

Sunday October 19th 2014
From Here To Eternity
Part Five

1). Re 4:8 ¶ *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!"* 9 *Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 "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."*

a). We had seen last week the extraordinary events that take place in the throne room of God following the decisions and determinations enacted at Christ's Judgment Seat.

b). And we will remember that all Christians appearing there will have received a just recompense of reward - Mt 16:27 *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

c). What that reward will be will already have been determined by our present actions with respect to having faith to the saving of the soul before the shout and the trumpet and 'in the twinkling of an eye' takes place. And as we consider this one more time we might remember - Heb 2:1 ¶ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,*

d). We had seen in the actions of the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures the awe and wonder and joy at the beginning of the final phase of the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes for the ages which the revealing of the Bride has set in motion, but for those plans and purposes to come to completion the inheritance, that which is to belong to Christ and His Bride during the Millennial Kingdom, must first be redeemed - Ps 2:6 *"Yet I have set*

My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 ¶ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

e). The redemption of the inheritance then has to do with both rulership of the material creation - Ro 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.* And rulership with respect to those who occupy the material creation during the Millennial Kingdom – Re 2:26 *"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father;*

f). The redemption of the inheritance however, is not just about who will rule the earth in the Millennium, but also about who will be removed from that position of rulership to make way for Christ and His Bride. Not only then is there to be a change in rulership, but a significant change in the type of rulership - Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

g). As we know the earth in the present age, and for an unspecified number of ages before this one, has been ruled by Satan and his angels. And again for an unspecified amount of time, Satan and his angels have occupied this position of rulership in a disqualified state, in rebellion against the God of the universe.

h). And then in God's Divine will and purpose He created Man to the intent that Man would replace Satan as the ruler of the earth – hence the reason why Satan is found in the Garden of Eden at the beginning of Genesis.

i). But here are some things to keep in mind with regards to angels and Man – no angel has ever been made in the image and likeness of God, and although at present human beings are procreated in the image and likeness of fallen Adam, the events at the Judgment Seat will reveal those who will once again be in the image and likeness of God having a fully redeemed spirit, a fully redeemed soul and a body covered with glory – completely apart from sin.

j). No angel has ever been or ever will be a firstborn son of God, but those from the human race who are fully redeemed will be adopted into that firstborn status - Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

No angel has ever sat or been invited to sit on God's throne, but fully redeemed Man will - Re 3:21 *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

k). All this no doubt should make very clear to us the reason for the hatred and utter contempt that Satan has for human beings over millenniums of time and most particularly those who have set their hearts towards becoming a firstborn son of God. And if nothing else this should be a great motivator for making sure we keep ourselves dressed in the whole armor of God - 1Co 2:7 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

l). To deceive, to corrupt, to undermine and to destroy have been the wiles of the devil from the beginning and these destructive attributes must play out in full force to their final conclusion within the time that God has set out for the inheritance to be redeemed - Es 3:5 *When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus-the people of Mordecai.*

2). Last week we had looked at Chapter 4 of the Book of Ruth, the Chapter from that Book which deals with Boaz redeeming the inheritance for Ruth, and we had seen in this Chapter that there was a 'nearer kinsman', a 'close relative' who would have first claim upon the inheritance - Ru 4:6 *And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it." 7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. 8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.*

a). And we had then seen the antitype of this picture in Revelation Chapter 5 - Re 5:1 ¶ *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. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 ¶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, 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. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

b). God the Father then equates to the closer relative and His holding out the seven sealed scroll in His right hand inevitably calls to mind the closer relative holding out his sandal. So, in what way should we understand that if God the Father redeemed the inheritance instead of God the Son it would 'ruin my own inheritance'?

c). Isa 19:25b.....*Israel My inheritance.*"

The nation of Israel is God the Father's inheritance – Israel is to be God the Father's wife, not the Church - Eze 16:8 *"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. 9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty.*

It is then in this simple distinction between God the Father and Israel and God the Son and the 'Church' that we should understand that typified in Ruth Chapter 4 and that seen in Revelation Chapter 5.

d). Abraham could no more have taken Rebekah to be his wife than God the Father could have taken the Woman from the Garden to be His – the Bride of Christ is just that. The way things are set out in the scriptures must be fulfilled in every detail and God could not and would not ever change that.

3). As we have seen from previous studies, the 7 sealed scroll contains the terms for the redemption of the inheritance and that which is contained in the scroll brings judgment upon Israel and the nations – redemption then is to come as a result of judgment, hence the reason that Christ is described as both ‘the Lion of the tribe of Judah’, signifying judgment and the ‘Lamb as if it had been slain’, signifying redemption.

a). And as we move into Revelation Chapter 6 so we see the Lord opening the seals on the scroll - Re 6:1 ¶ *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

b). Now as we come to the opening of the first seal on the scroll let's spend a moment putting together that which we know from our previous studies – The resurrection/rapture of the ‘Church’ has brought to an end the search for the Bride, which marks the end of the dispensation allotted to the ‘church’. As we have been at pains to point out during the previous weeks of study, God works in very precise timeframes with 3 different segments of the human race - 2 day, 2000 year periods – 3 segments of the human race – Mankind in a general sense, those who would then comprise the Gentile nations, in the 2000 years from Adam to Abraham, Israel in the 2000 years from Abraham to the Christ and the Church in the 2000 years from the cross to the resurrection/rapture – and this must be this way in order to fulfill the pattern that God had established in the beginning of 6 days [6000 years] of work to be followed by the 7th day [a 7th 1000 years] of rest.

