

Revelation Step by Step 5

When at last the portable Sea of Glass fades from view, it is carrying its now divine occupants to their Father's Throne in Heaven, Revelation 14:1-5, 'Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and **His Father's name** written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.' This is later, after they have married Christ, and gained the family name.

Just as a speculative aside, it is obvious that what we will learn there must include how to manage our new divine capabilities. 1 John 3:2, 'Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.' 1 Corinthians 15:49, 'Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.' Just as Christ did, we will be able to appear and disappear. We may appear as a normal man or woman, or in our glorified form. We will need to be taught how to use and control such miraculous powers.

Previously, God has sent angels to intervene for His People in times of trouble, and there will be plenty of that during the Great Tribulation. Will our education include divine intervention in the service of the godly remnant still around the Earth? Revelation 12:17, 'And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.' They are, after all, those who, *if they survive their captivity*, will be the needed *physical* exemplars of God's Way at the start of the Millennium!

Left behind after the Sea of Glass has gone will be a mixed multitude in the desert, saddened that they failed to qualify to be in the first Resurrection. What they had seen though, provides the conviction that God will not abandon them, for their faith has brought them there, and they know that they are still in a better position than those left behind in their nations who cannot expect the same protection during the Great Tribulation, for they lacked the faith to believe in God's work in Jerusalem.

God has not provided us with precise details of their coming journey, but he has told us where they go. Matthew 24:16, 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.' The mountains, for those in Jerusalem, lie to the East, across the Jordan

valley. Back in AD 70, before the siege of Jerusalem, all the Christians took note of that scripture and fled to Pella, across the Jordan in those mountains, but to the North, and not a Christian life was lost in the siege.

This time however, the armies of the Beast are to the North, and the scriptures indicate the mountains to the South of the range, necessarily to be reached around the South of the Dead Sea. Their leaders, whom we will discuss later, quickly shepherd them South until they can cross the Jordan valley, because God's word tells us that the Beast dare not pursue them there for fear of losing another army. Daniel 11:41, 'He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.' These are the Jordanians today.

The following scriptures indicate their destination. Once they have crossed the dry Jordan valley, they will find a fine new road leading up to the ancient Kings Highway, South to Petra, a walk of just a few days.

Speaking of His *faithful* servants during the Great Tribulation, God says, Isaiah 33: 16-17, 22,

'he will dwell on the heights;

his place of defence will be the fortresses of rocks;

his **bread will be given him; his water will be sure.**

Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; [Christ at His return]

they will see a land that stretches afar.' [Israel] and

'You will **not** see a fierce people, A people of obscure speech, beyond perception, Of a stammering tongue that you cannot understand. [Beast's German army]

Isaiah 26:20-21, 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.' [They will be protected there from the plagues of Revelation]

Isaiah 16:1-5, 'Send lambs as tribute to the ruler of the land, from Sela, across the desert, to the mount of Daughter Zion. Like fluttering birds pushed from the nest, so are the women of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. "Make up your mind," Moab says. "Render a decision. Make your shadow like night— at high noon. Hide the fugitives, do not betray the refugees. Let the Moabite fugitives stay with you; be their shelter from the destroyer." The oppressor will come to an end, and destruction will cease; the aggressor will vanish from the land. In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it— one from the house of David— one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness.' [Moab are the Jordanians fleeing from the 200 million army from China and the East, Revelation 9:16.]

When the faithful arrive in Wadi Musa, Teman as it was called anciently, a short stroll from Petra, [Sela], they may find Christians already there – the few who moved immediately after the First Angel’s message (Revelation 14:6-7). Almost all the unprepared Christians and those who ignored God’s instructions we have examined, were trapped in their countries at the sudden fall of the US and UK, after world war finished international travel, but some corporate Church leaders have their own personal jets and are likely to use them for their escape to Petra, the refuge they have long preached about.

There is a great deal of tourist accomodation in that area because of Petra, and God will protect it while some of His People are there, but it will not be without its problems. You need to read of Jesus Christ’s dramatic rescue of His People in Petra, in our article “Christ Goes to Petra”, Page 1 Articles. Those scriptures once more prove some of God’s People are preserved there for the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation.

We should try to imagine what those years will be like for the world. It is hard to picture them ourselves, and we have an outline in the scriptures. Think how long one year can be. They have already experienced almost 3 years of trials in Jerusalem, and difficult as they became, they are as nothing compared to the suffering of those in captivity, many taken from the US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, to foreign lands to work in slavery, and remember what you have seen of the concentration camps run by people who had no respect for human life. Do we see much the same attitude in China today, *even towards their own people*? No wonder God says there will be so few left alive after another 3½ years of even worse conditions during the Great Tribulation. Isaiah 24:5-6, ‘[The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.](#)’

That is why the broadcast, maybe by short wave radio from Jerusalem, will be listened to so avidly during the first half of the 7 years, and then the more widely reported events will bring the two witnesses to the attention of the world during the horrors of the last half!

If the Two Witnesses may lead them to Petra, they will not remain there long, before returning to Jerusalem to fulfil their role. Revelation 11:1-6, ‘[Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”](#)’

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

We have previously learned that God's People are the Temple of God. The altar represents the ministry. The court outside the Temple may be those in Jerusalem that the Beast corrupted to worship Him, and who do not flee Jerusalem as a result. Daniel 11:31-32,

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

There we will temporally leave God's people, safely protected and preserved by God in Petra, for the then almost 3 years of preparation for their future roles in God's kingdom, a mixture of those who carried forth God's hope bringing message to captive Israel, maybe some converted Jews, and even a few repentant Church leaders, until Jesus Christ returns to rescue them and bring them to Jerusalem, there to be reunited with their brethren who took part in the First Resurrection. Zechariah 14:4-5, 'And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!**'

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