Old and New Testaments. The Seven Spirits of God, the Four Mighty Angels, The sea of glass. These represent the powers that work the immanent work of God throughout all of history which are known perfectly and clearly to Him. This is His providence. All of history is under the perfect power and authority of God by the perfection of His Spirit, His foreknowledge [sea of glass], and the ministry of the Holy Angels, as we will see in the rest of Revelation. They Praise God: He is worthy to receive glory and honor and power, for He created all things for His pleasure.

The rich inheritance of the saints is contained in a scroll in the hand of God, representing what God intended in the creation of man, that all things would be put under his feet. But the scroll is sealed with seven seals, representing the claims against the inheritance brought about because of Adam’s sin. The scroll is seal and unavailable to men. This is not about redeeming the elect, for that is accomplished by the offering up of the blood of Christ forever, but this has to do with the redeeming of the inheritance, which is not yet fully accomplished, but is accomplished by Christ working through the ages of history.

John wept because no one was worthy to redeem the inheritance, but one of the elder comforts him, saying that the Lamb is worthy to open the seals. When the Lamb takes the book, the church breaks forth into song: “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, and tongue, and people, and nation;

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” [This is the inheritance. What Adam lost for mankind, the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, wins for us, for both Jews and Gentiles, according to the election of God.]

So now we are ready for the opening of the seals. Let us read Chapter 6 of the Book of Revelation. [Read Revelation 6 at this point]

This is the Redemption of the Inheritance by Jesus Christ and the removal of the rightful claims of God against the world that He had created that had fallen under the bondage of sin because of Adam’s transgressions. Or so I think. Whatever view you take of the interpretation of the book

of Revelation, you will find, I think, some place for the things we will say this morning. I wish to make two points **I. The Seven Seals are the invisible work of Christ as Redeemer through all the history of the world from His resurrection to His coming again. II. This was indicated by all the prophets, including Simeon in the Temple and Our Duty is very clear in light of this.**

**I. The Seven Seals are the invisible work of Christ as Redeemer through all the history of the world from His resurrection to His coming again.** Let us look at the opening of the seals in Rev. 6. I would lay the following ideas at the door of your mind, which are true, I think, because of the analogy of Scripture and conform to all the teachings of the Gospel and the Holy Prophets.

- A. The First Seal. John is called to come and see. He looks upon the portion of the scroll that is open and sees
1. A white horse. Going forth conquering. He had a crown, and a bow. Crown for authority, Bow to overcome all His enemies. Not a sword here, but a bow.
  2. This is Jesus Christ, who is the mighty conquerer through all the ages. He has a bow because of Psalm 45 “3 Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. 4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. 5 Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; whereby the people fall under thee. 6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.” This passage is specifically applied to Jesus Christ by the writer of Hebrews. [1:8]
  3. It is Jesus Christ who directs and administers the judgments that must be accomplished before the inheritance is possessed by the people of God.
  4. All creation now groans, as Paul says, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies—the material inheritance. Romans 8:19 ff which we do not have time to read. I mention it only for reference.
- B. The Second Seal. John again is called to come and see. He sees red horse. He takes peace from the earth and there is killing. He has a great sword. This is war. Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars. This is one of the means that God uses to cleanse the earth of the blood of innocents that has been shed from the beginning of the world. Man’s desire for peace without Jesus Christ simply adds to the curse, for man is still the son of Adam and would take the inheritance for himself as usurper and tyrant. History is filled with such ambition, wickedness, wars, and blood.
- C. The Third Seal. John again is called to come and see. He sees a black horse. The rider holds a pair of balances, like you used to see in chemistry labs and pharmacies. Used commercially to weigh things. This speaks of want and famine. A man’s labor for one day will provide enough food only for himself. How dear and precious are even the basic necessities of food and drink. This is another means in the hands of the Redeemer to bring judgment on the earth to purge it of the wickedness that has eaten away at its very fiber through all the years of history. There will be famines and want until the end

of history, because these things are in the hands of God, and the only cure is repentance of sins and faith in Jesus Christ. Those who do not repent will find no comfort.

