

REVELATION: Chapters 4 – 7

S. R. Rev. 5:11 – 14

6 – 28 – 2020

- A. Reminder of time context (1:1, 3; 22:6, 10)
- B. God had plans for His people in the first century AD.

I. THE THRONE SCENE

Intro. The word *throne* is used 17 times in chapters 4 – 5. It represents God’s rule as king (cf. Isa. 6:1; Ezekiel 1 and Acts 7:49)

- A. God on the throne (Ch. 4). John is invited to see the things that would “take place after these things.”
 - 1. John is again, “in the Spirit: (cf. 1:10)
 - 2. Read (Isa. 6; Ezekiel 1 and Daniel 7) for additional throne scenes.
 - 3. Around the throne: 24 elders and four living creatures. [Chart:24 Elders]
 - a. Elders possibly represent the totality of God’s people under Old and New Covenants (cf. 12 tribes and 12 apostles; 21:12 – 14)
 - 1). Crowns of gold – Greek *stephanos* = crown of a lesser person than the king, the victor’s crown (2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 6:2; 9:7; 12:1; 14:14)
 - 2). Crown of king – Gk. *Diadema* = rightly belongs to Jesus (19:12); usurped by the dragon (12:3) and the sea beast (13:1)
 - b. Four Living Creatures (cf. Ezekiel 1:5f.) [Chart: Four Living Creatures]
 - c. Elders and the four living creatures praise the one on the throne (4:8,11)
- B. The Worthy Lamb (Ch. 5). John sees the scrolled book in the hand of God on the throne. The scroll is closed with seven seals. Within are events which must shortly take place.
 - 1. John wept because no one was worthy to open the seals.
 - 2. An elder stops him (vs. 5) [See chart: The Description of Christ]
 - a. Lion of Judah (Gen. 49:9-10; Heb. 7:14)
 - b. Root of David (Isa. 11:1; Matt. 1:1)
 - c. “Has overcome” – in one action
 - 3. Lamb – standing as if slain
 - 4. Lamb takes the book = scroll (7)
 - 5. Worship of the lamb (8 – 11) [See chart: Christians Reigning with Christ]

II. LAMB LOOSES THE SEVEN SEALS (6:1 – 8:2)

Note: There is a typical pattern observed in the seals, trumpets and bowls. The first four will be similar in nature – a pattern of four and three. After the first six there is an interlude before the seventh. (See Chart: Seals, Trumpets and Bowls)

- A. First four Seals (6:1 – 8) See: Studies in the Book of Revelation: Ferrell Jenkins, p. 18 – 19 Also Chart: [Two Interpretations of the Four Horsemen]
- B. Fifth Seal: The Hub of Revelation (6:9 – 11; 20:4-5) The souls of these martyrs will later share in the victory with Christ (16:5-7; 18:20; 19:1-3; 20:4-5)
 - a. See Charts: [The Cry of the Slain, 2 pages]

- C. Sixth Seal (6:12 – 17) Represents a judgment of God in time against a nation
 - a. Judgment terms (13, cf. Isa. 13:10; Ezek.32:7-8; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Mt. 24:29)
 - b. We must not confuse a judgment in time with the *final* judgment. Every judgment in time is typical of the final judgment and points toward it.
 - c. Who is able to stand against the Lamb? (7:17)
 - d. See Chart: Coming in the Clouds (1:7; Isa. 19:1; Ezek.30:3)

- D. An Interlude (Ch. 7) Two Pictures: 144,000 and Great Multitude. Probably two views of the same group, God's people. Perhaps saints of Old and New covenant.
 - a. The Sealing of the 144,000 *Earth View* (7:1 – 8; Cf. Ezek. 9:1 – 8)
 - i. Four angels are holding back the four winds until...
 - ii. God's servants are sealed. A mark of identity and protection (cf. 2 Tim.2:19) "The Lord knows those who are His."
 - iii. Tribes of Israel, not physical, but spiritual. (cf. Rom.9:6)
 - 1. Physical tribes omitted: Ephraim and Dan.
 - 2. Tribe of Joseph included.
 - b. Great Multitude coming out of tribulation (7:9 – 17) Saints presented from *Heaven's viewpoint*
 - i. Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 16; John 7) Feast of Ingathering, Fall festival celebration and worship to God. All Jewish men required to attend in O.T.
 - ii. God's people are not limited to 144,000 Jewish males.
 - iii. After being sealed, these come out of the great tribulation.
 - iv. Continual service to God. Complete provision by Him.
 - v. Lamb is their shepherd
 - vi. See the four Charts beginning with: [The Sealing of the 144,000]

- E. The 7th Seal opened (8:1-2) From it will sound the 7 Trumpets
 - a. Silence in heaven for about half an hour perhaps indicates:
 - i. Delayed judgment
 - ii. Dramatic effect before storm
 - b. Prepare for the trumpets to sound (chapters 8 – 11) [next study]

