



The Book of Revelation

Study Notes

Book 2 - Chapters 4-7

Revelation chapter 1 verse 19 has been referred to as the divine outline of Revelation. Here John is instructed to “write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.” So far in our study we have examined the things which John has seen from chapter 1. There we are introduced to the theme and focus of this book, Jesus Christ. We see Jesus among His church carefully and accurately assessing, His glory on full display.

Next, we considered the things which are in chapters 2 and 3. Here we find Jesus delivering His findings to seven representative churches. Some received only praise, others only accusation. All held valuable lessons for us as we consider the state of the church today.

We arrive now at the part of this study that will examine the things which will take place. Spanning from chapter 4 to 22 this will be a far reaching and at times challenging examination. The events and descriptions we will see have been the subject of much confusion and outright error. I remind you that this book is the Revelation of Jesus and so we should not fear it; it is the word of God so we should desire to know it; and God wants you to read and understand this book.

We will consider chapters 4-7 in this section so plan to read, pray, and repeat as we go along.

SERMON NOTES – The throne room of heaven – pt 1

Revelation 4:1-4 – “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven....” – *NASB*

The Scene

1. John is translated to _____

2. Following the _____

The Symbols

1. A throne

a. Symbolizes _____ and

b. Standing _____

c. Standing _____

d. Standing _____

2. One sitting on the throne

a. God the _____

b. The stones point to His _____

c. The rainbow to His _____

3. The 24 elders

a. The thrones indicate a shared

b. The white garments indicate

c. The crowns indicate _____

d. Represent the _____ of the

The so what

1. The Christian need not _____ the future

2. We dare not _____ Who sits on the throne

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

When I was growing up one of my fondest memories was going camping in the Susquehanna forest in northern Pennsylvania with my dad and uncles. On one of our early trips, when I was 6 or 7, we decided to back pack into a famed camp site known as the Pool. After a long hike up and over Twin Sisters mountain we arrived in the Hammersley valley, home of the famous pool.

While what greeted us was beautiful, it was not the pool we had expected. After a bit more walking, we saw a wide level portion of the stream with a broad but disappointingly shallow pool. Assuming it to be “the Pool” most of our group stopped. My dad and I however could not accept this was the pool we had heard so much about and had looked so forward to finally seeing. We pressed on for another 10 or 15 minutes. Then, as we came around a turn in the path, it emerged in front of us. We had found the Pool and to my young eyes it was the most beautiful sight I had ever beheld to that point in life.

I would return to the pool many times over the following years. It remained beautiful enough but seemed to diminish with each passing visit. Finally, after not seeing the pool for many years I was able to take my kids to see it. I had told them the story of my first encounter and they were anxious to see it for themselves. When we arrived, I found myself disappointed and wanting to apologize to

my kids for the place not living up to the hype. To me it seemed all too ordinary now. But as I watched my kids, seeing it for the first time, I was taken back to my first visit. The beauty, the wonder, the sense of discovery born of hard work and patience, for a moment returned.

While our earthly experiences are prone to diminish in beauty, what John saw as he was transported into the throne room of God has been eternally undimmed. So spectacular was the sight that John could hardly describe it. Imagine what it will be like to see it for the first time ourselves!

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How might seeing God on His throne help prepare us for what is to later in Revelation?
2. Why do you think John had to describe what God “like” rather than giving a physical description?
3. Of the characteristics described (sovereign, immovable, glory, and faithfulness) which stands out to you? Why?
4. What comfort can we take from understanding the 24 elders represent the saints of the church?

SERMON NOTES – The throne room of heaven – pt 2

Revelation 4:5-11 – “Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and the sounds and peals of thunder.” – *NASB*

The Scene

1. God on the _____
2. Surrounded by the _____ hosts
3. The _____ around the throne

The Symbols

1. Lightning and thunder
 - a. Points to coming _____
 - b. God’s judgment is not _____
 - c. It is a settled _____ for sin
2. The seven lamps are the _____

3. The sea like glass

- a. Points to _____
- b. The _____ of God
- c. The _____ of God

4. The living creatures

- a. Are likely _____
- b. Full of eyes indicate _____ and _____
- c. They _____ the holiness of God
- d. They _____ the holiness of God

5. The 24 elders

- a. Represent the _____ of the church
- b. They follow in _____
- c. They focus their worship on God the _____

The so what

- 1. God must _____ sin
- 2. Now is the time to _____
- 3. We do not have to wait for heaven to _____

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

God has revealed Himself through His creation. Psalm 19:1 says in part that the heavens declare the glory of God. He has revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. John tells us that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1). God reveals Himself through His word (2 Timothy 3:16). Yet despite all this revelation He remains to some extent beyond our grasp. Put another way, we can only know about God what He reveals to us.

