

Revelation 4-5

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6-14-23

Revelation 4

V. 1 - "After these things" = the vision occurred after chs. 1-3

- Describes the sequential order of the _____, not the historical order of events
 - Remember this in 7:1, 9; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1
 - Ex: 7:1 - "After this I saw..." depicts events prior to part of ch. 6

V. 1 - "what must take place after these things" ("hereafter")

- Remember Daniel 2:28ff. and Revelation 1:1: "What will take place in the latter days" in Dan. 2 is now taking place quickly or "soon"
 - Quickness/nearness is about _____ fulfillment
 - "Those things Daniel saw are beginning to be fulfilled today"
- Rev. 1:19 - record what is already happening and the things that continue to unfold hereafter

4:1 introduces this section AND the rest of the visions of the book (through 22:5)

- All the visions about concern events throughout the _____
 - NT views the "last days" as starting with the resurrection (Acts 2:17-21 citing Joel 2:18-32 as fulfilled; I Tim. 4:1; I Pet. 1:20; Heb. 1:2; Jas. 5:3; I John 2:18; Jude 18, etc.).
- Chs. 4-5 view all things from the perspective of the throne

Notes:

The "throne" (v. 2) emphasizes:

- The _____ rule of God
- He is in _____ of all things
 - "Sea of glass" (v. 6)
 - In the Bible, the sea often symbolizes the reality of _____
 - In Revelation: 13:1; 15:2; 16:3; 21:1; cf. "abyss" in 11:7
 - Before the throne of God, the seas are _____
 - "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39)
 - Walking on water (Matt. 14:25)
 - Producing fish (Luke 5:1-11; John 21:4-8)
 - 5:2 - the victorious saints stand on the sea and sing the song of Moses
 - 21:1 - No sea in New Jerusalem

What/who John sees:

- God the _____ (v. 3ff.)
 - Even as judgments are issued from his throne, he is gracious/merciful to those who turn to him
- God the _____ (5:6)
- God the _____ (v. 5)
 - Recalls Zechariah's 4:2's association with Yahweh's Spirit

- V. 4 - 24 thrones/24 elders, clothed in white w/ crowns on their heads
 - See ch. 21: the 12 patriarchs (OT) and 12 apostles (NT)
 - Together they represent the _____ (Eph. 2:6)
- V. 6 - “four living creatures” (imagery from Ezekiel 1:1-28; 10:1-22 and Isaiah 6:1-7)
 - The whole created order of animate life?
 - Or cherubim, a high order of angels (Ezek. 10:20)
 - They guard the holy things of God (Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:20)
 - Strength (like a lion), service (like an ox), intelligence (like a man), and swiftness (like an eagle) are all attributes ascribed to angels in the Bible (Ps. 103:20-21; Dan. 9:21; Luke 128:8; 15:10; Heb. 1:14; etc.)

The church and angelic hosts point to the one on the throne, and their hymns (vv. 8b-11) _____ the vision.

- A picture of heaven, or a picture of the entire universe from the perspective of heaven?

Notes:

Revelation 5

V. 1 - “scroll” (or “book”) with 7 seals

- In Ezek, Dan, Isa sealed books conceal divine revelation associated with judgment & redemption
- V. 2 - Like Daniel 4, an **angel** poses the question, followed by silence (v. 3)
- V. 4 - John weeps

V. 5 - There is one who is worthy

- “The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David”
 - Messianic titles from Gen. 49 & Isa. 11
- “Lamb standing, as if slaughtered” (v. 6)
 - The Passover lamb
 - Isaiah’s sinless, innocent lamb
 - 7 horns/eyes → omnipotent & omniscient readiness to carry out the plans of God
- By his death he is _____

V. 6 - “standing slaughtered” (Gk. perfect participles—ongoing, continuous state) points to:

1. The ongoing, continuous effect of his redemptive _____ (Hebrews 10:12)
2. A central theme of Revelation (and entire NT): Victory through _____
 - Self-giving love is how the people of God overcome
 - The saints “follow the Lamb wherever he goes” (Revelation 14:4)
3. The position Christ should have in our lives: It’s all about _____, not you (Eph. 2:7)

The new song of vv. 11ff. → The basis of Christ’s worthiness is his selfless giving of life

Notes: