

## Patterns in Heaven

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 7/1/2017

What is real and what is make believe? It is getting hard to tell anymore. The things of God are REAL – but how can we bring them out when they are so hard to see. How long has it been since you were able to believe your eyes. Advertisements and movies are computer generated and photo-shopped to the point that “reality” no longer exists. We are inundated by a host of **perfect** super-humans, performing phenomenal feats.

Those things that we see about us in our **physical realm** can seem to be very real to us.

However, the Bible reveals that the things **of heaven** are in fact **real**, factual and reliable, but because they are unseen, most people relegate them to the mysterious, mystifying and **unreal** realm.

The world believes only in what it can see, but we know that eye has not seen neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him (1Corinthians 2:9). God tells His people where they must place their focus.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on **things above**, not on things on the earth.

There is a new technological trend that is sweeping the digital world, and it is the realm of **Virtual Reality**. Virtual Reality has been the subject of science fiction for many years – but “pardon the pun” it is now a reality. Literally billions of dollars have been spent on this trend in the last few years – and it is growing very rapidly.

For some people virtual reality is entertainment and games, while for others it is a new way to **escape reality**. The developers of virtual reality wish to sell it as a means of **education** and exotic travel experiences – while staying right at home. But what is to keep this latest craze from exploding into the unknown? What are the **unintended** consequences of a powerful new way of creating fantasy and make-believe? There is a big danger lurking just over the horizon that is brought about by the unscrupulous, the immoral, and the greedy.

The one thing virtual reality is about is **immersing** a person in an entirely fictitious world **void of reality**. A Christian’s relationship with God must be based entirely on reality – God’s reality.

Virtual reality takes its name from the fact that what a person sees does not physically exist as such, but is made by software to appear to do so. The developers’ goal is to perfect the technology so that virtual reality and reality are – **essentially** the same.

Anyone will be able to go anywhere and do anything; go where no man has gone before; fly a space ship; dive to the deepest parts of the ocean; go deep inside a surgical operation; navigate the inside of a bee hive; you name it—all in the comfort of their living room. People used to have a saying, “The sky’s the limit.” The sky is no longer the limit!

Shem, Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, had witnessed – with their own eyes – the **emerging technological revolution** that preceded the worldwide flood. It was not a technology that was oriented toward the fulfillment of God’s Plan.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**.

We’ll begin here – immediately after the flood and God says:

Genesis 9:11 And I will establish my covenant with you [Noah and his sons]; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more **by the waters of a flood**; neither shall there anymore be a flood to destroy the earth. Genesis Chapter 10 tells us how each of the boys grew into nations.

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed **from the east**, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Genesis 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may **reach unto heaven**; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

**"Reach unto heaven"** – not to be near to God and His ways – but to avoid another flood – and to have a sky scraper from which to rule the earth.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the **tower**, which the children of men built.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now **nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do**.

This is where a Godless society has brought us today. Nothing will be restrained from us which we have **imagined to do**. God divided and brought Babel to a halt because it was a Godless society.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD **scatter them abroad** upon the face of all the earth.

God is not going to do that **this time**. Today, God is allowing man to run his course. Virtual reality has its **beginning** and its **roots** in a Godless society – and who knows where the irresponsible entrepreneurs will take it? We cannot say "Stop the world, I want to get off." What are we to do?

We have to remember – daily - that **God is real**, and **everything** else is only the **smoke and mirrors** of a deceived world. As Christians, our primary defense against Satan's deceptive "airwaves" is to know and stay close to **Reality** – the Reality that is in heaven.

For those of us in God's Church it is incumbent that we stay close to the trunk of the tree. Jesus said, "Pray, Thy **will** be done on earth as **it is in heaven**." (Matthew 6:10) That is because God's will **is done** in heaven. It behooves us to know **what is in heaven** and what the will of God is. Jesus said:

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of **heavenly things**?

The purpose of today's sermon is to see in the Scriptures that the spiritual things in heaven are the **real reality** – way more so than the physical things of this earth – which everyone considers being REAL. The eternal spiritual sanctuary in heaven is REAL. The spiritual things of God are **eternally real**, and physical things of our world are temporary.

Psalm 11:4 The Lord is in His Holy Temple, the Lord's throne **is in heaven**. (That's real!)

Even the people of God's Church have a difficult time picturing the unseen spiritual things of God's realm.