- D. The Fourth Seal. John again is called and sees: He sees a pale horse. The rider is Death, and Hell follows closely upon him. This is the plague and disease that follows close upon wars and famine. These famous Four Horsemen ride up and down the earth during all the times that Christ is in Heaven. But the First Rider directs all the activities of the other three and they can only do what they do by the power that is given to them from heaven. They spread over the earth and then they retire for a while that men may repent and turn from their evil.
- E. The Fifth Seal. Now John is not called, but in the scroll he sees the martyrs of the Lamb. Those that suffer for Christ through all the ages of the church. There is a great multitude of them.
1. The church is called to suffer. The inheritance is not yet, and the church also goes astray if she seeks the inheritance by carnal means. Paul said, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.” Those weapons are described also in Revelation 12, by which the saints overcome the power of the devil, the god of this world: “10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”
  2. We are therefore to put on the whole armor of God, as Paul tells us, so that these words will be true of us, and we must teach them to our children, to prepare them for enduring hardship as good soldiers of Christ. Eph. 6: [He is not just talking to the ministry, although the ministry must be in the forefront...]  
 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.  
 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.  
 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.  
 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;  
 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;  
 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.  
 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:  
 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
  3. Who do you think that you will escape tribulation and trials? Jesus said, “In this world ye shall have tribulation.” “If Christ died for us, we ought also to lay down our

lives for the brethren.” This will continue until the coming of the Lord in power and glory.

F. The Sixth Seal. The shaking of all things. This was indicated by the writer of Hebrews, chapter twelve:

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

1. Every power that is exalted against Christ will be overthrown and put down.
2. Psalm 2:7 I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

G. The Seventh Seal: I will not deal with this today. Sufficient to say, the things written introduce us to the back side of the scroll, which occupies the same events in greater detail through the rest of the book of Revelation. Or so I believe.

## II. This Shaking and Redemption was indicated by all the prophets, including Simeon in the Temple. Our Duty is Very Clear.

A. Luke 3:4-6 John the Baptist, quoting Isaiah 40: Read both and compare and learn

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

B. Read all of Isaiah 40 in light of what I just said. Isaiah is speaking of the whole range of Messiah's work during his absence from us until He comes again to enter into His inheritance and ours.

C. Now, look at Luke 2:25-35 let me summarize this great Christmas text:

1. Mary and Joseph took Jesus who was 8 days old up to Jerusalem to offer the proper sacrifices for his purification.
2. This old man Simeon lived in Jerusalem and came by the Spirit to see the baby, for it had been revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Christ.

3. He was part of the true church in Israel
  - a. He was just: the last six commandments.
  - b. He was devout: the first four commandments
  - c. He waited for the consolation of Israel. He believed the promises of God; he had true faith. Vs. 25
4. His words:
  - a. To the baby in his arms.
    - (1). He blessed God for His salvation: Jesus is the salvation of the world
    - (2). This salvation had been prepared openly before all people
    - (3). This salvation would light the Gentiles and be the Glory of Israel. Jesus is the seed of Abraham the Glory of Israel. O, that God would open their eyes to see it!! But it will come.
  - b. To Mary
    - (1). The fall and resurrection of Israel. Those who fall on this stone shall be broken, but those on whom this stone falls, it will grind him to powder.
    - (2). He will be spoken against. The world is not going to be made at peace with Christ. He will dash them in pieces as a potter’s vessel, but the inheritance will be purged and delivered from corrupt and godless men. There will always be opposition and strife.
    - (3). Mary will also know the sword of strife and opposition. Her heart would bleed at the awful things spoken against him, not only for the natural love of a mother, but the holy love of a child of God for her Savior.
  - c. It is not an easy road that Simeon marks out for Mary and the saints. Mary lived long after the resurrection of Christ and she witnessed the persecution and the killing of the saints, but she also endured hardness for Jesus Christ.

#### D. Our Duty is very clear in light of this.

1. We are to hold fast to the word of our testimony and the blood of the Lamb.
2. We are not to love our lives so as to secure them at the cost of the Gospel and the glory of God.
3. We are to put on the whole armor of God, so that we do not come up short, but are well equipped for the struggle that is before us for the glory of God. We have many witnesses already in Heaven to urge us on to the struggle [Heb. 11]
4. Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, laying aside the weight and the sins that beset us, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”
5. Don’t be weary and faint in your mind. Be strong as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. He goes before; we follow in his train. Remember His sufferings and His patience and His endurance against the contradiction of sinners; don’t be weary and faint in your mind.

6. Use the pound that God has given you, and do not faint because of those who say, “We will not have this man to reign over us.” Do not be ashamed Christ and His truth. Give yourselves up completely to Him. You are not responsible for anything but the pound you have, that He will require at His coming. Amen.
7. Remember the testimony and wisdom of Simeon, as well as our Lord:
  - a. Be just: Do good and right by every man.
  - b. Be devout: Fear God, worship in spirit, trust in His name, His attributes, Be patient. Keep on keeping on for the glory of God and His church. Do not live for yourself and your own interests, but give yourself up wholly in the service of Christ.
  - c. Live in hope and trust for the consolation of Israel. The time of your salvation is sooner than when you first believed. Simeon saw His first coming, and we and he shall witness His Second Coming, in spite of the scoffing and contraction of sinners.

Amen and Amen. God bless you.