

Revelation Lesson 76
A Prelude of Praise Prior To The Tribulation

Revelation 5:13-14 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, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Praise the Lord for our Revival services last night! Tonight is the last night that Bro. Paul will be bringing the message. We know that it doesn't have to be the last night of Revival because God can continue the Revival in and through us IF we want it! I am looking forward to what the Lord is going to do tonight! Last night we saw the Angels' 7-fold praise of Christ. Tonight the rest of Creation will chime in as Heaven readies itself for the Tribulation to begin upon the Earth.

And every creature – To some this starts off problematic. If we understand the word “creature” to mean all beings including men, this would mean that within the interval between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation that at some point all animals and all people would join in a song of praise.

Such would not make sense, so Tim LaHaye erroneously I might add, inserts a notion of a “vision of the Millennial Kingdom” look or listen at what he says in *Revelation Unveiled* “These verses [verses 13-14], which almost seem like the second stanza of the song of the Heavenly hosts, carry John beyond the Tribulation, beyond the Glorious Appearing, to the end of the Millennium, to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, when every living creature will worship Christ.” LaHaye then says that: “this passage of Scripture should be studied in connection with Philippians 2:9-11. Both of these passages of Scripture clearly indicate that every living creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, or in the sea, awaiting the Day of Judgment, will one day worship Jesus Christ. That includes all those who in this life have voluntarily rejected Him. All those on earth will worship Him; all those under the earth and those in the sea, awaiting judgment, will at their resurrection be forced to worship Him just before they are cast into the lake of fire. What a tragedy!”

While I admire Tim LaHaye's knowledge of Prophecy and agree with him about much, this interpretation is clearly flawed. Perhaps he realized such for any such notions are not listed in his Prophecy Study Bible. But here's some things I see flawed in this interpretation: 1.) Why and upon what basis do we go from right before the Tribulation forward in time to the end of the Millennial Kingdom? 2.) Such cannot be the case, for there is no indication that such is happening in the text. The text seems to indicate that John is STILL looking at the angels singing and suddenly this new chorus erupts to join in the angels' song AND to further lift up the praise started by the redeemed Elders and all this immediately prior to the Tribulation. 3.) If LaHaye is including animals in this “creature” equation here – such cannot be for if this is at the moment prior to the Great White Throne Judgment, then all the animals have been removed – there are no animals in Heaven, there is ONE Exception. 4.) From his inference to those in the sea, he seems to be speaking of people, note his wording “those in the sea, awaiting judgment.” This seems to point to the false doctrine of “soul sleep” which teaches that those who died await in their bodies or graves (here I suppose the “grave” would be the ocean) until the final judgment. Such a notion is false as Luke 16 and 2 Cor. 5:8 teach that when one dies they either go to Hell or Heaven. Note, I'm not saying LaHaye believes this, I am saying his interpretation here seems to point to that.

So if this is not what this is saying what is our other recourse of interpretation? For that beloved we must obey 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” We must study to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

In most cases when people attempt to use these verses here in Revelation 5:13-14, to represent “everyone” they refer back to “creature” as found in Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all

the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” and Colossians 1:23 “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” BUT, “creature” in those verses has a different Greek word behind it – though a near cousin to the one used here in Revelation 5:13, the Greek word used in Mark and Colossians : KTISIS [Ka-Tee-Sis] (G2937) and that word is used once in Revelation 3:14 where it means “creation.”

So what is the near cousin in Greek to (G2937)? it's KTISMA [Ka-Tees-Ma] (G2938) now this word is found 4 times in our King James Bible. Let's look at the usages: 1 Timothy 4:4 “For every **creature** of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:” Here the Apostle Paul uses it as “animal flesh” to be eaten. In James 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his **creatures.**” Here the half-brother of Jesus, James uses it as “the saved.” Then John takes the word and uses it here in Revelation 5:13 and then over in: Revelation 8:9 “And the third part of the **creatures** which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.” There the “creatures” refer obviously to animals that lived in the sea or ocean.

