

[Continuing message from Current Affairs #44] Unless we think that it does not matter. But you see, this is where we get into trouble, because these are secrets that God means to reveal. And in the revelation of these secrets, we will come to rest. These are profound mysteries, and yet we come rushing in to great mysteries with unsound minds, attempting to superimpose our historic information, our historic knowledge, the way we have been taught doctrinally, and the way we have been raised doctrinally. We superimpose them at will upon the Scriptures, and that is the blindness that does not allow us to see what we ought to see, what would otherwise be plainly available to us to see. I have found that, if I am going to represent the Lord, in order for me to hear what He has to say, I cannot approach Him with any presupposition.

Now, the things that are written are always the same; meaning, they remain as they are written. But what is revealed about what is written grows deeper and deeper and deeper. Until God reveals a matter, He does not hold our ignorance of such things against us. He winks at our ignorance. But the moment He reveals it, and that sound of the revelation of that which He has revealed reverberates from the earth and echoes back into the heavens, He changes the configurations of things on the earth to accommodate the revelation from heaven. And if we are going to benefit from this that has been revealed, we have to repent. We have to change our mindsets—that is the meaning of repentance—and reposition in something greater that God is showing us.

Let me proceed here for a moment. So, the One who is sitting on the throne,¹ who was and is and is to come, the Almighty,² who created all things and without Him was not anything made that was made,³ He holds in the right hand a scroll written inside and on the back, and it is sealed with seven seals.⁴ The question then arose that caused everyone to focus on the One on the throne who holds the scroll: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” (cf. Revelation 5:2). This is a new happening in heaven. We have the idea that heaven is somehow some sort of a static environment in which things are always the same. But no, heaven is not static at all.

You see, heaven was created. Like the earth was created, heaven was created.⁵ Heaven and earth were created in the same epoch of creation, in those seven periods described as “evening and morning,” where things moved out of darkness and were revealed, illuminated. These are not seven

calendar days, as some suppose, obviously because a calendar day is the time it takes the earth to go around the sun. That would be a problem, wouldn't it? Because the sun was not created until the fourth day. So, no. A day, as described in Genesis, is not a 24-hour day.

I was amused recently when I saw a politician—I think he was a Georgia politician—presenting his credentials as a Bible believing Christian, and he said, “I am one who believes in creation having taken place in seven earth days.” You know that he is appealing to people who have that same view. And to these people, even if you present the truth, the obvious truth that it could not possibly have been a 24-hour day because the measurement of time was the earth going around the sun, and the sun and moon and stars had not been created for another three days... But who cares? It is a political something, and it is an appeal to Christians.

Christians have become so gullible because they have been, by and large, unhooked from the Spirit of God, and by that, from the Spirit of revelation. And so, they are anxious to have everything go back to normal, when God is bringing forth something through the process of birth. This is that time: birth pangs on a pregnant woman. What He is bringing forth is the glory of the man in the image and likeness of God. But they prefer yesterday's wine. They prefer to be trapped in society as they have created it and as they are able to influence it. So witless politicians come forth and say, “I am like you. I believe creation was seven calendar days—that God created in 24-hour days, seven days, a week.” And it was not so.

When you say that, it almost seems like you are heretical, but you only appear heretical because people have departed from the Spirit of truth and from the knowledge of the truth. In this time, what is being revealed is how great the falling away has already become. These nonsensical gospels, these silly ideologies refuse to change in the plain light of Scripture. When the Scriptures are exposed by the breath of God, they dig their heels in because they like it the way it was. Does that sound to you like the times when Jesus lived on the earth? He came, and He was the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Everything about which the Scriptures spoke was about Him, and they crucified Him. If they did that to the Lord, I do not have a greater hope and a greater ambition that they will hear me. But nevertheless, I am speaking to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, not those

who see and do not see, hear and do not hear because their preference is what they lust for. They choose to only see what they prefer to see; their blindness is self-imposed. And they choose to hear only what pleases their ear. That is why they heap to themselves teachers to tell them what they want to hear. This is why people are deceived and why deceivers are commonplace and even exalted teachers in the church today. But some will see and some will hear.

I drifted off. So, He has the scroll in His hand⁴—the One who sits on the throne;¹ the One we usually refer to as the Father sitting on the throne, but who has now been described by those in heaven as the same Lord Jesus, the Almighty, the One who was and is and is to come, and as He defines Himself: the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord Jesus Christ.² He is sitting on the throne. And heaven acknowledges that He made all things,³ and He made it all for Himself because He was going to come into creation to occupy creation for the purpose that was in the mind of the Father.

