

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN (Rev. 7:15-17)

Rev. 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God [*A Divine Scene*], and serve him day and night in his temple [*A Divine Service*]: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them [*A Divine Security*]. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat [*A Divine Supply*]. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters [*A Divine Shepherd*]: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes [*A Divine Sympathy*].

The Bible is the Book that belongs to the people of God and it assures us we are more than conquerors through Christ Who has loved us (Rom. 8:37). This morning I mentioned the Millennium ... What is it, and what is it all about? Some people make it complicated, but we shall simply take the Word as it is written.

In chapter one of Revelation we read John was exiled to the Island of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea. In the second and third chapters he is given the vision of the Lord standing among seven golden lampstands. In chapter four, he is taken up into the glorious presence of God in Heaven. Chapter five introduces him to the Redeemed gathered in anticipation of the Lamb opening the scroll. Chapter six introduces the first six seals, - relating to events preceding the coming of the Saviour ... And chapter seven is an interlude before the seventh seal is opened, which is the Seven Trumpets of chapters eight and nine. In the first eight verses of the seventh chapter the Church is on the threshold of the tribulation period, but sealed from God's wrath upon the world in judgment. (Similar to the safety and Divine security experienced by the children of Israel in the land of Goshen during the Egyptian captivity) ...

The second half of chapter seven relates to the victorious people of God after having come out of that Tribulation. ... So, that's where we are. In the previous chapter (6:17), the question was asked, *the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?* Now, here's the answer, *7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ...*

A DIVINE SCENE

Therefore are they before the throne of God

... Are they in Heaven, or on earth ... where are they? Is this the same throne of God we read about in chapter four? I don't think so because we have moved on from chapter four. This is *another divine scene*. These saints are robed in white: ... Two things, - firstly, they are not merely souls (as in 6:9, *I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held*). When we enter Heaven, it is as our souls, - the bodies do not follow until the resurrection ... **I Cor. 15:42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption [*i.e. the body is buried and decomposes in the grave*]; it is raised in

incorruption [i.e. *the new body is raised out of the grave when Christ returns to meet Him in the air*]: **43** It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ... But the resurrection has not taken place yet in Rev. 7, so the bodies here in Rev. 7 are *earthly* bodies, because this event is taking place on *earth*, **Rev. 7:1** And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of *the earth*, holding the four winds of *the earth*, that the wind should not blow on *the earth*, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **2** And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt *the earth* and the sea. And then, after the events of vv. 3-8 we have the development ... **9** After this [note v.1] I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood [standing] before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; **10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. These are saints *on earth* in their bodies who have suffered and survived the Tribulation, and have been found worthy to enjoy the presence of God, enthroned *on the earth* ... God is with them in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ ... He had promised His disciples at the Last Supper in the Upper Room, **Lk. 22:18** I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ... **Lk. 13:35** Ye shall not see me, until *the time* come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. ... *Now*, it has come!

This is the time in prophecy when the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them (Is. 11:6) ... the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord (Is. 65:25) ... Therefore are they before the throne of God ... And Isaiah tells us something else that makes it clear there will be this millennial period, **Is. 65:18** But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. **19** And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. **20** There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old ... There will continue to be death, so this cannot be the final new heaven and the new earth because there *is no* death in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:4)! ... [A Divine Scene]

A DIVINE SERVICE

and serve him day and night in his temple

Jeremiah prophesied, **Jer. 3:17** At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. Zechariah prophesied the same, **Zech. 14:16** And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. Another indication this is happening on earth is the fact the service of the Redeemed will cover

both day and night. ... We are told there shall be no night (Rev. 21:25) in the new heaven and the new earth, but there is night in Rev. 7:15 ... so we're not in the new heaven and the new earth yet. Where are we then? We're still on earth, during the millennial reign of Christ! ... This is the fulfilment of the prayer, Mt. 6:10 *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* ... He will have His earthly throne, and His glory will be manifested throughout all the earth, as it was in Heaven!

