



Book of Revelation

VISION TO STRENGTHEN THE SAINTS

Oakland International Fellowship

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Revelation 4-5: Handout

Understanding Worship

As noted in the prologue of the Revelation Series the Book of Revelation is similar in content and structure to Old Testament prophecies of Daniel, Isaiah and Ezekiel. In chapter 4 & 5 of Revelation John's vision seems to parallel many of the things Daniel sees in vision of the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man.

Daniel	Description	Revelation
7:9	The prophet "looks"	4:1
7:9	Throne in heaven with God seated	4:2
7:9	God's appearance is described	4:3
7:9-10	Fire before the throne	4:5
7:10	"myriads of myriads" heavenly beings surround the throne	5:11
7:10	Scroll opened	5:1-5
7:13-14	Divine figure approaches throne and receives a kingdom	5:5-13
7:14	The prophet experiences distress due to what he sees	5:4
7:16	The prophet receives wisdom concerning the vision from one of the heavenly creatures/beings	5:5
7:18,22,27	The saints are given authority to reign over a kingdom	5:10
7:27	Concludes with God's eternal reign	5:13-14

***Chart adapted from Beale, G.K. and David Campbell, *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*, p.97**

1) The Vision Continues (Rev. 4:1)

- John now looks and sees "a door standing open in heaven." Here "heaven" is best understood similar to the "heavenly places" in Ephesians 6:12. Wilcock writes of John's location in the vision, "the sphere of spiritual reality, where the masks are off and both good and evil are seen for what they really are." The rest of the scenes of Revelation are witnessed by John as he stands in the heavenly throne room pictured in chapter 4.
- "after these things" – sequence of events verses earthly chronology

2) Worshiping the Creator (Rev. 4:2-11)

- The divine throne is at the center of the heavenly scene described in chapter 4. The word "throne" is repeated 17 times in these chapters. Upon the throne sits "The One" - the LORD God, the Almighty. His appearance is described as like precious stones. Around throne is a rainbow. These descriptions draw on OT imagery (Ezek. 1:26, 28; Gen. 9:12-17) to show the glorious nature of God and the sovereignty of his reign over all.

- Surrounding the throne are the thrones of the 24 elders. The number 24 is a symbolic consolidation of the 12 patriarchs (tribes of Israel) and the 12 apostles. Therefore, the elders are the heavenly representation of the saints across time or in other words the Church universal worshipping around the throne.
- The four living creatures are seen in other scenes of OT prophecy (Ezek. 1:1-28, 10:1-22; Isa. 6:1-7). These creatures also bear symbolic significance. The number four is associated with “all creation”; such as the four winds the four
- Worship
 - ❖ Who was and who is and who is to come
 - ❖ Our Lord and our God
 - ❖ You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created

3) The Scroll (Rev. 5:1-5)

- The significance of the scroll and seals
- Why is John weeping?

4) The Lamb (Rev. 5:6-14)

- “a Lamb standing, as if slain”
- Worship of the One on the Throne and of the Lamb
 - ❖ Led by the elders
 - ❖ Purchased for God with Your blood men...
 - ❖ Worthy...to receive power/riches/wisdom/might/honor/glory/blessing (7 fold characteristics ascribed to God)
 - ❖ To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb...

Summary:

Discussion Questions

- How does the “heavenly” scene in Revelation 4 & 5 inform your worship of God?
- In what sense does Christ reign in this present world?
- Is there a problem with God glorifying himself?