Remember when the King of Syria came with an army of horses and chariots... and it looked like Elisha and his servant were bound to die... That looked **real** – especially to Elisha's servant.

2Kings 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for **they** that be with us are more than they that be with them.

The servant looked around – and he and Elisha were **all alone!**

2Kings 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.

There was nothing to fear.

We cannot see **what is real** – but it is there! It is hard for us to fathom the things **in heaven**. What is **real** and what is in heaven? – there are **too many** things to describe:

For example, the beloved apostle John says:

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened **in heaven**: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

This is the throne of God!

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw **four and twenty elders** sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

"Round about," – was that in a circle – or a sphere? Were there 12 above and 12 below – six in front and six in back – three to the left and three to the right? Who are these twenty-four elders at the very throne of God?

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne there was a **sea of glass** like unto crystal:

Revelation 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

Revelation 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Revelation 4:10 The **four and twenty elders** fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

That's **REAL** – and that's in heaven – and there's a lot more revealed about **heaven** – but I'm getting ahead of the story: Let's just get our orientation:

Exodus 20:22 And the **LORD said unto Moses**, (long discourse here...)

Exodus 24:1 And he said unto Moses, Come up [to mount Sinai,] unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

We see in Numbers that these seventy elders of Israel were led by God's Holy Spirit.

Numbers 11:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou know to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

Numbers 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and **I will take of the Spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them**; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Exodus 24:2 And **Moses alone** shall come near the LORD: but they [Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu and seventy of the elders] shall not come near; neither shall the people go up with him.

This took place on Pentecost. (that was a month ago for us)

Exodus 24:9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

Exodus 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

Exodus 24:11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

This eating and drinking corresponds to the **Marriage Supper** of the Lamb – on the sea of glass, which also takes place on a future Pentecost.

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou may teach them.

Paul tells us in Hebrews 10:1 that **the law** is a shadow of good things to come... for us.

God's reality becomes our reality.

Exodus 24:13 And Moses rose up, and his minister **Joshua** [Not Asron - who stayed with the seventy elders]: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

You have to read carefully – or you will miss details like this, “and his minister **Joshua**.”

Exodus 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

We are not told what Joshua was doing all that time.

Speaking of the fabrication of the Tabernacle. God told Moses:

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary [Heb. 'kodesh' – holy place – and it is holy because of God's presence]; that I may dwell among them.

God's intent is to **dwell with man** – make His **abode** in man. (John 14:23)

Exodus 25:9 According to all that I show thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Let me state this as clearly as I am able. The things in heaven are **real** – and they existed **in heaven** long before man walked the earth – and they will be there long after there is no more earth as we know it. God is showing Moses the **pattern** of the heavenly sanctuary – the blueprints so that Moses can build a replica on earth.

Exodus 25:40 And look that thou make them after their **pattern**, which was showed thee in the mount.

Exodus 26:30 And thou shall raise up the **tabernacle** according to the **fashion** thereof which was **showed thee in the mount** [Sinai].

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest [Jesus Christ], who is set on the right hand of the **throne** of the Majesty **in the heavens**;

Hebrews 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of **the true tabernacle**, [the **real** Tabernacle in heaven] which **the Lord pitched**, and **not** man.

Hebrews 8:5 Who [the priests] serve unto the example and **shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the **pattern** shown to you in the mount.[Sinai]

We see that God gave Moses numerous, intricate details. Just breaking into the list...

Exodus 27:6 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.

Exodus 27:7 And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.

Exodus 27:8 Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was **showed thee in the mount**, so shall they make it.

Brethren, I find all these details exciting. I know that some would find these long lists of details tedious... But when we stop and realize that their counterparts in heaven – their antitypes are in heaven... It just helps to enforce the **reality** of heaven as a most interesting place ... Have you ever seen a spiritual flower? I suppose that **in heaven** their blooms and blossoms never fade or wilt.

Numbers 8:4 And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the **pattern** which the Lord had showed Moses, so he made the candlestick.

It was the same with the Tabernacle and then the Temple later.

I always love getting comments on the Countdown. I received an email right before services that I'd like to share a part of:

“We may think the creation on earth is greatly magnificent. Which it is. What we have is a proto-type of God's Heavenly space. We don't have it better... God has it better and had it first. I used to think of the supernatural horses, as sort of a hologram; until in the last few years, I have been thinking they are some of the heavenly animals, that God had in heaven BEFORE He created the earth which is a proto-type of heaven. The angels have four sides to their heads, with animal images. Which were around previously, before the creation. The earth is His footstool, so it might not be as elegant as Heaven is.”

