

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Celebration Of Canada's 150th Anniversary

Introduction

On one hand it seems so distant, after all it is fifty years ago, and yet it seems like only a few years. I am speaking of the 100th birthday celebrations of Canada back in 1967. Coming from Ireland, where we have a city like Dublin which celebrated its 1000th anniversary as a city in 1984, a hundred years celebration was something I could not understand. Some may remember the words of Bobby Grimly's Centenary song, "Canada we love thee", what a catchy little tune it had.

- a) There was Expo 67 in Montreal, a new medal and a banknote were made for it. Pierre Trudeau was Prime Minister at that time and the whole country seemed to have a year long birthday party.
- b) Victoria was Queen of the commonwealth and called "The Mother of Confederation". Her role is honored yearly on Victoria Day.
- c) Four men were called the "Father's of Confederation". They were Hewitt Bernard, Louis Riel, Amor De Cosmos and Joey Smallwood. To a great degree those men were God fearing and in naming the new confederation they called it, to my understanding, the "Dominion", which no other country in the world was or is called. Such naming was based on the words of scripture, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea" (Psa. 72:8).
- d) This year the country is celebrating its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, but in looking back, how things have changed, and it is no wonder there is not the same excitement.

As I thought of the celebrations then and now, I could not help but think of two other great celebrations mentioned in the scriptures. They are:

- a) The celebration when the children of Israel knew their sacrifice had been accepted (Lev. 9:24)
- b) The celebration in Heaven when the great whore is destroyed (Rev. 19:1-7)

The Manifested Glory of God

Before considering the manifestation of the glory of God, the question that must be considered is, when the scriptures speak of "the glory of God", what is meant? It is my understanding that the glory of God is the intensity of divine holiness manifested in a singular or combination of divine excellencies which causes intimidating reverential awe in the individual or individuals.

The first historical explicit reference to the glory of God being manifested was when God appeared to Abram in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran (Acts 7:2). God had communed with man before (Gen. 3:8), and surely His glory was revealed in creation (Gen. 1:2-2:3). The psalmist sums it up so richly when he wrote:

- a) “The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. . . . thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods” (Psa. 97:1-6; 9).

Abram was brought up in idolatry (Josh. 24:1), but there came either a duration of time or sudden enlightenment when he realized that his idols were dead useless pieces of metal or wood, and there was only the one supreme living Almighty who was without peer. The manifestation of this God of glory so moved the spirit of Abram that at God’s behest, he left Ur and went out, “not knowing whither he went” (Heb. 11:8). He had seen something of the glory of God.

In the last few verses of Exodus it is recorded that the Tabernacle was built according to God’s design and the glory of the Lord filled it (Ex. 40:34). Due to this fearful happening, Moses could not go into that holy sanctuary (Ex. 40:35) despite the fact that he had spent days with the Lord on the mountain top seeing how the Tabernacle was to be made (Ex. 24:14-25:9), or receiving the Law (Ex. 34:27-28). However, this was different. The God of glory was personally indwelling, permeating and filling that holy structure, and no doubt conscious of personal lack of fitness to stand in the blaze of such perfection, Moses could not enter in. Advancing in the reading, we then read that Moses and Aaron go in to that same Tabernacle (Lev. 9:23) deliberately, and in the full awareness of the unchanging glory of God they enter the Tabernacle. Certainly God had not lowered His perfections and they had not risen to the standard of divine perfections, yet not only did they go into the Holy place (not the holy of holies), they came out alive! Furthermore, they had gone in and there is no indication of them carrying blood for acceptability and approachability. The reason is clear, they had already offered a sin sacrifice (Lev. 9:7) and a burnt offering (Lev. 9:12), and on the grounds of the sacrifice they approached God. Furthermore, the sacrifices for the consecration of the priests had been offered and burnt, which then begs the question, “What was consumed on the altar?” (Lev. 9:24). The glorious truth which resulted in their shouting was that which was left was consumed, not just burnt, and there is a difference in the words. The word translated “burnt” means to burn as incense, the word translated “consume” means to devour up, to be utterly consumed. When that fire came from God and consumed the sacrifice, the people knew it was the work of God and acceptance with God had been secured. They had a priest who was acceptable to God, a Tabernacle, and a sacrifice. Everything was acceptable to God and they celebrated.

