

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Where does this scene take place? Why is it different than the scene in the first three chapters?
2. Who might the 24 elders be?
3. What are the seven spirits of God as referred to in 1:4, 4:5 and 5:6?
4. What might the four beasts signify?
5. What is the significance of God holding the sealed book in his right hand? What of the book written within and on the backside?
6. What is the new song referred to in verse 5:9?
7. How worthy is the Lamb that was slain?

SUMMARY:

John was called to “come up” to view the things to be shown to him. It is a heavenly view. He first saw the throne and those about it, the 24 elders and the four beasts. They worshipped the Lord as Creator of all things. Then John saw the book sealed with seven seals completely written and sealed, in which nothing more was to be added. The sealing implies hidden things, and confidentiality. No man was able to open the seals but Christ, the Son of God; He is victorious and has overcome.

The beasts and the elders began singing a new song as Christ took the book. Multitudes of angels also sang. Added to this great choir were the voices of every creature in heaven, on earth and under the earth. This new song is not to Him only as Creator, but also as Redeemer!

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

November 8, 2020

Fourth Quarter

THE VISION OF GOD’S THRONE

LESSON TEXT: *Revelation 4:1-11; 5:1-14*

LESSON SETTING: The vision of God’s throne seen by John.

TIME: Approximately 96 A.D.

I. THE GLORIOUS THRONE. Revelation 4:1-11

- A. God’s Throne (vs. 2-3) Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 66:1
- B. The 24 Elders (vs. 4) Revelation 3:21
- C. The Seven Spirits of God (vs. 5)
- D. The Four Beasts (vs. 6-8) Ezekiel 1:10
- E. Worship of the Creator (vs. 11) Job 26:7; Acts 14:15

II. THE LAMB AND THE BOOK. Revelation 5:1-7

- A. The Sealed Book (vs. 1)
- B. No Man Worthy to Open (vs. 3) Deuteronomy 29:29; Daniel 12:9
- C. The Lamb is Worthy to Open (vs. 5-7) Matthew 28:18; Romans 1:4

III. THE PRAISE OF THE REDEEMED. Revelation 5:8-14

- A. The New Song (vs. 9) Psalm 40:3; Isaiah 42:10
- B. The Heavenly Host (vs. 11) Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22
- C. “Worthy is the Lamb” (vs. 12) John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19
- D. Every Creature Worships Him (vs. 13) Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:9-11

GOLDEN TEXT: *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.*

Revelation 5:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Revelation 6:1-17

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Joel 2:1-11; Zechariah 6:1-8

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, The Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

Readers of Revelation are challenged by the imagery that Christ reveals to John, and this sixth chapter of the book is no exception.

The Lamb of God (Christ Himself) opens the first seal, and the first beast invites John to see a white horse and rider. The rider carries a bow and is given a crown. The bow seems to signify war (or the ability to wage it), and the crown undoubtedly represents the right to rule as some authority figure.

The identity of this white horse-rider has spawned much debate over many years. Some scholars note similarities between this rider and the Faithful and True Christ who rides a white horse in Revelation 19. Others believe this rider to be the anti-Christ, or deceiver mentioned in Revelation 13. One thing we can say for certain: a “spirit of conquest” is represented by this first rider.

The second seal is opened and a red horse comes out, signifying blood and terrible warfare. The murderous evil of human hearts will be unleashed. Its rider has power to remove peace from the earth and to cause men to kill one another. The sword indicates the time of the removal of the one who hinders evil. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

The third seal ushers in a black horse, symbolizing great famine. The rider carrying a balance means food will be meted out due to its scarcity.

The fourth seal causes a pale horse to appear. It represents death followed by hell or Hades. As death takes the body, Hades takes the souls of the unsaved. A fourth part of earth will be overcome by sword, famine, pestilence and wild beasts; hundreds of millions of people.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Though God is love, He is a just God, and judgment will fall upon all those who persist in their wicked ways.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME; AND WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?*

Revelation 6:17

As the Apostle John watched the opening of the seals he saw great and terrible things. Sin increased and seemingly reached a stage of no restraint. Evil forces waxed worse and worse. Today we experience this very condition. We can hardly believe that it can get much worse. The Bible tells us that for the sake of the elect these days shall be shortened.

Those men who never needed God—who denied His very existence, who used His name in vain—suddenly were not able to stand before Him. How terrible will be that day for those who have never yielded to Him!

----- (Intro continued from previous page) -----
The fifth seal is broken and a different view is seen. The souls of those who were martyred, crying out for God to avenge them. They were given white robes and told to wait yet a little while until their number is complete. More were to become martyrs for Christ.

The sixth seal brought forth a great earthquake, greater than any before. It came as a result of man's sin. The sun is made black and the moon becomes red blood. The stars fell as unripe figs falling from a tree. The sky was removed as a scroll and the mountains and islands were moved out of their places. All men great and small, rich and poor were terrified and recognized the One sitting on the throne and knew this to be judgment in fulfillment of prophecy. (See Isaiah 34:4)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 9 – 15

- M. God's Judgment on Disobedience. Genesis 3:8-23
- T. God's Judgment on Irreverence. Numbers 12:1-15
- W. God's Judgment on Rebellion. 1 Samuel 15:28-35
- T. Instruments of God's Judgments. Jeremiah 34:1-7
- F. The Coming "Man of Sin". 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- S. *Breaking Seals One through Four. Revelation 6:1-8
- S. *Breaking Seals Five and Six. Revelation 6:9-17

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