c). Then as we pause and think about this for a moment we will recall that God has not dealt with Israel for the full 2000 years yet, which He must do in order to complete the period of time allotted to them and bring to a close the total time given to Man's Day.

d). Then in conjunction with this we will remember once again the 490 years from Daniel Chapter 9, which form a part of the 2000 years of the Jewish dispensation; 490 years which have a very specific purpose - Da 9:24 *"Seventy weeks [490 years] are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

e). And we will also remember once again that only 483 of these years have thus far been completed bringing us to the cross of Calvary, leaving 7 years remaining, and so if at the time of the resurrection/rapture there remains only 7 years to complete the full 6000 years and bring Man's Day to a close then the events of Daniel's 70th week and the events of the redemption of the inheritance must run concurrently – they are in effect one and the same thing although they do not have to end at the same time.

f). The duality of the redemption of the inheritance with the Tribulation can also be prophetically seen in the Matthew v13 Parables –
Mt 13:44 ¶ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

The 'man' seen in this verse is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the reference to 'selling all that he has' will take us to His sacrifice on the cross. The purchase of the field which contains the treasure is then seen to come in a time beyond the 'selling of all that he has'. By comparing scripture with scripture we know that the 'field' is the world and that Israel is described as God's own 'special treasure'. And so the purchase of the 'field', as we have also seen through the type of Ruth and Boaz, refers to the redemption of the inheritance – and it is out of this action, buying the 'field' that the 'man' now has the 'treasure' - Israel.

g). Now if we return to Daniel's prophecy concerning the 490 years we find this in - Da 9:26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come [2000 years later] Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary."*

h). And this 'prince who is to come' can be easily identified through comparing the prophecies of Daniel, as all the prophecy in this extraordinary Book relate to the same thing – God's fulfilled purpose for the Jewish people. In consequence the 'prince who is to come' can be seen in the great image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel Chapter 2 and the four beasts in Daniel Chapter 7 and is further described in Daniel Chapter 8.

i). Historically, we will remember that the first 3 kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the first 3 beasts can be identified as the Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar himself, the Medes and the Persians which followed and the Greeks under Alexander the Great, leaving the 4th kingdom as yet unaccounted for.

j). This 4th kingdom is described this way in - Da 2:40 *"And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and"*

shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

k). And the ruler of this same 4th kingdom is described this way in Daniel Chapter 7 - Da 7:7 *"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*

l). And so, 'the prince who is to come' is synonymous with the 4th kingdom and the 4th beast seen in Daniel's prophecies and is inextricably connected to Daniel's 70th week when God will resume His dealings with the nation of Israel within the context of the redemption of the inheritance.

m). And as we know this 'prince' is the one known as the Antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition and what we also can know, because of that which we have just been looking at, is that he is to 'be revealed in his own time' – he can only come to prominence once God begins dealing with Israel once again, at the time which God has appointed and not before.

n). 2Th 2:6 *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed,*

The one new man in Christ then is 'restraining' at the present in two ways – firstly through the spiritual warfare, which we had looked at some weeks back, and secondly because of the time. – Antichrist cannot be revealed until the 'Church' is gone as he can only come into play once God again begins to deal with Israel.

o). And if we go back to where we began this last section of our study this is exactly what we find as recorded in - Rev. 6:2 *And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

p). The rider on the white horse is the Antichrist and his appearance marks the beginning of the redemption of the inheritance and the beginning of Daniel's 70th week, the Tribulation.

4). Da 8:8 *Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.*

a). The 'male goat' is Alexander the Great and the 'large horn' refers to the power of his kingdom. The large horn being broken takes us to Alexander's death and the 4 'notable' horns that come in his place are Alexander's 4 generals who divided the kingdom into 4, 'the four winds of heaven'.

b). The one described as 'the little horn' here is the Antichrist who comes out of the area covered by the northern part of Alexander the Great's kingdom after its division amongst his 4 generals following Alexander's death; and in the verses that follow this we have an explanation of that which we have just read - Da 8:21 *"And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22 "As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power. 23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. 24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. 25 "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.*

c). And here in these few verses we find a wealth of information concerning the Antichrist and the 4th kingdom, which is his, which we saw in the image from Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel Chapter 2.

d). We see that he will have 'fierce features' and that he understands 'sinister schemes' and that although his power 'shall be mighty' it will not be 'by his own power'. We see that he will 'destroy fearfully' both 'the mighty' and 'the holy people'. We see that he is 'cunning' and 'shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule - he 'shall exalt himself in his heart' and 'even rise against the Prince of princes', and shall finally 'be broken without human means'.

e). All of this we will find corroborated through the scriptures as we continue to study, but let's begin with the cunning and deceit and sinister

schemes as these attributes are exactly what we see through the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6:2.

f). And further commentary can be found on Antichrist with regards to these attributes, again from Daniel – Da 11:21 ¶ *"And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.*

Here we see that 'he shall come in peaceably' and that he will 'seize the kingdom by intrigue'; expressions of the cunning, the deceit and sinister schemes we had seen previously.

g). And from his description in Revelation 6:2 we can see the 'white horse' symbolizing peacefulness – his arrival on the scene comes through the deception of peace in a time and a place where peace has seemed impossible – Da 11:24 *"He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; It comes through a peace treaty, a covenant with 'many' in Israel which includes a return to the Mosaic economy and Temple worship – Da 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;*

Da 11:23 *"And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully,*

h). Here then is a counterfeit of the Prince of Peace – a prince who promises peace, but who is really set on sinister schemes - *and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

5). We will need to continue with this next time – if the Lord is willing.