

WHAT DOES THE “SEA”, WHICH IS MADE FROM GLASS, SYMBOLIZE?

(Excerpt from my book, “The Book of
Revelation Decoded”, pages 152-155)

In Revelation 4:6^a, we read:

*“^aand before the throne (there was) a sea made from glass
(which) looked like crystal.”*

Explanation of verse 6^a

**What does the “sea” which was made from glass and
looked like crystal refer to?**

In the first temple, there was a basin which was made from
bronze. This basin contained a huge amount of water, and
for this reason it was known as *“the sea”*! The priests
ought to use that water to wash their hands and feet **before**
they entered the tabernacle. If they would approach the
presence of God without having been washed, **they would
die!**

Let us read the following scriptures:

Exodus 30:17-21

*“And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, And you shall
make a bronze laver for washing, and its base bronze.
And you shall put it between the tabernacle of the con-
gregation and the altar; and you shall put water there.
And Aaron and his sons shall wash from it, their hands
and their feet; as they go into the tabernacle of the con-
gregation they shall wash with water, and shall not die; or
as they draw near to the altar to minister, to burn a fire*

offering to Jehovah. And they shall wash their hands and their feet, and shall not die. And it shall be a never ending statute to them, to him and to his seed for their generations.”

Exodus 38:8

“And he made the laver bronze, and its base bronze, from the mirrors of the serving women, those assembling, who served at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

1 Kings 7:23-25

“And he made a casted sea of ten cubits from brim to brim; it was round all about. And its height was five cubits; and a line of thirty cubits went around it all about. And gourds were below its brim all around, going around it, ten by the cubit, circling the sea all around; the gourds were cast in two rows when it was cast. It stood on twelve oxen: three facing the north, and three facing the west, and three facing the south, and three facing the east. And the sea was above on them; and all their hinder parts were inward.”

1 Kings 7:39,44

“And he put the five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. And he put the sea on the right side of the house, eastward, across from the south ... and one sea, and twelve oxen under the sea;”

From the foregoing verses, we realize that **no one could come before the presence of the Holy God without first being washed --- cleansed**. As I said earlier, those who would try to serve Him without first being washed, would die!

How can one approach the throne of God today? What cleanses us from our sins?

The apostle John wrote, “... *the blood of ... Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin*” (1 John 1:7) and the writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, “*Therefore, brothers, having confidence for the entering of the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, which He consecrated for us, a new and living way through the veil; that is, His flesh;*” (Hebrews 10:19,20).

Those who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible, who is the “*mighty God*” of Isaiah 9:6, have “... *washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. Because of this they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His sanctuary....*” (Revelation 7:14, 15)

Unlike the bronze basin of the first temple and the water it contained, the flesh of the body of Jesus and the blood it contained had the ultimate and unique power in the whole cosmos to cleanse people from their sins because they were superior, supernatural, holy and pure. This **supernatural and holy purity** was symbolized by the more refined and glorious “*sea of glass*” which was bright like crystal and which, unlike the earthly “*sea of bronze*”, was made without human hands! (Hebrews 10:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:24,25)

This symbolic “*sea of glass*” is also mentioned in Revelation 15:2. There we read:

“And I saw a sea like glass having been mixed with fire, and those conquering the beast and its image and the number of its name standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.”

WHAT DOES THE GLASS SEA SYMBOLIZE?4

From the above verse, we realize that only those who **stand on their faith in the True Jesus of the Bible**, who is God the Word who became flesh (John 1:1,14) and have been cleansed **by His holy blood and by His fire** (Mathew 3:11; Malachi 3:2,3) can stand **before the Holy God** to praise Him!