

Revelation 4c - THE SEVEN SPIRITS

This study is a continuation of other series of studies by Gospel Sounders Rekindling the Reformation Ministry [GSrrM] in our quest of truth by looking at the role the angels play in the ministering of the Holy Spirit. In this short article, I will be looking at Revelation 4:5 seven spirits.

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

Prevailing View

"Unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith He that hath the SEVEN SPIRITS of God, and the SEVEN STARS; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Revelation 3:1-3

You can see the seven spirits are contrasted from the seven stars and I believe the stars are the angels according Job 38:7, Revelation 1:20. If it had said the seven spirits which are the seven stars then we may have a good argument here. Also the seven stars we can say they are messengers. Context determines the meaning.

Revelation 5:6: And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and SEVEN EYES, which are the SEVEN SPIRITS of God sent forth into all the earth.

Seven eyes is represented as the seven spirits. That can be matched with Psalms 139:7. Eyes always denotes knowledge so here seven eyes or seven spirits will denote the totality of knowledge which is called the omniscience. It's this ability to know everything i.e. omniscience and the ability to do everything, that's seven horns i.e. omnipotence that makes God and Christ to be everywhere i.e. omnipresence.

Another thing that someone will challenge you with is that these abilities seven eyes, seven horns that's omniscience and omnipotence which makes God and Christ omnipresence, they had it before angels were created so they don't depend on the angels to have these abilities so to conclude that these seven eyes and seven spirits are angels will mean that they didn't have these abilities before the angels were created.

In other places these seven spirits are referred to as seven lamps of fire (Revelation 4:5). Throughout Scripture the number seven when used symbolically is generally understood to indicate completeness and perfection.

Take an example of seven candlesticks (Revelation 1:12), a book with seven seals (Revelation 5:1), seven angels with seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2), seven thunders (Revelation 10:4), a dragon with seven heads and seven crowns (Revelation 12:3), a beast with seven heads (Revelation 13:1), seven angels having seven vials containing the seven last plagues (Revelation 15:1, 7), and the beast with seven heads, which are also said to be seven mountains and seven kings (Revelation 17:3, 9, 10). This repeated use of the number seven with so many different symbols implies that it is to be understood in a symbolic sense which means completeness.

The association here of the “seven Spirits” with the Father and with Christ implies that they represent the Holy Spirit. The designation seven is probably a symbolic expression of His perfection, and may also imply the variety of the gifts by which He works through man also.

In Isaiah 11:1-2 we find seven attributes of the spirit listed, as shown below;

Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.

- a) Spirit of wisdom.
- b) And understanding.
- c) Spirit of counsel.
- d) And might.
- e) Spirit of knowledge.
- f) And of the fear of the LORD.

He had seven horns as a symbol of power Deuteronomy 33:17 and perfection or completeness. Here is a symbol of Christ's complete or fullness of power that is His omnipotence. Before Christ ascended back to heaven He said, “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*” Matthew 28:18. He is the Almighty. (Revelation 1:8) Thus the seven horns of the Lamb would indicate that He is perfect in strength. This is one attribute so the proceeding symbol would also be an attribute of Christ.

Seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God - These eyes are identified as the seven Spirits of God, which is an expression used for the Holy Spirit. As I said in Revelation 4:5 a different symbol, “seven lamps” is used. Lambs being fire denoting also the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. To burn all the chaff and dross and refine a Christian to a pure gold. Eyes are a symbol of intelligence and perfect wisdom, thus with this coupled together with the number seven, it would show Christ's complete or perfect wisdom, all-knowing, that is His omniscience. Nothing is hidden from His eyes, (Hebrews 4:13, Zechariah 4:10, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Proverbs 15:3) and thus knows all that goes on.

The only way that these eyes can see throughout the whole earth is through the seven Spirits, and maybe some will conclude that this is made possible by angels but it won't be whole truth because he had these attributes before angels were. The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative upon the earth, (John 15:26) and it is through the Holy Spirit that Christ can dwell in the hearts of men.

It's written that the seven eyes or spirits are **sent forth** – this will match up with Zechariah 1:10; 6:5; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; and more so Galatians 4:6.

Really who are the subjects before the throne?

- *Revelation 8:2 And I saw **the seven angels** which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

Notice this is issuing forth is from the throne, which we believe is in the heavenly sanctuary. And right in the same sanctuary were **seven lamps of fire**, mark that, and these **seven lamps of fire are seven spirits of God**. So the seven spirits are the seven lamps of fire

- *Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, **in the midst of the throne** and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, **having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.***

Again same sanctuary but now, the **seven spirits** of God are the **eyes** of God.

*Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the **seven stars**; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

Remember to establish this we must begin from known. We must begin from what the Bible says and see if the Ellen White has confirmed it, and add weight of evidence from pioneer writings.

- *Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the **seven Spirits** which are before his throne;*

Again seven spirits are before the throne of God

Lamps of fire

- *Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his **angels spirits**, and his ministers **a flame of fire.***
- *Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] **like unto the Son of man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; **and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire;***

Eyes of Christ were like a flame of fire. what does this mean?

