

WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT 3

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This morning we heard the song *I'll fly away* and we know that song is taken from the Psalms. It's related to when we die because it's written that we are given *seventy years*, and if we are robust *eighty*, and then *we fly away*. [Psalm 90:10] But we know in this last age we have a promise that *we shall not all sleep*. [1Corinthians 15:51] Praise the Lord.

I think and I hope that when we are singing that song our thought is not: well when this body dies I'll fly away. But I hope we can see just shortly in front of us the Lord is going to bring this age to a close and that our hope is to be part of that living element. Praise the Lord

Now I want to begin in First Thessalonians. Here Paul says:

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep,

In Paul's day, or at least at that time, there was a general feeling in the church that the Lord was going to return in their lifetime. We know there were certain ones who began to pass on and God had given Paul a revelation. I don't know whether it was by vision or what, Paul doesn't explain that. But he was given an understanding about the order of events of Christ's return, which at that time was limited.

There was more that God would show him later, but at this time Paul could explain some things for the purpose of those who had lost Christian loved ones. Before he brought this out, they could only guess how things would take place as they really didn't have anything solid. So he says here:

1 Thessalonians 4:13

concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Of course being humans we sorrow when somebody passes on. Amen. But what he's saying is: not to sorrow *as those which have no hope*. So if somebody dies without hope, what does that mean? It means if they die without the Lord, without having given their life to the Lord. In that case we have a reason to sorrow, a real reason to sorrow.

As far as the Christians who died, let's keep reading what he says:

1Thessalonians 4:14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Thessalonians 4:15

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,

Paul is now saying that what's next is *thus saith the Lord*.

Now we know there's a place where he talks about marriage and he gets to a point he says: now this I say *not* the Lord. [1Corinthians 7:12] What did he mean by that? He meant there was no scriptural basis for what he was about to say but at the same time he was giving his best judgement as the Holy Ghost gave him leadership.

That's why at the end of that chapter he said *and I think that I have the Spirit of God*. [1Corinthians 7:40] Now he did not mean: well I think maybe I've received the Holy Ghost. He knew he had received the Holy Ghost but what he was saying is: he really believed that this was the way God was looking at it.

As we have seen churches throughout the Grace Age use what Paul said, then we can have confidence: yes that is what the Lord was inspiring him to say.

But here he says *thus saith the Lord*. So let's keep reading:

1 Thessalonians 4:15

That we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

A better translation for our day is: they shall not *precede* them which are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,

The traditional way to see that has been: one day there would be a great celestial happening and we would look up to heaven and there would be a shout. But that's really not what is being spoken at all.

This *shout* was something to *wake up the church* so that it could get ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. As time and ages went on from the days of Paul, the church got into a certain state of spiritual complacency so there had to come a shout.

If we look at what God has done down through the ages and in our day, there is no other thing we can attribute to this shout but the message God brought in this age through His prophet messenger William Branham. It was not the man William Branham, I mean yes God used him, but he was the mouthpiece so that the Lord could speak to the church and say *wake up and get ready!* Praise the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16
with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,

Now that's a second part. We read that in Revelation where it said *I saw another mighty angel come down.* [Revelation 10:1]

Notice here it says *the Lord himself.* [1Thessalonians 4:16] We've been speaking that yes it is an angel but this angel is sent to *portray* and to *manifest* the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. It will be at this point that grace will be terminated and it will be the time of the Judgement Seat of Christ. [Romans 14:10] Praise the Lord.

This judgement is not to be confused with the great white throne judgement. [Revelation 20:11] The judgement seat of Christ is for those who have been called to be a part of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16
and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

