

REVELATION 37 – DOOR TO HEAVEN

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Revelation 4:1-2



COMPARISON: OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Old Testament – Malachi Summarizes Law (Je 7:23-28; Mal 1:6-10; 2:7-9)

- Malachi preceded First Advent
- Intertestament Transition (Je 7:23-28)
- Priesthood failed to teach Gospel
- Priesthood failed to teach society
- Jews rejected humility for rebellion
- Silent Period preceding Son
- Called Individuals *find* Christ (Lk 2:22-38)

New Testament – Church Letters of Revelation (Ep 5:11-17)

- Preceding Second Advent
- Transitional: 2nd - 3rd Ages to Eternity
- Churches fail to teach Gospel
- Churches fail to teach society
- Churches reject humility for World
- Silent Period preceding Events
- Called Individuals will *expect* Christ

ABRUPT TRANSITION: DOOR TO HEAVEN

- Behold, exclamation of dramatic suddenness: Heaven's Door *Appears*
 - This does not mean it suddenly opened; only that John was **now** aware of it
- Jacob saw this same Door to Heaven but in a different context
 - Jacob was not yet saved; hence, not called up into Heaven
 - His view was external, God's messengers *descending-ascending*: Bethel (Ge 28:10-19)
- Isaiah had *Door* opened; he was given a glimpse into Heaven (Is 6)
 - Isaiah saw Christ on His Throne; called to salvation and mission which Lost reject (Ro 11:7-10; 1Co 1:18-29)
- Paul had a Heavenly *Door* open and entered Heaven in the *spirit* (2Co 12:1-4)
 - Paul's body remained on earth as Heaven is a *spiritual* abode: Angels (He 1:14)
- Door stays open on Christ's side; Lost shut Door on their side: Saved enter the Door for salvation becoming *new creations* (2Co 5:17; Re 3:20)

ABRUPT TRANSITION: SOUND OF A TRUMPET

- Trumpets had specific purpose in Jewish Old Testament writings: Alert!
 - Trumpet blared a single note to alert you a command was coming (Ex 19:16-20; Le 25:8-10)
- Christian New Testament writings use this imagery: Listen! Jesus will speak!
 - We still wait for His voice to call us to Him; i.e., Rapture (1Co 15:51-52; 1Th 4:15-18)
 - Jews unknowingly await His call to come out of the nations: Regathering (Ez 39:25-29)
- John is alerted to this Door by the sound of Christ's *Trumpeting* voice: Come!
 - John *enters* Heaven in spirit {Spirit capitalized by translators meaning Holy Spirit, but Greek is just spirit indicating John's body remained on earth like Paul's}
- Many Premillennial Dispensationalists believe this indicates Rapture of Church before the events depicted henceforth: Great Tribulation (Mt 24:15-28)
 - Church does not appear until Revelation's summary: Warning-Stay Alert! (Re 22:16)

RAPTURE: PRE-TRIBULATION

- New Testament does not specify when the Rapture will occur in relation to events; i.e., the Great Tribulation; but it will occur
 - Aaronic priesthood transitory to identify Messiah as Paschal Lamb; once this occurred it was not needed; hence, no Temple since A.D. 70 (Mt 26:63-66; He 10:1-18)
 - Church, called out New Covenant believers, grew from synagogues; but it too is transitory, *First Fruits Dispensation*, until Christ recalls the Jews (Jn 1:43-51)
 - *True Jews* then proclaim Christ's Gospel to the nations (Mt 25:31-46)
- *True Church* does not miss accountability; *Bema Seat* of Christ (2Co 5:10)
 - Christians will account for **every** idle word-deed-sin; remain saved (Mt 12:34-37; Jn 10:27-30)
- Rapture at end of Great Tribulation not of saved but of Lost: Sheep-Goats
 - Only saved enter Christ's Millennial Kingdom but they birth sinners who must accept *New Covenant Gospel*; becomes rarer after Satan released from Abyss

GNOSIS: THE STRUGGLE OF KNOWINGS

- Now our reality changes from *empirical-bound longitudinal* perception to *nonempirical-bound conceptual* perception
 - Former bound by time dealing primarily with matter-energy-time relationships
 - Latter guided by events across time showing how reality obeys Christ (He 11:1-3)
 - Job, Isaiah, Daniel and Ezekiel *glimpse* behind this reality; Revelation lives here!
- Heaven has a 3-D framework we can understand, or it would be gibberish
 - These are not allegories according to our understanding: Leads to Confusion
 - These are metaphors-similes which the Bible defines {OT}: Bible defines Bible
 - We begin after Christ's sacrifice has been deemed acceptable: *First Fruits*
 - John's view of Christ's Throne differs from Daniel's view {Post versus Pre-Offering}
 - John saw flowing {Living} water; Daniel saw fiery flames {Unsatisfied holiness}; this Duality defines Great Tribulation conflict ending in inevitable New Heaven-Earth!