Years passed and Israel went into the Promised Land.

Acts 7:44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the **fashion / figure / pattern / blue-print**, that he had seen.

More years passed and Israel desired kings to rule over them:

We come to King David – chosen of God.

1Chronicles 28:1 And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem.

1Chronicles 28:2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

1Chronicles 28:3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt **not** build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

My first real job in life was in structural steel fabrication. My job title was: Detailer. My job was to take the designer's roll of blue prints and “detail” every nut, bolt and flange connection so that the designer's **pattern** could be turned into the **reality** of a structure. As long as it was on paper – it was only a designer's **concept**. Our function as steel fabricators was to turn the **concept** into a structural **reality**.

As we saw, King David was **not** allowed to build the Temple – but he got all the **materials** ready – the beams, the gold, the stone – all the way down to the precise **detailed drawings** that Solomon would need.

They are described here:

1Chronicals 28:11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the **pattern** of the **porch**, and of the houses (office rooms) thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

1Chronicles 28:12 And the **pattern** of all that he had **by the Spirit** [in me], of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

Notice the **intricate details** given to Solomon:

1Chronicles 28:18 And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the **pattern** of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

1Chronicles 28:19 All this, said David, the **LORD made me understand in writing** by His hand upon me, even all the works of this **pattern**.

How real is that? Solomon's magnificent Temple in Jerusalem, dripping with gold, was a mere replica of the **heavenly Temple**. Not near as nice as the **real** thing... The **real eternal spiritual Temple** is in heaven, and God showed it to Moses and later to David – as we saw, in **writing**.

God gave them explicit instructions to follow every detail of the heavenly **pattern** or blueprint when building the earthly tabernacle and Temple at Jerusalem. It was God's intention that not only the earthly tabernacle and Temple at Jerusalem be constructed according to every minute detail, but that all the instruments and accoutrements also be of a **perfect heavenly design**. Every element of every object of temple service pointed to the **reality** of the heavenly.

2Chronicles 8:16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the House of the Lord, and until it was finished. So the House [the Temple] of the Lord was **perfected**.

Brethren, today, this world is careening uncontrollably off course in every segment of society. Our world is running amuck – uncontrollably and disruptively – like a ship without a rudder.

The **real** things **of heaven** are about to be unleashed on this earth. The **Book of Revelation** contains a great deal of detail of the **reality** of those events. And the only reason that **time** is going on a little longer is because of you – the saints of God – the very elect. God's wrath is coming against the entire world. Jesus Christ said that it will be such an overwhelming war, and cause such distress that there would be no survivors – "no flesh saved alive" – unless He personally intervened to cut short the hostilities. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Now Brethren, here's the challenge to us – as Christians today. How do we utilize this information about patterns, types and figures in our lives? God desires that we have more than a cursory and superficial understanding of what is revealed in the Scriptures. The world is blind to most of the **Plan of God** because they do not even try to put the pieces together.

Let's look at this example where Paul explains a little of the interface between our **ordinary, everyday** world and the **reality in heaven**.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a **greater and more perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into the **holy place** [holy of holies in heaven], having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the **patterns** [on earth] of the things in the heavens should be purified with these [Old Testament animal sacrifices]; but the **heavenly things** themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Jesus Christ, of necessity, was fulfilling the heavenly Plan as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8) That is **reality** in the making! Jesus was completing and perfecting the Holy of Holies in heaven.

The earthly Tabernacle, Solomon's Temple and the re-constructed Temple of Herod – **they are all gone.** That is not what Jesus entered.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is **not** entered into the **holy places** made with hands, which are the **figures** [*antitupon* = **antitype**] of the true, [**the real**]; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

These things are very, very real! A "type" is something from the Old Testament that is recorded to "**foreshadow**" some future thing. "Types" are representations of something **yet future**. They are prophetic in nature. Types found in the Old Testament are seen to prefigure "antitypes" - fulfillments, found in the New Testament. The original one is called the "type" and the fulfillment is the "antitype."

In the difficult days ahead we must look **to heaven** – where God's throne is – where reality dwells – for direction, instruction and the will of God.

End: Patterns in Heaven