This “otherness” of God is what we refer to as His holiness. He is separate and above His creation. Yet He has, in love, revealed Himself all the same. As we review the worship that fills the throne of God we need to reflect on the condition of our own hearts. Do we live as though we belong to the One who is holy, holy, holy. Who alone is worthy to receive glory and honor? If not, what has replaced Him on the throne of our lives?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you think about God's wrath and judgment?
2. What influences have shaped your thinking on this subject?
3. How does the relationship between the judgement and worship found in this section shape your thinking?
4. Why do you think God hates sin?

SERMON NOTES – The throne room of heaven – pt 3

Revelation 5:1-14 – “I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.” – *NASB*

The Scene

1. Remains the _____ of God

The Symbols

1. The 7 sealed scroll

- a. Is the _____ to creation
- b. Contains the _____ of redeeming creation

2. The question and response

- a. Who is _____?
- b. John _____

c. The elder _____

3. The Lamb

a. Stands ready to _____

b. Seven horns denote _____

c. Seven eyes denote _____

d. Worshipped for His _____
work

The so what

1. Christians should anticipate these events with:

a. _____

b. Urgent _____

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

The law of the kinsman redeemer in the Old Testament is a beautiful illustration of what Jesus has done for us. The book of Ruth presents Boaz as a type of this relationship when he lovingly redeems Ruth. We see another example of this in Jeremiah 32. Babylon was attacking Judah and God had declared the people would soon go into exile. God instructed Jeremiah to illustrate the faithfulness of God toward His people by redeeming a piece of property from his cousin. Jeremiah purchased the soon to be worthless land and sealed the deed in an earthen jar. He knew he would not live to take possession of the land. But he also knew that when the 70 years of captivity were over, God would restore the nation, and Jeremiah's descendants would inherit the land.

Today we may feel like we are exiles in a hostile land. We may wonder if things will ever get better. Just as God was faithful to Judah in the days of their captivity so God is faithful to His promises today. One day we will stand with the multitudes before the throne of God in worship because our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ, has purchased for us an imperishable inheritance. By His death and resurrection, He is found worthy to complete our redemption.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How does knowing that the seven sealed scroll contains the terms for redeeming creation impact your view of the events of the tribulation?
2. What does John's weeping reveal about his heart?
3. How might this contrast with the attitude of disinterest in the completion of God's redemptive purpose so prevalent in the church today?

SERMON NOTES – The opening of the scroll

Revelation 6:1-17 – “Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seals...” - *NASB*

The Scene

1. Judgement is pronounced in _____
2. And takes place on _____

The Symbols

1. The 1st seal – the white horse and rider
 - a. Judgement through _____
 - b. The rider is the _____
 - c. He offers a false _____

d. He is initially _____

e. He is ultimately _____

2. The 2nd seal – the red horse and rider

a. Judgement through _____

b. Antichrist true _____

c. He takes _____

d. He brings _____

3. The 3rd seal – the black horse and rider

a. Judgement through _____

b. Scales represent _____
shortage

c. Widespread _____

d. The rich appear to _____

4. The 4th seal – the pale horse and rider

a. Judgement of _____

b. The sword is _____

c. The famine is _____

d. Pestilence is _____

5. The 5th seal – martyrs under the altar

a. _____ saints

b. They are killed for being _____

c. To God's _____

d. As His _____

6. The 6th seal – natural calamity

a. Events should be taken _____

b. They result in _____

c. They result in _____

The so what

1. God is in _____

2. The promise of _____ is a lie

3. Now is the time to _____

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

When we consider the course of human history from the garden of Eden until today, two general observations emerge. One, humanity has striven to throw off God's rule and two, human suffering as only increased. Somehow many people do not see a relationship between these two things.

