

The Twenty-Four Elders

March 23, 2014

Twenty-Four

The Number of Heavenly Witness

An Elder

One who has traversed the road before you, a forefather, one who saw it first and bears witness of what he has seen unto others

The Twenty-Four Forefathers

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 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. 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. 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. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 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. 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. And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 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.

Revelation 4

And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. **And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.** 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. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of

saints. And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 5

The Hebrew Bible

It's a replica of our Old Testament, but it's twenty-four books instead of thirty-nine

The Building of the 24 Elders

Setting up the seats around the Throne

- They saw it - they witnessed Jehovah's nature, Jehovah's plan, they bore witness to Jehovah's Word
- They wrote it down in a book, carried along by the Holy Spirit
- God sealed their words as His very own

- God preserved their words inviolable, unchanging, allowing their humble jots and tittles to bear witness of His Glory
- Moses was the first witness. His authority established before all of Israel with the budding of the Rod of Aaron in the Tabernacle of Witness. And He began writing a book. A book that bore witness to the perfect righteousness of God.
- Joshua was the second witness. The seats were built by God, surrounding His throne, so that every angle of His Glory might be made clear, then a man was chosen to “see.” And when he “saw,” he wrote it down. Each book bearing witness. Each book seeing the same thing - a Lamb, as if slain, in the midst of a Throne. Each book seeing it from a different vantage, but seeing the same fire, the same rainbow, the same crystal sea, the same throng, the same glory! The witness of Judges, the witness of Ruth, the witness of Samuel, the witness of Kings, the witness of Chronicles, the witness of Ezra, the witness of Nehemiah, the witness of Esther, the witness of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Trei Asar (the Twelve). Twenty-Four Elders. Twenty-Four that saw it. Twenty-Four that testify of a Lamb and His inexplicable sufferings. Twenty-Four that witness this One’s Glory. Twenty-Four that can say, “Don’t weep, John, for there is indeed One who can open the seals of the book that is sealed!”
- The Twenty-Four have seen. They bear witness. And now they wait. For century after century they wait. Longing to see what they have witnessed beforehand made manifest - longing to see the seals of the book unlocked, the gates opened, that they, along with all the others who have believed the Words of this Prophecy, may enter into the City whose foundation is God.
- Then, after the last witness (The Trei Asar) has taken its seat about the Throne, and silence has reigned for four hundred years. Suddenly . . . *He comes.*

The Construction of a Book

A Book whose architect and builder is God

The Longing of the Suffering Man

Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth . . .

Job 19:23-25

It's a Book Commissioned by God

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua (Exodus 17:14) . . . And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel . . . And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments (Exodus 34:27-28).

The Finishing of One Book

The Beginning of Another

And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished . . . Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

Deuteronomy 31:24,26

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

The Principle of Continuity

From Moses unto Joshua

From The Old Covenant unto the New Covenant
From Wilderness unto Promised Land

- The Law and the Prophets (Moses) conclude and exhort, establish, and empower the Book that follows (Joshua)
- The Book that follows (The New Covenant) pays honor to the Law and Prophets (The Old Covenant) before him, and fulfills all his words

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

Joshua 11:23

When Moses dies, he appears a failure - his people have none of the promises realized - they esteem the land, but have not yet eaten of its fruit. But Moses has left them a vision of a good land and a promise that surely the Lamb that was slain is able to open the sealed book.

Then when Joshua walks in the words, promises, exhortation, and blessing of Moses, he proves triumphant, takes the land, conquers the enemy, and tastes of the good fruit that Moses had, indeed, declared God was able to give to them that believe. Joshua's authority is authenticated by Moses. Joshua is proven to be of the same Spirit as the Law and Prophets before him, because he perfectly fulfills everything Moses said and demonstrates power and authority over all the powers of the land of Canaan. But, more importantly, Joshua authenticates the authority of Moses - bearing witness to the truthfulness, faithfulness, and integrity of his words, his prophecy, and law. Joshua upholds the word of Moses and therefore, in breaking the seals that Moses could not break, he accomplishes something even greater, and that which follows Moses is considered greater than Moses himself.