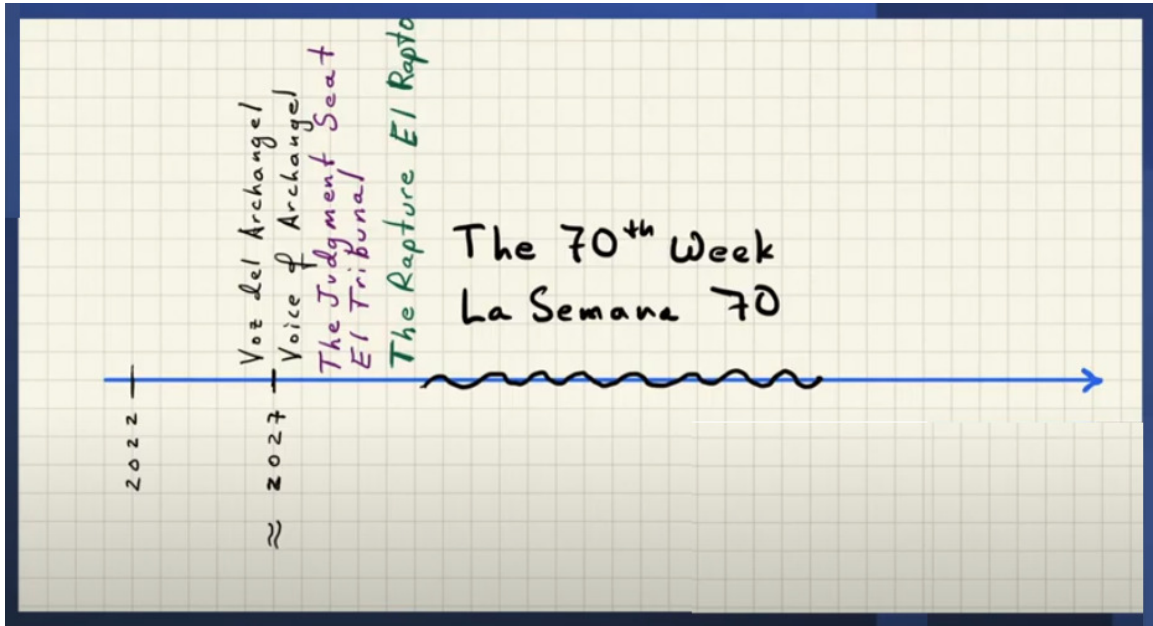
So we have *the shout*, we have *the voice of the archangel*, and then we have *the trump of God*. The trump of God is for those who are asleep. In other words: for those who have died, it's not for the living.

And the dead in Christ shall rise first. They will first arise and they will be in their glorified immortal bodies. Praise the Lord. We will still be in this mortal body. That's why I've said: on this side, none of us want to go the way of the grave. Amen. But on *that day*, they will be ahead of us as far as obtaining their glorified immortal body. And we will be changed *after* that.

So let's go ahead and keep reading.

1 Thessalonians 4:17
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

We've been speaking on this for a couple of services and I would like us to look at this little timeline. It's not exact, I could definitely zoom in and there is much more that we could speak on.



We are now living in 2022. When we look at the Two Days of Hosea 6:2 we know that the Gentile Age should be closing around the year 2027. We are not saying that is exact, it's an approximation. You can see my little approximation symbol ~ that's the focal point of what the prophecy of the Two Days points to.

In Revelation chapter 10 that's where we read about the voice of the archangel. It says that it sounded as *when a lion roareth*. [Revelation 10:3] Amen. When we look at what a lion represents, it represents a kingly position. Praise the Lord.

In that time period which will be *after* the seventh seal has been broken, it speaks *then* of that voice of the archangel. We have to understand as this archangel comes representing Christ, *that will be the judgement seat of Christ*.

We read in Second Timothy that Christ will *judge the quick and the dead*. [2Timothy 4:1] Praise the Lord. *The living* are the ones here on the earth to whom that archangel will be sent to manifest Christ. But Christ will still be the one doing the judgement. Praise the Lord.

It will not be the angel deciding this or that. Christ will already have judged and the angel will be the one carrying out that judgement. He will be portraying Christ's announcement of the judgement.

Meanwhile Jesus Christ himself will be seated in heaven and the dead will be brought before him. Of course in heaven they are not dead, they have a spiritual body and they will be brought before him. Jesus will be judging the dead in heaven while judging the living here on earth by that archangel.

All of this will be *before* the rapture of the church because we still have *the seven thunders* to utter their voices [Revelation 10:3] and the prophecy to the nations. [Revelation 10:11] Both those events will occur *after* the judgement seat of Christ and *before* the rapture. So there are a lot of events.

Now I want to read something. I've mentioned it a couple times. This is a dream I had maybe in 2001 ~ 2003 somewhere in that time. I've never had a dream like this one. I was going through a really difficult time and this dream I have to say it was just absolutely indescribably beautiful. Even when I told my wife that morning, I broke down crying as I was relating the dream.

I wrote this down. Now remember Brother Jackson was still alive and I didn't write every detail. There are a couple things I remember about the dream that I didn't write here but that I'm going to explain.

I had this dream about four weeks ago on the morning of March 18th. Now I wish I had written the year.

This dream was immediately preceded by two other specific dreams that Brother Jackson was a part of. In fact I couldn't tell where one left off and the other began, so maybe it was one dream with three distinct parts.