Also, notice the mention of all the nations, - that would be meaningless if this was taking place in Heaven ... Is. 2:4 *And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people ...* 66:18 *I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory ...* Just for a moment, do you think the God Who created the heavens and the earth for His own glory is going to allow His creation *not* to experience what He had intended it for? In the beginning He created it perfect with the purpose of it being the paradise He would share with His people. When He created this earth, - even away back then ... in those days, - you would have seen the leopard lying down with the kid, you would have seen the calf and the young lion cub and the fatling playing together ... What will be different though, - in the period of the one thousand year reign of Christ, - is that in the very midst of them is the little child who will be leading them. ... *That* hasn't happened before, but it will when Christ reigns during that millennial period.

We know how the devil introduced sin and polluted God's creation ... Do you honestly think God would leave it at that, and give up on the plan He had in eternity of a perfect earth for a perfect people ... as if it were a bad idea, or as if He could not make it happen, or as if His first plans didn't matter?! No, I don't believe any of that ... I don't believe He is the kind of God Who would cast aside or reject or forsake the plans He made in His design from the beginning! He doesn't give up! He doesn't change His mind! All His plans *will* be achieved for His glory ... and the devil cannot hinder a single one of them! ... God planned, - at the beginning of time, - this earth would show forth His glory ... and, - at the end of the age, - *He will make sure* of it, Phil. 2:10 *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

A divine scene, a divine service ...

A DIVINE SECURITY and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them

There is a very important word used here for 'sitteth' (σκηνώω), and it means to 'fix one's tabernacle'. It's the same word used in Jn. 1:14, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt [fixed His tabernacle] among us.* He *physically* dwelt on earth in Jn. 1:14 ... and He will *physically* dwell on earth again!

And so Isaiah prophesied, **Is. 4:3** And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth 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. **5** And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. **6** And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain. ... The cloud and the smoke and the flaming fire reminiscent of the Lord's presence with His people in the wilderness, and His promise ... **Divine Security.**

A DIVINE SUPPLY They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat

These words are taken from **Is. 49:10**, They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. This follows the infamous "day of the Lord" about which the prophets speak. Unprecedented destruction upon the earth as the seven seals are opened and the seven trumpets sounded.

Of course, all that has passed during the period prophesied in **Rev. 7:9-17**. This is when the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels (**Mt. 16:27**) ... there will be the fullness of Divine provision, as the prophets prophesied, **Is. 58:11** And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. ... **Ezek. 34:14** I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. ... **Divine Supply.**

A DIVINE SHEPHERD For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters

He will 'shepherd' His people, - the word (ποιμαίνω) means more than simply to 'feed' them for it means to look after them, and to keep them ... The whole heart of the Shepherd is in the care of His sheep ... *that's what it means!* ... In Psalm 23, the psalmist deals with the present, **1** The LORD *is* my shepherd, and he also looks with confidence to the future, **6** I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. ... This is the promise He makes to all people, that He shall lead them unto living fountains of waters ... and you'll notice it is a *future* tense. ... He will be the **Divine Shepherd** ruling from Jerusalem. Finally ...

A DIVINE SYMPATHY and God shall wipe away all [every] tears from their eyes

The tender love of God ... On that day we shall see the One Who loved us and died for us. There will be relentless shouts of joy. There will be no tears of sadness for He will have wiped them away, **Is. 25:8** He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. ... There it is again ... from off all *the earth*.

In these days of confusion and anxiety, this is our confidence ... Jesus Christ is coming again to this earth to establish His Kingdom. And after His one thousand year reign of Christ is over, what happens next? John saw Satan being loosed for a short time in his final act of rebellion (Rev. 20:7,8). He will march on Jerusalem, “the beloved city”, **Rev. 20:9** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city. However, he will be defeated, because the fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. The devil will be grabbed hold of and finally cast into the lake of fire where he will be tormented forever (v.10). Then, Peter tells us, **II Peter 3:10** the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ... It will be God’s judgment when He destroys the world, - the first heaven and the first earth. Immediately, they will be replaced with the *new* heaven and the *new* earth. ... And that is His plan of the ages complete. His creation restored. His people at home ... Christ appointed heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), fulfilled at last.

We’ve looked at a **Divine Scene**, a **Divine Service**, a **Divine Security**, a **Divine Supply**, a **Divine Shepherd**, and a **Divine Sympathy**. That’s six points ... *seven* is the number of perfection and completion ... The seventh consideration could simply be this, **Divine Assurance** ... Make sure you have it. Make sure you’re saved and looking ahead, so all these privileges will eternally be yours! Amen.