The Principle of the Bridegroom's Friend

When the Husband comes, the friend must decrease

The Friend

- Moses unto Joshua
- Elijah unto Elisha
- John the Baptist unto Jesus
- Moses and Elijah unto Jesus
- The Law and the Prophets unto Jesus
- The Twenty-Four Elders unto Jesus

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls. Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.

1 Peter 1:6-12

Mount Abarim - The Vision of Moses

unto Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah

And the LORD spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying, Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land

of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession: And die in the mount whither thou goest up . . .

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

- **Abarim** - the other side
- **Nebo** - the prophet
- **Pisgah** - the cleft

Abarim, Nebo, Pisgah

The place from which the prophet sees, unable to touch it, hidden in the cleft lest he be destroyed, seeing but the backside of God's purpose, not fully understanding, but seeing that which is to come. The vision from the other side of the Jordan.

Joshua - Yeshua

The I AM Saves, HE IS Salvation

What Does Moses See?

Moses sees the inheritance. He sees what Joshua will take. He sees the promise. He beholds the authority given the Son of Nun. But he, himself, cannot but witness the one who does the taking of the promise.

So, What Does Moses See?

He sees a Lamb slain in the midst of the Throne - He sees God's Salvation - He sees Yeshua!

East of the Jordan

The territory of the Friend

West of the Jordan

The territory of Promise

The Jordan

That which separates the Covenants, The Books

Yarad - Yä·rad'

(verb) - to come down, to be poured out, to descend, to have the revelation come down

Yarden - Yar·dān'

The Outpoured, The Descendent, The One Coming Down

The Authority of the New Testament

The Twenty-Four on the West Side of the Jordan

A House without a Foundation

An exercise in demonstrating need

- A couch - for comfort
- A chimney - for the demonstration of fire
- A kitchen sink - for living water
- A gas stove - for hospitality, feeding the multitudes
- A window - to see clearly, to discern the weather
- An air-conditioner - for temperance
- A shower - for cleanliness

The Mystery

Why don't these work? They are amazing, but they don't function as they ought?

The Story of the Gates

Pearly and Perfect, Yet Locked

Locked Gate #1

The Revelation HE IS - The Revelation We Are Not

The Law States:

Unless you are as HE IS, you will be cut off

Locked Gate #2

The Revelation HE IS Righteousness - The Revelation of our unrighteousness

The Law States:

Unless you bear perfect conformity unto His Law, you will be condemned.

Locked Gate #3

The Revelation HE IS Holy, Holy, Holiness - The Revelation that we are unholy

The Law States:

Unless you bear evidence of His Perfect Nature, you are forever blocked from His Presence

Locked Gate #4

*The Revelation HE IS Without Lie, Unmixed, Perfectly Pure,
Always True - The Revelation that we are false and full of mixture*

The Law States:

Unless you are without sin, without guile, without deceit,
you can have no fellowship with the One who is Truth.

Locked Gate #5

The Revelation HE IS Faithful - The Revelation that we are adulterers

The Law States:

Unless you are marked by perfect faith, unwavering belief,
and absolute trust - you cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven

Unlocking the Gates

The Key Has Come! The Way IN Has Arrived! This is known as the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Unlocked Gate #1

Adding the Foundation of Jesus Christ

*HE IS - And He is a Rewarder of those who diligently
seek Him - He will make us like Himself*

Unlocked Gate #2

Adding the Foundation of Jesus Christ

HE IS OUR Righteousness - our way unto the Father

Unlocked Gate #3

Adding the Foundation of Jesus Christ

HE IS OUR Sanctifier - the one who makes us holy

Unlocked Gate #4

Adding the Foundation of Jesus Christ

HE IS OUR Purifier - the one who cleanses us from all sin

Unlocked Gate #5

Adding the Foundation of Jesus Christ

*HE IS OUR Faith - the one who has done it, has performed
the promises, and has accomplished our redemption*

The Twenty-Four That Follow, Unlock the Twenty-Four that Proceed

And therein lies their greatest validation of the New Testament, for that which is second has become the foundation.

