

Revelation Session 5 - The Throne Room (Part 2)

Icebreaker

What is a time in your life when you have very much wanted something to happen? Maybe even desperately? Did it come to pass? How did you feel when it did?

Back to The Throne Room

Read Rev. 5

- We come back to the Throne Room in Heaven where John is taken in spirit (literally, in spirit).
 - We saw last session that this is a magnificent setting
 - Majestic. Brilliant colors. Thrones. 24 Elders. 4 beasts. Sea of glass.
 - We also saw the Heavenly act of worship that everyone was a part of
 - ==> In chapter 4 what was the object of their worship?
 - God the Father, the Creator

- The focus of now shifts to a 7-sealed scroll in God's right hand
 - A sealed scroll. What is this scroll?
 - ==> Read MacArthur Pg 63 1st inset by Dr. Robert L. Thomas
 - ==> Read Jeremiah 32:9-15
 - So this scroll is a title deed.
 - ==> To what?
 - To the world
 - ==> Who could open a title deed?

- The owner of the item
 - ==> Upon searching, who was found that could open this scroll?
 - Nobody. The search was in Heaven, on Earth, and under Earth
 - Side-note by Paige Patterson from the New American Commentary: --Under-- Earth is rather vivid evidence against popular arguments of life not continuing in Sheol (Hades, hell). Hell is real, folks.
 - ==> As He takes it, what does Jesus NOT do?
 - He does not bow down. All others fall at the feet of Him who sits on the throne. Not so here. He comes with authority.
- As this focus shifts, and Jesus shows that He is able to open the seals, the focus of the *-worship-* now also shifts. To Him. Wiersbe describes 4 reasons why we should worship Jesus Christ:
 - Because of Who He Is (Rev 5:5-7)
 - The Lion of Judah (Gen. 49:8-10)
 - The Root of David
 - Because of Where He Is (Rev 5:6)
 - Because of What He Does (Rev 5:8-10)
 - Because of What He Has (Rev 5:11-14)
- One of the elders spoke to John saying "weep no more"
 - John "wept much"
 - The search took time, and seems to become more desperate to John as it commenced. He became emotionally involved. Again, he was there, in the room.
 - "Weep no more" - the wording here is a commandment. "Do not weep"

- Christ is here. He is worthy. All is not lost. We know this, we have faith. We can have confidence that we have overcome through Christ. This is (re)assurance and is known in Heaven.
 - Shows that John was very much present in this scene and not just some spiritual onlooker.
 - He's not Scrooge being led through visions by Jacob Marley. He's really there.
- When Jesus took the scroll, they all turn to Him and sing a new song
 - Our Hero has come!
 - Israel was to sing a new song in the advent of Messiah. Here we have a new song.
 - ==> Psalm 40 (familiar to all you U2 fans)
 - And then, as if it couldn't have gotten any better, innumerable angels joined in the chorus.
 - What. An. Incredible. Scene.
 - The whole universe is singing one united song of praise to our Redeemer
 - THIS is the point in time where things start rolling. THIS is what creation has been looking forward to.

Discussion

- What are some feelings you've had when you hear or read the descriptions of these Heavenly scenes? Are they any different now?
- What are some misconceptions that some people have of Heaven?

- Walvoord makes a point in his commentary that for many Christians Heaven is an unreal place.
 - What is your view of Heaven?
 - How do you live with the eternal goal of Heaven in mind? Do you? Constantly?
 - How does John's description of Heaven so far shape your view of Heaven?

- John weeps and weeps when no one is found worthy to open the scroll. Then he is commanded by the elder to "weep no more". What current source of your "weeping" does it help you to think differently about? How does this change your feelings and thinkings knowing that Jesus has conquered?

- What elements of the gospel are represented in the new song sung by the 4 creatures and 24 elders (Rev. 5:9-10)?

- How would you like your own worship life to be affected by what we see in these scenes? What can you do to begin letting that happen?

- How does John's vision of Jesus as the Lamb highlight the saving achievement of Jesus and His deity?

- Knowing that the redeemed in Heaven will include people from "every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9), what should our attitude be toward other races, countries, and cultures?
 - How does your current attitude line up?

Closing Thought

- Why do you think all of this is shown to John before we see the plan that God has ordained and the Lamb will carry out?
- Someone asked the question before, "Is every word of the Bible there intentionally?"
 - I believe this scene of worship and inheritance is given before the rest of Revelation in order to prepare us for what is to come.
 - Paige Patterson in The New American Commentary writes,

With this incredible scene, John and the reader have been prepared so that they will not be totally overwhelmed by the nature of what is about to happen on the earth. Earthly catastrophe of the magnitude of that which follows and human suffering in general are made palatable by an adequate understanding of the person and purposes of God and the perfect will and worship of God as practiced in heaven. John and the reader have now experienced and seen what they need to know as they face the information that will now be given concerning the tribulation on earth.

Paige Patterson, Revelation, ed. E. Ray Clendenen, vol. 39, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2012), 175.

- Amen