

The Apocalypse

“The Throne in Heaven”

Revelation 4-5 – April 3, 2016

Our Sermon Series

THE APOCALYPSE		
A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

Peek Into the Greatest Worship Service Ever (Revelation 4-5)

- **After this** (4:1) – This begins the 3rd section of the book as outlined in Revelation 1:19
 - “the things that you have seen” (Revelation 1)
 - “the things that are” (Revelation 2-3)
 - “the things that are to take place after this” (Revelation 4-22)
- **A throne** (4:2-3)
 - “had the appearance of” – John cannot fully explain the things he saw. Repeated in Revelation he uses comparisons to describe things that are indescribable.
 - jasper – “clear as crystal” (Rev. 21:11)
 - carnelian = blood red
 - emerald = light green
 - Warren Wiersbe: “The rainbow reminds us of God's covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:11-17), symbolic of His promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. Judgment is about to fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful, even when He judges (Hab. 3:2). Usually, a rainbow appears after the storm, but here, we see it before the storm.”

- **Twenty four elders** (4:4-5)
 - These 24 elders seem to represent the church. Repeatedly in the Bible, the number 24 is used as a representative of the whole (2 Chronicles 24-25).
 - Their crowns are eternal rewards from storing up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). Five crowns in the Bible:

Scripture	Crown	Who receives?
1 Corinth. 9:25	Crown that will last forever	Those who finish the race
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Crown of joy	Those who lead others to Christ
2 Timothy 4:8	Crown of righteousness	Those who have longed for Christ's appearing
1 Peter 5:4	Crown of glory	Leaders of God's flock who shepherd well
Revelation 2:10	Crown of life	Those who are faithful thru persecution (martyrs)
James 1:12	Crown of life	Those who love Christ (context = persevere thru trials)

- **Four living creatures** (4:6-8):
 - Angelic beings. Perhaps the cherubim described in Ezekiel 10:15-20 that surround God's throne. Or the seraphim of Isaiah 6 who cry “Holy, holy, holy.”
 - The faces seem to parallel the major emphases of the four Gospels:

Face	Gospel	Emphasis of that Gospel
Lion	Matthew	Jesus as royal King
Calf	Mark	Jesus as sacrificial Servant
Man	Luke	Jesus as Son of Man
Eagle	John	Jesus as Son of God from heaven

- **Worship** (4:9-11)
 - The purpose of crowns is to use them for worship – to cast them before the throne.
 - The 24 elders declare that God is worthy because He created all things. Here they worship God as Creator.
- **A scroll** (5:1)
 - John MacArthur: “The scroll that John saw in God's hand is the title deed to the earth. Unlike other such deeds, however, it does not record the descriptive detail of what Christ will inherit, but rather how He will regain His rightful inheritance. It will occur by divine judgments about to be poured out on the earth. While the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgment, it is also a scroll of redemption. It tells how Christ will redeem the world from Satan and those with him.”
 - John Walvoord: “The importance and comprehensive character of the revelation contained in it is indicated by the

fact that the scroll is written on both sides of the parchment. Further, the document is made impressive by seven seals, apparently fixed on the edges of the scroll in such a way that the seals must be successively broken if the scroll is to be unrolled and read."

- **Who is worthy?** (5:2-5)
 - Warren Wiersbe: "A title deed or will can be opened only by the appointed heir. No wonder John wept, for he realized that God's glorious redemption plan for mankind could never be completed until the scroll was opened. The redeemer had to be near of kin, willing to redeem, and able to redeem. Jesus Christ meets all of the qualifications. He became flesh, so He is our Kinsman. He loves us and is willing to redeem, and He paid the price, so He is able to redeem."
- **A Lamb** (5:6-7)
 - Jesus is the Lamb of God fulfilling the Passover requirement (Exodus 12) of the shed blood of a lamb in order for the salvation of God's people to occur.
 - Jesus is the lamb sacrificed on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) who absorbs all the sins of God's people.
 - **John 1:29** – *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*
 - The description of the Lamb ("7" = number of perfection):

7 horns	Perfect power	Omnipotent
7 eyes	Perfect wisdom	Omniscient
7 spirits	Perfect presence	Omnipresent
- **Sang a new song** (5:8-14)
 - Jesus is declared worthy of worship because of His atoning work on the cross (vv.9-10).
 - Jesus is worshipped as Redeemer.
 - The 24 elders and 4 living creatures are joined by 100s of millions of angels in worshipping Jesus.
 - Ultimately, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (5:13; Philippians 2:9-11).

One Big Application from Revelation 4-5: Worship God

1. Worship God as Creator (4:11)

- To worship means to **ascribe worth** – to declare the worth of someone or something.
- Louie Giglio: "Worship is our response to what we value most. Whatever is worth most to you is what you worship. How do you know what you worship? It's easy. You simply follow the

trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. At the end of that trail you'll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what's of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship."

- Only one Person is truly worthy to be on that throne – the God who created all things!
- Application #1 – What/who do I worship (ascribe worth to)?
- Application #2 – I choose today to worship God passionately as Creator. I choose to reflect on the amazingness of His creation which reveals His utter awesomeness!

2. Worship Christ as Redeemer (5:9-10)

- God the Son is worthy of our praise and worship because of what He did for us through His death and resurrection to purchase our salvation from sin and death and to grant us to reign with Him in glory.
- Do you truly understand what Jesus has done for you?
 - ☐ He took the punishment for each sin I have committed (Isaiah 53:5-6)
 - ☐ He experienced eternal separation from God in my place as my substitute (Matthew 27:46)
 - ☐ He has forgiven my sins (Ephesians 1:7)
 - ☐ He has given me His righteousness (2 Corinth 5:21)
 - ☐ He has given me a new life (2 Corinth 5:17)
 - ☐ He has purchased eternal life for me (1 John 5:11-13)
 - ☐ He has given to me all of His rights and privileges and inheritance (Ephesians 1:11,14; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 1:3-4)
 - ☐ He has made me a king and a priest who will reign together with Him (Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 22:5).
 - ☐ He has saved me from the coming judgments described in Revelation 6-20 (Revelation 4:1).
- Three Scriptures that point to the rapture of the church before the tribulation described in Revelation 6-19:
 - **Revelation 4:1** – *Come up here.*
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:9** – *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Matthew 24:37-39 – Jesus' analogy of Noah's ark. God saved Noah's believing family before sending the judgment of flood upon the unbelieving world.
- Application #3 – In response to all that Jesus had done for me, I will sing with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!"