

Seventh Ascent

I.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,
“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

**I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus,
was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.**

**As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand,
and the seven golden lampstands,**

the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.**

“I know your works:

you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

**For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,
not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**

**I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich,
and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen,
and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.**

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

**The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne,
as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.**

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

II.

**And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne,
who lives forever and ever,
the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne
and worship him who lives forever and ever.**

They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,

to receive glory and honor and power,

for you created all things,

and by your will they existed

and were created.”

and the elders fell down and worshiped.

III.

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

IV.

**The rest of mankind,
who were not killed by these plagues,
did not repent of the works of their hands
nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood,
which cannot see or hear or walk,
nor did they repent of their murders
or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

And I was told,

“You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet,

and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name, both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth,
he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness,
to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth
and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,
on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

And he stood on the sand of the sea.

This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast,
for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire,
and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle,
“Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.”
So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth
and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress,
as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

V.

**...And the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power,
and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.**

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying,

“It is done!”

And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder,

and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great,

to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.

And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people;

and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

And the angel said to me,

“The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute.

They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind

and handing over their royal power to the beast,

until the words of God are fulfilled.

And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

VI.

**Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!"**

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

“So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence,
and will be found no more;

and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters,

will be heard in you no more,

and a craftsman of any craft

will be found in you no more,

and the sound of the mill

will be heard in you no more,

and the light of a lamp

will shine in you no more,

and the voice of bridegroom and bride

will be heard in you no more,

for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,

and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,

and of all who have been slain on earth.”

VII.

**And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered
to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.**

And the beast was captured,

**and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs
by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image.**

These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

**And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse,
and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.**

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

And I saw no temple in the city,

for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty

and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,
and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false,
but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come."

And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book:
if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,
and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy,
God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

Amen.

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