- a) We have a priest who is not in an earthly tabernacle but in the heavenly, and we have a sacrifice which ends all sacrifices. Christ is the one sacrifice for sins forever, and we, when saved by His grace without works, are accepted in the beloved, and by God seen as “in Christ” so that “as he is (perfect before God) we are the same (1 Jn. 4:17). What a cause for shouting in celebration.

Revelation 19:1-10 contains one of the greatest celebration songs which will ever be known. Interestingly, while it will never take place on earth, it is connected with that which has happened on earth. This song of jubilation can be considered against the background of Leviticus 9:24 where we read nothing of the people shouting. What they shouted we are not told, or even if it was the shouting as the expression of delight. The song of Revelation 19 contains three joyous outbursts of praise. They are:

- a) “Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God; For true and righteous are His judgments . . . at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia” (Rev. 19:1-2).
 b) Then, the twenty four elders and the four living creatures (beasts) worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying “Amen; Alleluia” (Rev. 19:4)
 c) A voice from the throne said, “Praise our God, all ye His servants . . . And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude . . . saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready” (Rev. 19:5-7).

A further observation is the context in which the song is found. There is both a contrast and a reason for the celebration found in the words, “Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her” (Rev. 18:20). The question is, “What is so special about eliminating the great whore?” In this context it is sufficient to say that the great whore is the counterfeit satanic religion which the people of the world have espoused.

- a) It all began in Eden when man, having sinned, understood he had lost something and sought to cover himself by fig leaves and hiding in the bushes (Gen. 3:7-9). It was a religion without God, which Adam’s son Cain developed when he sought to, by his own deeds, make himself acceptable to God. Through the centuries it rolled and gathered more distorted views and adherences until now across the world false religion permeates every aspect of man’s decision making. It may be any of the “isms”, Agnosticism, Protestantism, Catholicism, Islam, Shintoism, etc. etc, that informs man of the satanic lie that he can make himself acceptable to God. Man will adorn religious edifices, raise up religious symbols, have religious rituals, but they all do the same, deny the all sufficiency of the work of Christ. In so doing, they dishonor the Lord and stand in defiance against God’s

glorification of Him. God will not tolerate that and in Revelation 18 there is presented the executed judgment on God on the central headquarters of the one world religion. That city with its creed, culture, corruption, and commerce will be destroyed by God in all His fury. Uncontrollably the entire city will burn and God will not stop until every vestige of it is destroyed with fire. This will not be an overcoming but the complete eradication of the false anti God, anti Christ religion. Never again will it promote the dishonoring of the Lord, never again will high chanting utterances be heard. That city which embodies all that is evil will be left with no room for repentance or forgiveness.

- b) When the hosts in Heaven are aware that such paganism and anti God determination and worship are eternally destroyed, Heaven erupts in praise and reciprocating worship and expressions of glorifying God. The following is set out in reciprocating order so that the reader can catch the magnificence of what is happening. (This is as literal a translation as I can do)
- i) Alleluia:
 - 1. The salvation, and the glory and the power of our God
 - (a) For true and righteous are His judgments
 - (b) For He hath judged the great whore, who, indeed corrupted the earth with her fornication
 - (c) And hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand
 - ii) Alleluia: There are two Alleluia's, one in verse 1 and then in verse 3.
 - iii) The twenty-four elders and living creatures fall down and worship God that sat on the throne saying:
 - 1. Amen
 - 2. Alleluia
 - iv) A voice comes out from the Throne saying:
 - 1. Praise our God, all ye His servants, and yet that fear Him, both small and great.
 - v) A voice like a great multitude, like many waters (deafening, intimidating) saying:
 - 1. Alleluia:
 - (a) The Lord God omnipotent reigneth
 - (b) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him
 - (c) Because the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife hath made herself ready.

In the year of Canada's 150th anniversary, reality is, few if any of us will be here when it has its two hundredth anniversary, but we can rejoice that when the moment comes for that greater heavenly celebration, we (if saved by God's way of salvation) shall be there to enjoy God for all eternity . . . Amen and Amen.

. . . Rowan Jennings

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