

Book of Revelation Study Pt. 2

PT

Revelation 5: 1-14

Revelation 1: 17-19

“17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead [recognized God Ship – Kingship response – The Position of Worship – Dead to everything].

And he laid his right hand upon me [Hand of authority – Gentle but Firm hand of guidance], saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter...”

The outline of the book is given clearly

- 1. *"things which you have seen"* (chapter 1) The Past**
- 2. *"things which are"* (chapters 2-3) The Now**
- 3. *"things which MUST take place"* (chapter 4 and on) The Future**

With review from chapter 4 we find that if we are not ready for the imminent return of Jesus we are not ready for the future!

Revelation 4: 1-2

“1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne”

Focus: The Throne in Heaven and One who sat on the Throne

The call: "Come Up!"

The opening of the future begins with John being commanded to *"come up here"* -- to heaven, the voice was *"like a trumpet"*

2.

The trumpet heralding this call heavenward sounds much like Paul's statements about the rapture of the Church being preceded by a "*trumpet*" [1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Th. 4:16]

The future in the book of Revelation thus begins with the "*blessed hope*" or the rapture of the Church!

Rev. chapter four describes the sight in Heaven:

1. The Christ on the throne has the appearance of "*jasper and sardine stone*" [Rev. 4:2]

* These two gems are interesting in that they were the first and the last gems on the breastplate of the High Priest in Israel, with the names of the first and last tribes on Israel inscribed on them. [Ex. 28:17-21]

* This breastplate showed that the High Priest carried over his heart the entire nation of Israel ... and Christ's appearance as of these gems perhaps represents Christ who has carried His people over His heart for eternity as our ultimate High Priest!

2. Jesus is also described here by John as having "*a rainbow resembling an emerald encircling the throne.*" [Rev. 4:3]

* The rainbow was the sign of a covenant, a perpetual one.

* The emerald green in color represents God's mercy, thus a covenant of mercy.

3. "Elders": At this point John discovers that he is not alone, there are many others there also around the throne, Heaven is not a lonely place! [Rev. 4:4]

* These 24 other thrones around Christ's throne represent the 12 Patriarchs of the Old Covenant and the 12 Apostles of the New Covenant ... again remember the symbol of the covenant over the throne of Christ.

3.

4. God's power and light were everywhere around the throne, and that is the only way John knows how to describe this sight, *"thunder, lightning, and 7 lamps were blazing"* [Rev. 4:5]

* The image here of thunder also gives the idea of God's power and control, He is the conqueror!

* Unlike the Old Testament when Israel was fearful of God's thundering and lightning John here and the others are thrilled with God's presence, represented also in the "7 spirits" which simply mean God's perfect Holy Spirit.

5. John now introduces us to the *"sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, ..."* [Rev. 4:6-8]

* It was the place between the tabernacle or temple and the altar of sacrifice ... the place of cleansing.

c. John is describing the great *"sea"* around the throne, only those who have been cleansed can approach God's throne!

The four living creatures with 6 wings:

Cherubim are described by Ezekiel as having only 4 wings, while Seraphim had 6 wings

The 4 Creatures: [6 wings]

1. Like a Lion -- Matthew's Gospel shows Jesus as the *"Lion of Judah"*

2. Like an Ox -- Mark's Gospel shows Jesus as *the sacrifice* for man, the ox being a sacrificial animal.

3. Like a Man -- Luke's Gospel shows Jesus as the *"son of man"*

4. Like an Eagle -- John's Gospel shows Jesus as the one who connects us to heaven.

They cry out day and night *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

These creatures along with the rest in Heaven are in a constant state of praise over God's presence with them.

4.

**Those who are cleansed from sins are worshippers!
Knowing our sins are forgiven WILL MAKE US worshippers!**

*** Let's take a moment and worship the Lord!**

Ending in Revelation 4 we see the 24 elders now fall down in worship before the throne, and they do something else, they take off their crowns and cast them before the throne of God!

*** In this humble act they recognize that their sacrifice can no match to Christ's sacrifice that their reward falls in comparison!**

The first glimpse of the future in Revelation begins here in chapter 4 with John being translated to Heaven, away from the coming Tribulation!

The future starts with this "*catching away*" and the celebration around the throne of God for those who find themselves there!

The rapture of the Church is indeed the "*blessed hope*"

"caught up" when Christ calls – are you prepared?



Text: Revelation 5:1-14

Revelation 5: 1-4

“ 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.² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? [3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon”

5.

The future unfolds with a dramatic moment in Heaven, there is a scroll with seven seals that represented the destiny of the Earth and mankind ... and at first there is tension in that no one seems worthy enough to open the scroll.

- * If no one is found worthy what will the destiny of man be?
- * This is the question in the minds of mankind to this day, what will happen tomorrow, will we be destroyed, will we destroy ourselves ... will we be just a blip in this universe only to disappear again?
- * Is the future certain and is anyone in control?

The answer is a resounding YES!

1. This scroll holds the destiny of the future ... and an angel cries out, *"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"* [Rev.5 :2]

John says, *"I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside."* [Revelation5:4]

Illustration

Notice on a college bulletin board: "Owing to unfortunate circumstances, our course -- 'Predicting Your Future' -- has had to be canceled."

Vern McLellan, The Complete Book of Practical Proverbs and Wacky Wit (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1996).

2. Immediately, as John weeps, one of the elders in heaven speaks up and calms John by stating - *"Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."* [Rev. 5:5]

* *"the Lion of Judah, the Root of David"* is none other than Jesus Christ Himself!

3. As John turns to look at the *"Lion of Judah"* he is surprised to see instead *"a lamb, looking as if it had been slain!"* [Rev. 5:6]

6.

This is Jesus Christ, both the Lion and the Lamb!

* It is **His sacrifice** as the "*lamb of God*" that makes possible His rule over all things, for He has overcome!

* He is the "*Lion of Judah*" in heaven

The angel saw Christ as the lion

* John looks and sees Jesus as the lamb; John was a sinner saved by grace / while the angel was not and sees Jesus as the lion.

Jesus is the lion of Judah and the Lamb that saved the world.

My friends our future is wrapped up in the past sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, God who paid the price for our deliverance!

4. Revelation 5:8 “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 odours, which are the prayers of saints”

* Harps and Bowl – worship

* Worship and Prayers

* The prayers of the saints (*represented by the golden bowls held by those around the throne*) are there before the throne of God.

Revelation 5: 11-14

“11 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;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

7.

13 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 honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

*** John now sees those around the throne of God, and the crowd can hardly be numbered it is so great!**

*** John cannot number them all!**

There is a continuous celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death!

*** John is no longer weeping he is now celebrating**

When someone realizes that God has made a way for us to be victorious over sin and death one cannot help but burst out in worship!

*** The scene here is one of *"loud"* voices of praise, (*in contrast to John's earlier loud weeping*) *"In a loud voice they sang, 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*
[Revelation 5:12]**

Notice that the focus has shifted from the sealed scroll to the one who alone is worthy to open it.

*** *"Worthy is the Lamb"* It is the song of the redeemed!**

*** Everyone in heaven joins in the song ... heaven is now filled with joyful and intense singing, with worship of the Lamb of God.**

Concern over the future has melted away into worship in Heaven ... this is why we can worship today when facing a dark tomorrow ... we know that our destiny is in God's hands!