When I read this the other night, it came back to me of the first, second, and third watch because Brother Jackson was a part of the first two parts.

As I remember the dream, I don't remember Brother Jackson being in the third part. It's interesting I didn't even think about that when I had the dream.

If so, in other words: if it was one dream with three parts, this is the third part of the dream.

In this dream we were living at the very end of the age although it was not very far off and the rapture was about to take place. I cannot think of any dream I've ever had as beautiful as this one. And I haven't had one since either.

Certain ones in the ministry, you see it wasn't Brother Jackson but it was different ministers. Certain ones in the ministry were explaining exactly how different events would lead up to the rapture and how it would happen.

So we've got two things here: how things would lead up to the rapture and then how the rapture would actually take place.

The way they preached and the anointing behind it made it a hundred percent clear they were exactly on target, and everything would without doubt happen exactly as they said and it was a beautiful picture.

Even though I was only in one certain area, they made sense of the global body more clearly than ever.

After reading that I want to say something: when we talk about the global body, please let's not think: oh that's millions and millions of Christians across the world who are going to be part of this bride. It will only be a handful here, a handful there, just as we are here this morning.

I've said it many times: the very best of Phoenix is sitting here this morning. Praise the Lord. As far as the world is concerned, they have a different criterion to determine what is good.

I've been hearing on the news: it seems like the whole United States wants to come live in Phoenix. People are moving here from all over the country. There are millions of people in Phoenix, but look how many are gathered here this morning. It's an extremely small portion. Amen. That's the day we are living in.

I do not remember the vast majority of what they said with respect to world events that were taking place, as well as what would happen in our midst.

What I did remember is that they were talking about current world events and what would happen. They were also explaining what was going to happen in *our midst*. Praise the Lord.

Now as we are closer, we can see the Judgement seat of Christ is one of those things that will happen. We didn't see it back in 2003 but that's something the Lord has opened up in our day.

What I do remember and I've wondered how this would take place: in the dream as we got close to the end, there were times we would be gathered and it was as though we had been lifted up into heaven or as though heaven had come down to us. I've wondered a long time about what exactly that was. But now we can see we're going to be brought before the judgement seat of Christ while we are down here. Can we see that?

What I do remember is that they explained exactly how God knew each and every group and who it was the world over that would be taken up.

That part of knowing every individual was so strongly brought out.

Over the years we've seen so many things: churches have come into existence, people have walked with us for years, and then something comes along and they take another route.

From the natural eye it would almost seem random, like there's nothing really solid behind it all. But in the dream, as the ministry explained this it was so clear how God knew each and every one from a hundred years ago and how He directed each individual's life to bring them to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Yes there are different ones we have come in contact with along the way but God has known from the beginning: these are the ones that are going to make it to the end. They are the ones His hand has been on the whole time. Praise the Lord.

God knew each and every group and who it was that would be taken up. They also explained about the order of our ascension: how people and groups would ascend from different parts of the world and how we would all be gathered together in the air from these different parts.

They also made it clear that we would all be gathered first in the air and then Jesus would appear to the whole gathering.

We may say: but in a wedding the bride appears to the husband. And yes that's true. But if we think about it: as she appears to him, he also appears to her.

That gets to the end part of the dream. The point here is not all the details in the dream with respect to the rapture but it's more about what led up to it. Maybe some other time when we're talking about the rapture itself I'll read the rest.

I'm sure we are all very familiar with the vision that Brother Branham had, if you want to call it a vision, the one he titled Beyond the Curtain of Time. The only reason I say *if you want to call it a vision* is because there were parts about it that seem to go even beyond what a vision is.

This excerpt is just a part of it. It's interesting to me that when he tried to describe this, he also could not get over how beautiful and amazing this was. That was exactly the way I felt in this dream.

This morning we heard the song *There is Coming a Day*. I have to say *that day* far exceeds anything you could ever wish or hope for in this life, *that day* when the bride church will be called home.

This excerpt is just a part of it and I'm starting in the middle somewhere. He says:

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- **Why, it isn't perfect; it's beyond perfect.**

He's explaining everything he saw and how he felt.

- **It's not sublime; it's beyond sublime. There's no name you can't think... There ain't no word or the vocabulary to say it. You've just arrived; that's all.**
- **And I thought, "Well, this—this would be perfect. And then, what are we going to do next?"**
- **He said, "Then when Jesus comes,**

Now you have to read other accounts, or maybe even the beginning of this account: there's a point where he asked *I want to see Jesus*. And they told him *you can't see him now, he's a little higher. But when he comes, he's going to judge you according to what you preached*.