- **Zechariah 3:8** Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they [are] men wondered at: for, behold, **I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.** 3:9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; **upon one stone [shall be] seven eyes:** behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

The branch is Christ,

- Zechariah 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the **man whose name [is] The BRANCH;** and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; **and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**

Elijah the prophet was taken to Heaven by angels under the symbol of a “Chariot of Fire”.

- 2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there **appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder;** and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

CHRIST’S eyes were as a flame of fire:

- Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things **saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire,** and his feet are like fine brass;
- Revelation 19:12 **His eyes were as a flame of fire,** and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

The symbolism “flame of fire” refers to the ministry of angels.

- Exodus 3:2 **The angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire** out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. (See Acts 7:30)

Eyes of the Lord

Another symbolic term for angels is “eyes”.

- 2Chronicles 16:9 For **the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,** to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from

henceforth thou shalt have wars.

- Zechariah 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with **those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.**
- Zechariah 4:14 Then said he, **These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth**
- Zechariah 4:2, "And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps which were upon the top thereof." **These seven lamps are called "the eyes of the Lord which run to and fro through the whole earth."** See Zechariah 4:10
- Firm integrity shines forth as gold amid the dross and rubbish of the world. Deceit, falsehood, and unfaithfulness may be glossed over and hidden from the eyes of man, but not **from the eyes of God. The angels of God, who watch the development of character and weigh moral worth**, record in the books of heaven these minor transactions which reveal character. {CG 152.4}

There is a common interpretation that the 7 spirits are the spirit of Christ and thus it simply refer to the characteristic qualities of the holy spirit. This verse is commonly quoted:

- Isaiah 11:2 **And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

Here only 6 attributes are mentioned not 7. Secondly contrast this with what the verse below says

- Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from **him which is, and which was, and which is to come;** and **FROM THE SEVEN SPIRITS** which are before his throne; 5 And from **Jesus Christ**, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Here greetings are sent from:

- a) "Him which is, and which was, and which is to come",- **God the Father**
- b) **Seven spirits** before the throne
- c) **Jesus Christ**

Think for a moment, do the spirits send greetings!!!! We know that in the heavenly sanctuary we have the father, the son and angels ministering to those who shall be heirs of salvation. Of course, the character attributes can't send greetings or can't send grace which we know is the Holy Spirit.

This repeats the concept in verse 1

- Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which **God gave unto him**, to show unto **his servants things** which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] **by his angel** unto his servant John:

God → Christ → Angels → Prophets → Servants

- How impotent on this occasion was the power of the kings and rulers. They could not act their will on Him who was slain for the sins of the world. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held **the Son of God. But a heavenly host guarded the sepulcher.** With majestic and terrible tread, **the God of heaven, followed by the angels, walked round the tomb of Christ.** They had been unseen witnesses of all that had taken place in the mock trial in the judgment hall. Every action was noted, every taunt recorded. {12MR 421.2}

According to Rev 3:1

- **Revelation 3:1** And^{G2532} unto the^{G3588} angel^{G32} of the^{G3588} church^{G1577} in^{G1722} Sardis^{G4554} write,^{G1125} These things^{G3592} saith^{G3004} he that hath^{G2192} the^{G3588} seven^{G2033} Spirits^{G4151} of God,^{G2316} and^{G2532} the^{G3588} seven^{G2033} stars;^{G792} I know^{G1492} thy^{G4675} works,^{G2041} that^{G3754} thou hast^{G2192} a name^{G3686} that^{G3754} thou livest,^{G2198} and^{G2532} art^{G1488} dead.^{G3498}

See how the word and is translated sometimes,

G2532

Kai

kahee

Apparently a primary particle, having a *copulative* and sometimes also a *cumulative* force; *and, also, even, so, then, too, etc.*; often used in connection (or composition) with other particles or small words: - and, also, both, but, even, for, if, indeed, likewise, moreover, or, so, that, then, therefore, when, yea, yet.

Total KJV occurrences: 9264

Seven Spirits of God, **EVEN** the seven stars but who are stars?

- Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my

right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:** and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

It is also interesting to note that to each of the seven churches, we see an angel sent and at the end we hear or read, **“hear what the spirit says to the churches”**

Examples

- Revelation 2:1 Unto **the angel of the church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 7 He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;** To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

This is consistent through all the other six churches. Please try it out {Revelation 2:11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22}.

We have seen through Bible and Ellen White that the: -

- a) Seven lamps of fire are the seven spirits. Revelation 4:5
- b) The seven eyes are the seven spirits. Revelation 5:6
- c) The seven eyes are the flames of fire. Revelation 19:12
- d) The seven flames are those that run to and from throughout the whole earth 2Chronicles 16:9
- e) The seven lamps are in turn the eyes of the Lord that run to and fro through the whole earth. Zechariah 4:10
- f) Those that run to and fro through the whole earth are angels. Zechariah 4:14

This is a matter that that is established not on deductions and conjectures but putting the scripture together hence we reject the suppositions of men of what they have taught the seven spirits of Revelation are until another proper exegesis can be provided that they are not angels. Here we stand with the following admonition:

- The words that Christ uttered were not mere sentiment or opinion. They were pure, unadulterated truth. **Suppositions** and fables never passed His lips. {Ms140-1903}