

Readings

Heb. 8:5
Rev. 1:12; 4:6; 5:6
Joel 3:14

Introduction

Elementary matters:

- a) Something which for many years has annoyed me is brethren who tell me the Tabernacle is a type of Christ, the laver is a type of the scriptures, and expect me to take their word for it! I want the Biblical foundation for such interpretations, following the example of the Bereans who checked if the things taught were correct. (Acts 17:11)
 - i) If I say that the Tabernacle is a reflection of things in Heaven, then:
 1. What scripture is there for such a statement? The answer is found in Heb. 8:5; 9:23; Acts 7:44. The articles of furniture were the counterpart to the instruments in Heaven, which are brought to our attention to:
 - (a) Teach us truths about the reasons for judgment. i.e., In Rev. 4-8 the "Throne" is mentioned twenty-seven times, teaching that despite the rebellion of men, there is a seat of government which will execute judgment because of man's rebellion against God's rule (Psa. 2:3-4).
 - (b) Teach us truths concerning the character of God. Just as a woman in her home has those things which show her character, the heavenly things convey the character of God.
- b) The Tabernacle was:
 - i) God revealing Himself at Sinai as the unapproachable God.
 - ii) God revealing His characteristics in the law, in its fullness literary and orally.
 - iii) God revealing His characteristics and reasons for judgment visually in the Tabernacle, therefore in Heaven.

The Individual Pieces of Furniture and Heaven

- 1) The candlestick now manifested as seven golden candlesticks. (Rev. 1:12)
 - a) Its truths relative to God:
 - i) Christ is the Light (Jn. 8:12; 9:5) and as such He must expose sin whither it is saints (Rev. 2:4, 14, 20; 3:2, 15-16), or sinners (Rev. 20:11-15).
 - ii) God is Light (1 Jn. 1:5) and the first manifestation of fellowship with Him is the conviction of sin.
 - b) Because saints are called lights, then admonition and discipline must fall on them if they fail to obey, thus the practical lesson from the candlestick.
- 2) The Altar:
 - a) God is very emphatic that the altar had four sides, and in reviewing the scriptures the Holy Spirit presents truths about three of them:
 - i) The North or right side was the place of death (Lev. 1:11), and this truth is presented in (Rev. 5:6, the theme of which is the Lamb slain). In Rev. 6:9 there are those who have been slain for their faith in the work of Christ, and in Rev. 8:5 judgment comes because man has rejected the sacrifice of Christ. Christ is in Heaven and seen as a Lamb slain, but resurrected and about to take control of all judgment. (Jn. 5:22, 27)
 - ii) The East side was the place for the ashes, indicating the fire had done its worst. (Lev. 1:16)
 - iii) The South side had the river flowing out (Ezek. 47:1), a matter indicating the coming of the Spirit, an event which showed the Lord was glorified. (Jn. 7:39)

Sermon Outlines
The Furnishings of The Tabernacle Reflecting Those in Heaven - Part 1

3) The Laver:

- a) Before the priest could function at the altar or go into the Tabernacle, he had to wash at the laver. It was a continuous activity.
 - i) When the great antitype of the earthly laver is presented, it is not seen as having water by which there was constant cleansing, but as a “sea of glass like unto crystal.” (Rev. 4:6)
 1. The first observation is, it is mentioned again but with a difference, for it is “a sea of glass mingled with fire”. (Rev. 15:2)
 2. Rev. 4:6 presents the precious truth that those who are around the throne are in a fixed moral condition of perfection of spirit, undefiled by anything of this earth, and serving God without contamination, even in that very service.
 - (a) Never again will they need cleansing from sin, never again a broken fellowship with God, never again will any of them grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. Praise God, such is the eternal efficacy of the blood of the slain Lamb that nothing will ever again come between their soul and God.
 - (b) This time it is a fixed judgment because men have rejected the cleansing that comes from the Lord’s work. (Lk. 16:26)
 - (i) Solemn is the reality that every family member, work mate, sales person in the store, human seen in a picture who dies unsaved will be in the un-transferrable place of Hell, forever under the wrath of God who is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:29)

Concluding Thoughts

- 1) If this was being used in a meeting for the saints, this is how it could be developed:
 - a) The reality of the Laodicean condition of the saints, blind but not even knowing it.
 - b) The acceptance of the dead formality of having meetings void of the Spirit’s power and effectual working.
 - c) The rejection of introspection to be exposed by God of our true condition due to pride.
 - d) All the while at the speed of time, untold millions are dying in their sins.
 - e) It begs the questions, “Where is the love of God?”, which is supposed to be “shed abroad in our hearts” (Rom. 5:5). Where is the consciousness of knowing the terror of the Lord and persuading men to come for salvation? (2 Cor. 5:11)
 - f) What are we going to do? Am I willing to permit God to be honest with me and change me? (Psa. 139:23)
- 2) If this was being used in a gospel meeting, this is how it could be developed:
 - a) Review the work of the Lord on the cross, He was slain for your sins. (Isa. 53:4-6)
 - b) The satisfaction of God with the work of Christ.
 - c) The fact of a Heaven and Hell, glory or gloom, turn or burn.
 - d) Pressing the crucial reality of their decision, for it may be the last time they will be aware of God’s calling.
 - e) The coming of the Lord, the unknown moment of death.
 - f) “Behold, now is the accepted time.” (2 Cor. 6:2)
 - g) What is your decision to be? (Joel 3:14)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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