In the law of first mention, we find that the first usage of a word, type, etc. stands as the meaning of the word, type, etc. unless the context changes it. Thus we noted 1 Timothy 4:4 creature points to animals; then in James 1:18 the context changes the creatures to the saved; going to the final usage in Revelation 8:9 the “creatures” again points to animals. Now looking at the context we find that “saved” people at this point are ALL in Heaven (note: there WILL be more upon the earth, but none are there yet, case in point, look at Revelation 6:8 the fact that we see death and Hell following implies that all who die at that point will go to Hell) furthermore there are no saved people “under the earth” hence that destroys the Catholic notion of purgatory so then looking at the only other option here we must conclude that the creatures referred to here are animals! Now how hard was that to figure out?

Indeed Ruckman agrees with this idea in his Reference Bible notes: “The bible indicates that God could put words in the mouths of animals (see Psalms 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: and Psalms 148:10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:). It happened in Numbers 22:27-30 If the “serpent” in Genesis 3:1 were a “beast” instead of an “angel of light” then that would be another example of a speaking animal.”

Such notions are hard for us to consider, but stretch your understanding of our God a little more, Mark 10:27 “And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.” Then notice, if singing or speaking animals ain't your thing, consider God has the power to create men from stones: Luke 3:8 “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” Or perhaps singing stones are more your thing? Jesus says in Luke 19:40 “And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

I have searched for hours to find the reference but I have misplaced it, however I read somewhere that scientists found many rocks on the Moon and Mars to be cracked open or split into. They could not figure it out; I propose that when the following happened at Jesus' death: Matthew 27:51 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” that upon the Moon and Mars where no people were or are, the rocks rent IN PRAISE to God! If they did it then, they could do it again.

which is in heaven, - So now, with all the Saved in Heaven singing, and the Angels, now God has another chorus of praise from the creatures and they are in several places. The first of which is “heaven.” You say I thought there are no animals in Heaven? While it's true “all dogs DON'T go to Heaven” When an animal dies it's spirit (not soul) goes into the Earth (for that is whence it came) notice Ecclesiastes 3:19-21 “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing

befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. 20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. 21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

In Genesis we are told that both man (Genesis 2:7) and animals (Genesis 1:30; 6:17; 7:15, 22) have the "breath of life"; that is, both man and animals are living beings. Now the Bible teaches that the spirit is the breath of life. Thus, the primary difference between human beings and animals is that humanity is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27) which corresponds with our Soul, while animals are not made in the image of God. Being made in the image and likeness of God means that human beings are like God, capable of spirituality, with mind, emotion, and will, and they have a part of their being that continues after death, hence this is where the notion of the Soul fits in. So, animals, simply cease to exist while we humans do not.

This is another case why the creatures surely must take this moment, this prelude to the Tribulation, to issue their praise (because once dead, they will be unable to and you've already noted that death is coming fast and hard to the animal kingdom too during the tribulation!). So what and where are these "creatures" or animals in Heaven at? If they are not our dogs and cats what are they? They are specially created HORSES. (Personal note, I remember a deceased former member of our congregation at Danieltown, Brother JR – Joe Roach – who tragically died in 2013 – was a horse enthusiast, he loved horses. We were at a Confederate youth heritage event and was gonna get to ride a horse, but he couldn't mount it, to his disappointment – I wonder if the Lord has introduced him to "his" horse he will ride at the 2nd Coming. You say horses in Heaven? Yep look:) Revelation 19:14 "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

Now, evidently in Heaven, they are white, while when seen upon the Earth (when revealed) they appear as horses of fire see 2 Kings 6:17 "And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." also note the Lord's chariots are tallied at 20,000 while the host to attend them are numberless per Psalms 68:17 "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place." So, these horses the "creatures in heaven" are divided into two classes:

- 1.) Horses that draw the Lord's chariots (such as the kind that took Elijah away in 2 Kings 2:11) which if man numbered his horses for chariots as God did then we would have at least 200,000 horses for the Lord's Chariots (That is 10 horses per chariot. Notice 1 Kings 4:26 "And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen." and 2 Chronicles 9:25 "And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem." Note that this is supposedly a "mistake" in the King James Bible – but it is the mind and fallen reasoning of man that is mistaken! The supposed "problem" of the 4,000 versus 40,000 teaches us thus about chariot warfare. Too many have been duped by Hollywood, Ben Hur and other such films, etc. Now here we learn that the 1 Kings reference speaks of 40,000 stalls OF horses while 2 Chronicles says 4,000 stalls for horses AND chariots. Thus from these we learn Solomon had 4,000 chariots and that each chariot had 10 horses assigned to it. So we can infer this is a possibility.
- 2.) Horses that the saved of the Church will ride per Revelation 19:14. We do not know how many these are.

