

Magic, Mystery, or Mechanical?

**A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH**

January 10, 1999

TITLE: Magic, Mystery, or Mechanical?

TEXT: Revelation 7:9-19

THEME: Future glory

THRUST: To accept personal responsibility for my present situation and future position.

INTRODUCTION:

We have spoken in times past about the highway of holiness,
and about how our walk on that highway
is a walk with Divine benefits and personal responsibilities.

We have tried to show that our salvation, present and future,
is a *walk* and not just a point in time experience.

In other words, what you do today
effects your progress tomorrow on the Highway of Holiness.
How you walk today and tomorrow
effects where you will be on that Highway, Tuesday ...
Where you will be Wednesday is determined
by the progress of today, tomorrow and Tuesday;
and so it goes!

To be a bit more blunt,
we are *where* we are today, we are *what* we are today,
because of personal choices we have made in our yesterdays.

Now, taking the concept
that our present circumstances are in large part
due to past choices,
if all things continue on as before,
where will you be six months from now?

Why do you think Jesus described Himself as “*the Way ...*”?

Why were the words of God to Israel
concerning the promised Holy Spirit

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”

Revelation 7:9-17

1. Who are these?
2. Where & how did they get there?

I. Who Are These? v.14

“These are they that have come out of the great Tribulation.”

It is generally accepted that this *tribulation*

is a point in time experience ... whether past or future depends on your interpretation and understanding. The point here though are the words *great* and *tribulation*.

Great = either size or intensity.

Tribulation = pressure! Today we call it “stress”.

The truth here is that these individuals have found a way to deal with the intense stress they are faced with; whether that stress is the result

of external pressure
exerted by governments
or by individuals, human or satanic
or *internal* pressure
exerted by the warfare between
the flesh and Spirit.

Whoever they are... All believers from every age or from a specific event.

Whatever the intensity of their tribulation...

They have *come out!* They are victorious – overcomers!

II. Where and How Did They Get There?

Eph 5:25-32 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ³² This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. (NIV)

Does that sound like those in white before the throne?

How is that going to happen?

How is Christ going to present to Himself

a church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish?

How is this Church and its individual members

going to become holy and blameless?

Is it Magic? Is it a Mystery? Is it Mechanical?

Are you aware that before He ever spoke the words that resulted in “Creation” it was His plan for *you* to be holy and blameless?

Eph 1:4 According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, *that we should be holy and without blame* before him in love:

Col 1: ²¹ And you, that were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, *to present you holy and blameless and without reproof* in his sight: ... ²⁵ Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁸ ... *in order that we may present every person perfect* in Christ Jesus:

2 Pet 3:13-14 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a

new earth, wherein dwells righteousness. ¹⁴ Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent *that you may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, *and to present you faultless* before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Paul ... Peter ... Jude ... all agree concerning God's *purpose!*

But it's not magic,

it's no longer a mystery; and,

It's certainly not mechanical!

How does it happen?

By "washing our robes in the blood of the Lamb."

Robes = Character!

There needs to be a cleansing of our *character!*

So that we are no longer the characters we once were

but new characters (creations)

reflecting the character of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The cleansing is a work of the Lord Jesus Christ ...

but the character has to be offered

in order *for* the cleansing to become reality!

Cleansing was *never* considered a one-time event!

How would you like to be around an individual

whose only bath came immediately after birth!

Yet, multitudes of Christians would have the world

believe that is the only cleansing needed!

The O.T. Priests washed before donning their garments.

The N.T. Sacrifice is *once* for all.

We are only born *once* physically - in the flesh

and *once* spiritually - by the Spirit.

But *cleansing* needs to be a daily occurrence.

Note: Their robes (character) were not made white

by their own blood — but by the blood of the Lamb!

Remember the passage from Eph.5 — Paul is speaking about the desire of Christ for His church?

Ephesians 5²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word....

Rev. 7¹⁴ *washed* is "point in time action" but it is looking back to the time on earth and God's part.

1 John 1:7-9

confess is continuous action (Our Part)

cleanse is Aorist (point in time) but points to

the finality of the act (God's part),
i.e. in relation to future judgement of that particular sin.

Once the confession and cleansing have taken place, it's in the past and God remembers it no more.

However, without the confession there is no cleansing and thus the sin remains until confessed!

Conclusion:

"Are You Washed in the Blood?" Elisha A. Hoffman ~1878

1.

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

o *Refrain:*

Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

2.

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

3.

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

4.

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,
Oh, be washed in the blood of the Lamb!