

## Waiting for the promise of the Father.

Or

## Not departing from Jerusalem.

Part 3. Acts 1:4 and Revelation 4 and 5.

### I. Review.

- A. So far we have seen that the promise involved help and a Helper in the Person of the Holy Spirit.
- B. That the same help and Helper is promised to us in Scriptures such as Luke 11:9-13 and Hebr. 4:16.
- C. That this help through the Helper always involves a twofold work; a work of empowering and transforming in us, and a work of witness through us.
- D. That the disciples waited in the earthly city of Jerusalem because that was the heart of the OT economy, and the dwelling place of God among His people.
- E. That the waiting place for the NT believer is in New Jerusalem and on the heavenly Mount Zion described in Hebr. 12: 22-24, and opened up in the book of the Revelation.
- F. That waiting in New Jerusalem centers on our place at the Lord's table and at the Lord's throne.
- G. That in New Jerusalem we are given a place at the Lord's table as adopted sons who are no longer under tutors and guardians, but who have been emancipated, and have been given a seat at the Lord's table as fully grown sons who are the legal heirs of God, and joint heirs with their older brother, the Lord Jesus Christ. The emphasis here is on our legal status. Gal 4:1-7.
- H. That in New Jerusalem we are given a seat at the Lord's table as adopted daughters; no longer under tutors and guardians as little girls; like the church was in OT times, but emancipated, of age, and seen as respectively espoused to Christ, as the bride of Christ; and as the wife of Christ. Gen 2:20-24, Eph. 5:22-32; Rev 19:6-9. 21:2,9,10; 2 Cor. 11:2.  
The emphasis here is on covenant; relationship; loving union and communion.
- I. That our being seated with the Lord around His table speaks to us of belonging;

of

being part of the family of the Godhead; of fellowship and being given a voice in the conversations around the table.

### II. The Lord's throne. Rev. 4 and 5.

#### A. The Throne Room in heaven.

- 1. The scene opens to God the Father sitting on His throne in brilliant light with a circular rainbow surrounding the throne. He is the covenant keeping God.
- 2. Around the throne are 24 thrones of 24 elders. They represent the Church of God. Perhaps 12 of the OT and 12 of the NT. See the twelve foundations and twelve gates of New Jerusalem Rev 21:12,14.  
Also the temple priests and singers were divided into 24 courses 1 Chr. 24, 25.
- 3. The Church's fellowship with the Lord in rule has already been well established in the Book of revelation in Ch. 1-3  
- Christ has made us kings and priests to His Father Rev 1:6

- Christian are made to wear crowns in Rev 2:10 and 3:11
  - They are given kingly authority over the nations. Rev. 2:26,27.
  - They are given to sit with Christ on His throne. Rev 3:21.
4. The chariot-throne of God is supported by four angelic attendants called cherubim. Compare the description of the Lord's throne in Ezek. 1 on this.
  5. The scroll is the testament of the Lord. Because of sin no one was worthy to open it except the Lamb who dealt effectively with sin by His own blood. He is given the scroll to open it and thereby to inherit its contents, and to execute its stipulations. The kingdom is effectively handed over into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to His bride, the Church, who rejoices in Him and sings His praises. Rev 5:9,10, 12,13.
- B. The nature of the throne:
- The throne has a twofold nature, and those seated on it hold a twofold office.
1. It is the throne of grace spoken of in Hebr. 4:16.
    - It is the throne of grace because it is yet the day of god's grace; the day in which He is gathering His Church
    - It is the throne of grace because here we receive mercy; that is God's love that helps the wretched.
    - It is the throne of grace because here we receive grace; that is God's love that pardons the guilty.
    - We seek and receive it not only for ourselves, but for others, just as Christ has received this grace and mercy to give to us. This corresponds to our office as priests with Christ.
  2. It is a throne of rule and of judgment.
    - From here all the Lord's and our enemies will be subdued.
    - From here the nations will be ruled with a rod of iron.
    - From here the judgment on the wicked will go forth
    - From here Satan's host will be defeated and brought to everlasting ruin.
    - From here proceeds the discipline of the church already here and now
    - This corresponds to our office as kings with Christ.

#### Implications and Applications:

1. Our fellowship with the Lord is twofold. At the Lord's table we are included in the family of the Godhead. We are seated among the Persons of the Godhead at His table. At the Lord's throne we fellowship with Him in His work as Priest and King, and we are asked to join in the work and rule with Him as kings and priests. As such waiting in New Jerusalem is heavenly work. See the disciples heavenly work and waiting in Acts 1:14.
2. Remember that the Lord's throne to this day is primarily a throne of grace just as the time we live in is primarily a day of grace. The emphasis lies on gathering the lost and showing God's love and mercy to the poor in spirit. The building of Christ's Church.
3. Remember how this grace was brought to us by the Lord Jesus 2 Cor. 8:9. He brought grace from god's throne to us by emptying Himself; by giving up and by doing without. We are joined to Him; predestined to be conformed to Him. He did so out of love, not law. He didn't have to; neither do we, but there is no other way to deepen our fellowship with Him around His throne.