Heaven, you see, was created. It was created on the third day. Heaven is not eternal, so scenes change in heaven. It is a created realm. It hosts the unfolding revelation of God, who is not in time and space, who is not relegated to heaven. His presence is in heaven, His presence is in the earth, but He is outside of heaven and earth. Everything that moves into heaven is according to what God foreknew, and it moves into heaven before it is revealed out of heaven into the earth. That is the order of transmission.

Things that come from God, originate in God, and I am working to that. I want to talk to you about how in the beginning there was the deep, there was the water, and there was the Spirit. That is before either heaven or earth were created. So outside of time and space, God exists. Time is a creation of God, and it serves God. Everything that exists lives and moves and has its very being *in* the deep, as much as the water was in the deep, as much as the Spirit was in the deep. God is in sovereign control outside of the realm of creation, but whatever is in His mind to be brought into creation is first brought into heaven.

He already knows the end from the beginning, so the sequencing of everything in Him is designed to come first into heaven, and out of heaven to come into the earth. The reason is, heaven is more

accommodating of spiritual things. It was constructed to accommodate things that are spiritual, because things that are spiritual are much more versatile. You can see more of God in the realm of spirit than you can see of God in the realm of the formal, the material, which earth and the visible creation are. So, heaven, as it were, is the staging area where God puts things out of Himself into that realm, to come ultimately into the realm of time and space.

The enemy, who is in one of the realms of the heavens, tries to operate to block those things coming out of heaven. We know that because that is what Daniel was told by the angel Gabriel. The prince of Persia contended with a messenger, the angel Gabriel, who was bringing the word of the release of Israel out of Babylonian captivity and back to Israel. The release of that word had been sent by the angel Gabriel, and the prince of Persia, a demonic prince, tried to block it. But heaven has all the resources necessary to remove every blockage and to allow things to flow into time and space.

So, He who sits on the throne holds the scroll in His hand, and it is time for the opening of the seals. That whole digression into time being in God, how creation was established, and all of that is to show you that the realm of heaven is not static. If everything is wrapped up in heaven and the realm of heaven, how could you have a new song? Where would there be room for a new song? Do you know what “new” means? It means new—it had not been sung before. If you are going to open scrolls to reveal, what are you going to reveal? Things that had not been happening before. Why would these things be written on a scroll hosted in heaven? The answer is, because heaven is the place of first entrance into creation of things that are already in God.

It was time for this scroll that was in heaven to be opened, and the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth held it in His right hand. But the irony is, He is the One who was on earth. The first sighting of Him in the book of Revelation is not the thirtyish young man who came to the earth and who was crucified. No. He is magnificent in a way that allows Him to carry easily a glory associated with the Father. Did you note the language? “The Almighty, who was and is and is to come”—that is the Eternal One, the Almighty. These are titles that belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Before you freak out, let me remind you that in the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter, He is described as,

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV).

He is described as the *Everlasting Father*. He is described as the *Mighty God*. The One who is to come, the Lord Jesus Christ, is described as the *Mighty God*, the *Everlasting Father*.

- The Mighty God means the Almighty.
- The Everlasting Father is He who was and is and is to come.
- The Prince of Peace—that allows Him to sit on the throne of His Father.

There is nothing amiss about Jesus in His glorified form returning to a glory He had with the Father before the creation of the world. I will come back to that and to unpack that even further.

I want to show you what would otherwise be a dilemma. The question now arose [Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals? (cf. Revelation 5:2)], and a scroll brought out new things to be revealed, revealed from heaven (cf. Revelation 6). By the way, all those things that are spoken as being revealed when the seven seals are broken successively, they all are being revealed upon the earth. None of it is being revealed in heaven. In a major way, all of it affects the earth. Ergo, I say to you, things are revealed first in heaven, and then they are manifested on the earth.

