

Sixth Ascent

I.

**Behold,
he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him,
and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.**

Even so.

Amen.

...And the living one.

**I died,
and behold I am alive forevermore,
and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
Write therefore the things that you have seen,
those that are and those that are to take place after this.**

**“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:
‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.**

“I know your works.

Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.

I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.
Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God,
and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,
which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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

II.

...And before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,
and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!”

When he opened the sixth seal,

I looked, and behold,

there was a great earthquake,

and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,
and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slaved and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks,

“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,
for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

III.

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,

“Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”

I said to him, **“Sir, you know.”**

And he said to me, **“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

**“Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;**

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

**They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.**

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet,

and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet,

“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year,
were released to kill a third of mankind.

The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.

And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them:

they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur,
and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads,
and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths.

By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.

For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads,
and by means of them they wound.

IV.

And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it.

It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them,
and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!"

And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell.

Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon.

And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan,
the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,

for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!

But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!"

And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak
and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave,
to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark,
that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come,
and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

V.

**And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels
seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever...**

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates,
and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast
and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world,
to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

“Behold, I am coming like a thief!

Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on,
that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”

And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them,
for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

VI.

**“Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!
For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”**

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off
and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

“What city was like the great city?”

And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,

“Alas, alas, for the great city
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!

For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

VII.

**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun,
and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead,
“Come, gather for the great supper of God,
to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders,
and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”
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.**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.
From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.
And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.

Then another book was opened, which is the book of life.
And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.
And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them,
and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire.

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width.

And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia.

Its length and width and height are equal.

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel.

The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl,
and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of
the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me,

“You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets,
and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.
Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes,
so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters,

and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.

I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
