

19.4.2020

Steve Myers writes:

Strange times.

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in front of me was a door standing open in heaven. I heard the voice I had heard before. It sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, "Come up here. I will show you what must happen after this." At once the Holy Spirit gave me a vision. There in front of me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. The one who sat there shone like jasper and ruby. Around the throne was a rainbow shining like an emerald. Twenty-four other thrones surrounded that throne. Twenty-four elders were sitting on them. The elders were dressed in white. They had gold crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and thunder. Seven lamps were blazing in front of the throne. These stand for the seven spirits of God. There was something that looked like a sea of glass in front of the throne. It was as clear as crystal.

Living through these strange times we may be tempted to think that this world is out of control, and from a human prospective it may seem as if no one is in charge.

Well our reading is good news, it tells us there is someone in charge and he is seated on the throne of heaven.

He is the Lord God Almighty, The Greek word has the idea of "the One who has His hand on everything." God is in complete control.

Our reading tells us; in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

This speaks of calmness. Whatever is happening, God is **not** shaken or taken by surprise by the disturbing events we see day by day. **But, We must not confuse calmness with apathy.** We might be tempted to think, if God is all-powerful why doesn't He do something?

On Good Friday, Christian, remember how Jesus, God the Son, died on the cross. His followers thought that was the end, they were devastated, their hopes and dreams shattered. The future looked bleak, they were probably asking why did Jesus have to die

Jesus **didn't** have to die, he **chose** to die so that he could, defeat evil and pay the price for all we have done wrong. The bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life"

The bible also tells us, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. After that, he appeared to more than 500 people at the same time. Now he is seated at the right hand of the Father.

That's the good news, and no matter how it might look to us now, **God is in control** and God loves us.

We haven't got all the answers, we don't know why God allows pandemics and other disasters, but we believe we can trust him with our future.

If you ever doubt God's love, look to the cross, if you ever doubt his power, look at the resurrection. **Amen**

Father give us

Faith when we doubt

Hope when we despair

Strength when we are weak

**And Fill us with joy that comes from knowing your son Jesus Christ
Amen.**