What Follows Moses, But the 24 Chapters of Yeshua

The fulfillment of Promise follows the Prophecy, and the fulfillment is greater than the Promise, just as the treasure is greater than the witness of the treasure map.

Jesus, the Foundation of the Church

For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

The Foundation of a Habitation of God

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down

the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; **for to make in himself of two one new man**, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

The FourSquare City - The New Jerusalem

In which the Lamb is the Light

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the

Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 21:9-23

The New Jerusalem

For he (Abraham) looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:10

The New Name of the City

And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of

Judah, one gate of Levi. And at the east side . . . three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan. And at the south side . . . three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun. At the west side . . . three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali . . . and the name of the city from that day shall be, **The LORD is there.**

Ezekiel 48:31-35

Jehovah Shammah

The I AM is there, HE IS IN IT, HE IS THERE! I AM HEREIN!

The Mystery Hidden For Ages and Generations . . . Revealed

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Colossians 1:25-27

The Proof is in Message

It Unlocks the Gates and Invites the Gentiles into a City known as “God is Herein!”

The Apostles carried the message that unlocked the Gates of the City (They carry the Key that opens up the Old Testament Gates)

The Gates of the City

They Are Opened by Christ

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Psalm 24:7-10

Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

Isaiah 60:11

The Book(s)

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:10

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast

into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-5

The Opened Books

The Writings of God

1.The Old - The Law and the Prophets

2.The New - The Life of Jesus, The New Covenant in His Blood

The Greater Testament (The Greater Book)

Not Written in Stone, but in a Human Body

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

2 Corinthians 3:3

This is the book of the generations of Adam.

In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 5:1

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

And he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written . . . And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Luke 4:16-17, 20-21

The Lamb's Book of Life

The Word of God, The Living Book, the Living Epistle

- The Book of the Living - Psalm 69:28
- The Book - Daniel 12:1
- The Book of Life - Revelation 3:5
- The Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world - Revelation 13:8
- The Book of Life from the foundation of the world - Revelation 17:8
- The Lamb's Book of Life - Revelation 21:27
- The Book of Life - Philippians 4:3

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, **because your names are written in heaven.**

Luke 10:20

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:6

So, You Say that You Are the Messiah? Prove it.

Take this key and stick it into the lock of that Gate and you will see!

I tell you beforehand, that when it happens you might believe!

So, you say that you bear the authority of the Messiah? Prove it.

Take this key and stick it into the lock of that Gate and you will see!

The mystery hidden for ages and generations has been entrusted to us, and our words will open the eyes of the blind, make the lame walk, and cause the deaf to hear. Our words will form the foundation of the Heavenly Jerusalem and will cause the 12 sealed gates to open unto the nations.

Isaiah 53

The Closed Gate Opened

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem

unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?** And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? **Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.**

Acts 8:26-35

Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

Luke 24:45

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

The Witness of the 24

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

John 5:39-40

For had you believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

John 5:46

The Chariot of the Gospel

The Bible

- It's Law and it is Grace
- It's The Twenty-Four elders and the Twenty-Four wings
- It's the up-close and intimate view of the Glory of God
- It's the best seat in Heaven
- It's seeing through the eyes of the Twenty-Four Elders and witnessing the Power of God for ourselves
- It's the clear and unveiled picture of the Lamb who was slain in the midst of His Throne

It's the Vantage Point of the Twenty-Four Elders Around the Throne, with the many eye-witness of the Four Creatures and their Twenty-Four Wings that empower us to carry the Good News into all the world.