This is an order that we probably have never heard of before, because we just think that heaven is where we want to go when we die. And, yes, we ought to want to go to heaven when we die, but please do not be dismayed to learn that that heaven that presently exists will eventually be rolled up as a scroll, and it will pass away,⁶ because there will be new heavens and a new earth.⁷ And we know that Jesus will bring back with Him, when He comes with the clouds of heaven, He will bring back those who were with Him in heaven. They will be joined by those of the earth who have been suddenly resurrected, and they will come back to a renewed earth. Jesus is not coming back to just have us be caught up to meet Him, and then turn around and go back to heaven with all of us. So He brings those out of heaven who are already there, and He receives up those who are coming by the form of the resurrection and those who are changed in a moment, in a twinkling

of an eye, who are alive but who do not die, those who belong to Him. And then what? He gathers everybody back up and says, “Now, let’s all go to heaven again.”? That is the folly of what we have believed: that when Jesus comes, He is going to come to take us to heaven, only to have heaven disappear. No. It is not the end of the story. It is about the man above the water. It is about what God means to do beyond the creation of heaven and earth. Now is the time for the revealing of such things. Alright, now let’s move forward.

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it (Revelation 5:1-3 NKJV).

So, the seven seals on the scroll were meant to be opened. It appeared to John that no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll. By the way, the word “under” (as in “under the earth”) speaks to a dimension of authority lower than the heavens and the earth. Whenever you think of the realm of the demonic in present tense, it is a higher realm, in the sense that it is an invisible realm. But in truth, it is only established by an authority that is false and flawed, and cannot be maintained against the understanding of those who know their position as sons of God. That is why it is described as “under the earth.” The earth, there, is a reference to the domain of man, and under the earth means it is a domain of lesser significance, lesser authority. But all these things we will come to know with greater fluency as we clothe ourselves with Christ and begin to act out of our propitiated position as members appropriately assembled by the Spirit of God to a divine *corpus*, which is the *Corpus Christi*, the Body of Christ. Anyway, under the earth nobody was found.

So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders [one of the twenty-four] said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David [That would be Isaiah 11:1, “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”], has prevailed

to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals” (Revelation 5:4-5, comments added in brackets).

So, every descriptor of the One who is about to come and take the scroll and open it, references the Son of Man:

- “the Lion of the tribe of Judah”—that is a man,
- “the Root of David has prevailed,”—David is a man.

He has overcome and He is worthy to open the scroll. Now,

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders... (Revelation 5:6a)

- “in the **midst** of the throne”— That is the appropriate word, media: the medium, in the midst of. And by the way, the throne is in a circle, the four living creatures are in a circle, and the twenty-four elders are in a circle, so the visual picture is *in the midst of* the circle. And that is where the throne is, too. In the midst of the circle,

...stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne (Revelation 5:6b-7).

Now, hold on for a second. So, we are in heaven. We are in the Spirit. We are seeing things that cannot be understood rationally; they can only be understood by revelation. It is announced, “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David...” The Lion is announced and what do we see? “Behold, I looked, and there before me stood a Lamb.” The Lion and the Lamb are the same. This is one of the mysteries of God. In the same being, in the One being is multiple manifestations. What are we going to do with this? Is not the Lion, the Lamb? Is it wrong to announce the Lion, and then show us the Lamb? Is this a kind of bait and switch? Hey everybody, the Lion— (drumroll, spotlight) —the Lamb. Is this what the French would call a *dénouement*? Is this a deception? No. The two are the One, right before us.

In heaven the Lion is described, and He is described as the Root of David. You may say, “Well, these are just terms of art.” But why not describe the Lamb as the Lamb, like John the Baptist did? “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (cf. John 1:29). Because, the designation is that the Lion is the character of the overcomer. It is not a simple sleight of hand. It is a descriptor of an essential characteristic of the Lamb: He is the overcomer, like the Lion. But He is not the lion who devours; that is the roaring lion.⁸ He is the Lion who overcomes the devourer. He has the strength of the overcomer in Him. The Lamb, therefore, is described in these unusual terms: “having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

Endnotes:

1. See Revelation 4:2 NKJV: “Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”
2. See Revelation 1:8 NKJV: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”; see also Revelation 4:8 NKJV: “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’”
3. See John 1:1-3 NKJV: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”; see also Revelation 4:11 NKJV: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”
4. See Revelation 5:1 NKJV: “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.”
5. See Genesis 1:1 NKJV: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
6. See Isaiah 34:4 NKJV: “All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as

fruit falling from a fig tree.”; see also 2 Peter 3:10 NKJV: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”; see also Revelation 6:14 KJV: “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”

7. See 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”
8. See 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”