Thus it stands to reason these "special" horses are going to praise the Lord at this point.

and on the earth, - The second group of animals are seen on the earth.

and under the earth, - The third group of animals are seen "under" the earth. I don't think this is referring to "animals" in Hell. Rather I take this to mean "animals that live in the Earth's crust.

and such as are in the sea, - The fourth group of animals are those in the sea or the ocean.

and all that are in them, - The recap is that ALL of God's creatures in the animal kingdoms are going to join in the Heavenly songs of praise in order to praise the Creator!

heard I saying, - Again, don't put God in a box. John is in Heaven and he is allowed by God to HEAR AND TO UNDERSTAND the Praise of the Animals in this Prelude to Tribulation. This is what he heard the "creatures" say:

Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, - Here the animals use 4 of the 7 things Christ is "worthy" to receive. Those they exempted (using Revelation 5:12 as a guide) are: Riches, Wisdom, Strength. I find it interesting as these three things are connected to humans specifically. Mankind transacts with riches – such is unknown to animals, Mankind is capable of wisdom, while animals are not and we are told that we gain OUR strength from the Lord.

be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, - Notice they ascribe praise to God the Father.

and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. - They also ascribe that praise to their Creator -Jesus Christ as the Lamb. They call Him by the prophetic title of redemption, though He did not redeem them, He is associated with them by this title and as their Creator (see: Acts 14:15). I also want to point out something here, not that we have time to develop it, but go research about the animals (or natural things like the sea and wind) and see where Christ, etc. issued an order or command and notice how they ALWAYS obey Him.

And the four beasts said, Amen. - Observe interestingly, the timing of the Four Living Creatures' shout of AMEN. It seems to me to lend further credence to Ruckman's idea of the Cherubim representing the orders of the Creation, in that after the animal kingdom and man has sung their respective praises, the 4 Seraphim cry out Amen in conclusion of the hymn of the Creatures!

And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. - After the 4 Beasts (the Seraphim) said Amen, the representatives of the Church the 24 elders fell down and worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ. It is this scene that John sees and hears before him.

Meanwhile, we must remember where we are (along with John) we are IN Heaven. John went from sensing the History of the Church Age in Chapters 2-3 to being called up to Heaven in Chapter 4. As John was transported into the 3rd Heaven and he became a true time traveller, it seems we've kindly forgotten the Earth and its inhabitants.

If you are familiar with the Left Behind Series, one can get a glimpse of the chaos and catastrophic conditions in which those Left Behind will find themselves in immediately following Revelation 4:1 (the Rapture). With Christians vanishing right and left, cars will careen out of control, planes fall from the skies, deaths on every hand. The unborn will disappear from wombs, Babies and small children (under the age of accountability) will vanish from cribs, playpens and nurseries. Suicides will be commonplace. Economic chaos will hurl the nations of the world into a panic as riots, protests and panic ensues.

Contrary to what many think, the Tribulation will NOT begin with the Rapture. Just as there was a transition period (Jesus' public ministry where He sought to teach others to live by Grace and transition) from the Mosaic Law Age to the Church Age (which began on the Day of Pentecost). It seems the same will happen as the Age transitions from the Church Age or Age of Grace back to the Mosaic Law Age. Some say this will not be the case. Consider the words of Daniel in Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

The famous 70 weeks of Daniel remind us that 69 weeks or 483 years of this time period have elapsed. A final segment (week) of 7 years is still left or outstanding to the Jews. Note your handout (24 terms for the Tribulation) Also notice the Overview of the Tribulation.

So it is that in this melee, we MAY or MIGHT see the Ezekiel 38-39 War as Russia and some African allies strike Israel only to be Divinely defeated by the Mighty Hand of God. At that point out of the Revised Roman Empire (possibly the EU – the European Union) will arise a charismatic leader calling for peace and unity. Soon he will unite the world and lead Israel to sign a 7-year Peace Treaty, or as Daniel put it in Daniel 9:27 “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” It is at that moment that the Tribulation will begin and that beloved is where we are going to start Sunday Night – September and October will find us in Revelation Chapter 6 and Sunday Night we are going to learn about the Opening of Seal #1 and meet the First Horseman of the Apocalypse none other than the dreaded Antichrist! Stay tuned it's about to get interesting!