For all our advancements we have not found an answer for war, greed, death, and suffering. The Antichrist will use this fertile soil of chaos to plant his seeds of world domination. His promises of peace and safety will ring hollow as millions will die through war and its resulting suffering.

We have seen times of great suffering in the world. But they are but mere preludes to the suffering that follows the opening of the sealed scroll. God will use the methods of human aggression to judge the wicked. But we also see grace in these judgments. For through them God will prepare the hearts of many to repent and find mercy. But please do not wait. You can respond today in faith and be saved.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Jeremiah 14:13-16
2. How do we see this attitude promoted today?
3. Why is it dangerous for the people of God to ignore or deny His righteous judgement is coming?

SERMON NOTES – Revival

Revelation 7:1-17 - “After these things I looked, and behold a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes...” - *NASB*

The Scene

1. John from _____
2. Is witness to events on _____
3. This is _____ between the 6th and 7th seal

The Symbols

1. The angels
 - a. _____ judgement
 - b. _____ the 144,000

c. The _____ of God

i. Is not _____

ii. It is _____

2. The 144,000

a. Is a _____ number

b. They are _____

c. They _____ to God

d. They are _____ by God

e. They are _____ of the
gospel

3. The multitude

a. It is a _____ group

b. It is a _____ group

c. They are a _____ group

d. They came out of the _____

e. They are a _____ group

The so what

1. God is not done with _____

a. He is _____ to His
promises

b. He always raises up a _____

2. The gospel does not _____

a. _____ is still the
requirement

b. Jesus' _____ is still the provision

c. Persecution cannot stop the

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

A few years ago, our daughter Aletha was in an accident and suffered a brain injury. I remember that first week of waiting in the ICU room for her to wake up. Each day seemed to bring more weight that I was certain would soon crush me. But as God began to work in her body, we saw signs of improvement. Small at first, I flutter of an eye lid or the squeeze of a hand. I cannot express how powerful those small signs were. I lived for the next one and celebrated as though some great thing had happened. Through it all God demonstrated that even in the hardest places He is faithful to show mercy.

While I am not in any way trying to equate the judgements of chapter 6 with Aletha's situation, reading the scope of God's judgements can leave us feeling a similar weight. It is refreshing to read of God's grace in chapter 7, especially on the heels of the scene in chapter 6.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you experienced God's mercy and grace during trials.
2. How is your understanding of God's mercy and grace changed by what we read in chapter 7?
3. Considering a large and diverse group are saved during the tribulation, how might this impact our present witnessing?
4. Given the many errors surrounding the interpretation of this chapter, why is it important that we read the Bible in its straightforward and plain sense?

Sermon notes answer key

The throne room of heaven – pt. 1

heaven
rapture
authority
sovereignty
fixed
sure
immovable
Father
Glory
Faithfulness
Rule
Redemption
Victory
Redeemed
Church
Fear
forget

The throne room of heaven – pt. 2

Throne
Angelic
Redeemed
Judgment
Impulsive
Hatred
Holy Spirit
Stability
Word
Purity
Cherubim
Wisdom
Knowledge
Protect
Proclaim
Redeemed

Worship
Creator
Judge
Repent
worship

The throne room of heaven – pt. 3

Throne room
Title deed
Terms
Worthy
Weeps
Answers
Act
Power
Knowledge
Redemptive
Joy
witness

The opening of the scroll

Heaven
Earth
Delusion
Antichrist
Peace
Successful
Defeated
Military
Intentions
Peace
Suffering
Famine
Food
Inflation
Escape
Death
War

Starvation
Disease
Tribulation
Faithful
Word
Witnesses
Literally
Terror
Rejection
Control
Humanism
repent

Revival
Heavenly
Earth
Restrain
Seal
Wrath
Uncontrolled
Measured
Literal
Jews
Belong
Kept
Witnesses
Large
Diverse
Saved
Tribulation
Blessed
Israel
Faithful
Witnesses
Change
Righteousness
Blood
gospel

Bibliography

The following resources have proven invaluable to me over the course of my ministry, especially in the preparation of these messages. While I would not agree with every nuance or detail, I appreciate the contributions each has made to my understanding. If you should have access to any of these, I believe you would benefit.

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