- **"Then when Jesus comes,**

That's not Jesus coming to planet earth. That's Jesus coming to this heavenly realm where the bride saints are waiting.

- **"Then when Jesus comes, then we're... And He judges you for your ministry,**

Now this is Brother Branham relating this vision.

- **then we go back to earth and take up [our] bodies."**

So he has the judgement happening in heaven *before* what we read here about *the dead in Christ shall rise first*. [1Thessalonians 4:16] That's *before* the rapture.

Paul said that *Jesus would judge the quick and the dead at his appearing*. [2Timothy 4:1] Amen. That's exactly what's happening here:

- **He judges you for your ministry, then we go back to earth and take up [our] bodies."**

Even in another account he said *will Paul be judged?* And they said *yes Paul will also be judged.* Praise the Lord. And so he said *I feel confident because I've stuck with the Word.*

I have to say that is exactly what we have to do today: stay with the Word. Praise the Lord. Now he said:

- **Well, I thought about it then; that's exactly the Scripture.**
Said, "Then we go back to earth and take up [our] bodies;

Praise the Lord. For him to use that word *then* that would be *afterward.* Amen.

- **then we eat. We don't eat here, neither do we sleep."**
Said, "We eat down there. But we go back to the earth."

So we see even in the vision that Brother Branham had, it shows the judgement seat of Christ *before* the rapture, and I will say *before* the trump of God. Praise the Lord. The judgement *is* that *voice of the archangel.* [1Thessalonians 4:16]

Now I am looking at the clock. I'd like to go to the book of Revelation.

Revelation 10:1

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven,

That's the archangel.

Revelation 10:1

clothed with a cloud:

We read in Acts where it was stated when the Lord would return, he would return the same way as he went. [Acts 1:11] And he went also caught up in *a cloud.* [Acts 1:9]

Revelation 10:1

and a rainbow was up on his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

Now we remember Brother Victor had mentioned in his dream how he couldn't really see his face.

Revelation 10:2

And he had in his hand a little book open:

We have to understand that's the scroll of redemption [Revelation 5:1] and the seventh seal has been broken. [Revelation 8:1]

Revelation 10:2

and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

This shows that this is a *global event*. This is not just going to happen in Phoenix Arizona or another place. This will happen around the earth where those who are called have been gathered.

Revelation 10:3

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth:

Here again we're reading about that lion.

Revelation 10:3

and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Now let's go back to Revelation chapter five.

I think the most difficult part for us to understand may be because in our traditional way of looking at it, we probably think he will not be king *until* the millennium. We know that in the millennium he will sit upon the throne of his kingdom and he will execute and fulfill that kingdom age.

But remember what we read in Luke. It said that *he went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and then to return.* [Luke 19:13] *To receive for himself a kingdom*, in another version it says: *to be made king* and then to return.

Now in Revelation chapter five we have the scroll and the lamb. There is no time to read through all of this but let's begin a little further down.

Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of all the saints.

Revelation 5:9

And they sung a new song,

Now I'm going to skip further down.

Revelation 5:11

And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.

Revelation 5:12

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the lamb that was slain

Before I continue reading, remember that lamb was *worthy* to open the book. Brother Jackson explained how he was worthy to open the book because of what he did at the cross. So he was *worthy* to open the book. This is where we see the seals opened.

Let's go ahead and keep reading. It says here:

Revelation 5:12
Worthy [...] to receive power,

That's the first thing: power. If there is one thing a king has, it's power. Amen. They're saying this lamb is *worthy* to receive power. Praise the Lord.

Now let's keep reading.

Revelation 5:12
and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Are these not all things we would associate with a king? What else could be attributed to a king that's not mentioned here? I can't think of anything.

Revelation 5:13
And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying,

This is *not* a repeat because first it said *he's worthy*, right? That was to the lamb but now it's looking as he is *seated on the throne*.

Revelation 5:13
Blessing, and honour, and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the lamb for ever and ever.

At the beginning it said *he's worthy to receive* [Revelation 5:12] and then it says *let that be to him*. [Revelation 5:13] In other words, not only that he's worthy but *let that be conceded*. If I can paraphrase, it's saying for him *now to receive* the glory, the honour, the blessing, and power. Amen.

This is the point where he's going to open the seals. [Revelation 6] Once the seals are open [Revelation 8:1] that brings us to Revelation 10.

I'm going to go ahead and close. I pray and hope that this has been a help. Let's go ahead and pray.