

Revelation

Prologue

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which he gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Greetings and Doxology

⁴John,
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” ^bdressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun, shining in all its brilliance.

...his feet as though dead. Then he held his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

in your favor: You hate the
the Nicolaitans, which

⁷He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
To him who overcomes,
right to eat from the tree
is in the paradise of God

To the Church in Smyrna

⁸“To the angel of the church
write:

These are the words of
the First and the Last,
came to life again. ⁹I know
tations and your poverty-
rich! I know the slander
say they are Jews and are
a synagogue of Satan.
afraid of what you are ab
I tell you, the devil will pu
in prison to test you, and
fer persecution for ten da
ful, even to the point of
will give you the crown

¹¹He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
He who overcomes will
all by the second death

THE SCROLLS

- First 4 seals denote the defeating character of sin
 - First rider desires conquest
 - Second rider removes the barriers of conquest
 - Third rider brings division and famine
 - Fourth rider (in the color of a corpse) brings to fullness the act of sin

THE SCROLLS

- First 4 seals denote the defeating character of sin
 - When we are given over to ourselves:
 - We will seek what's best for us
 - Death will be the natural end

THE SCROLLS

- **Blessing Present**
 - The church rests in the very hand of God and exists in the very temple of heaven with the very person of Christ walking among the churches and the very Spirit of God existing within the churches

THE SCROLLS

- **Blessing Present**

- While the first 4 seals are terrifying, the power of each of these horsemen was not generated on their own.
- Rather, their power was “given” to them.
- Given to them by who?
- The One who wrote the scroll

THE SCROLLS

- **Blessing Present**

- The encouragement is that the One who wrote the history of the world also holds us in His hand.
- We take comfort in the compassion of God and the mercy of Christ and the protection of the Spirit for His children, the Church.

THE SCROLLS

- 5th Seal

- The first 4 seals took us to earth, but the 5th seal transports us back to heaven
- The events of these seals impact all components of creation

THE SCROLLS

- Under the Altar
 - The altar is the place for offering reverence and incense (5:8)
 - The martyrs are present here as they have offered their sacrifice to God
 - They are now sitting at the very place where their offering was presented.

THE SCROLLS

- Under the Altar
 - The significance is that what was offered up on earth was expressed on this very altar
 - While Christ was crucified on a cross on a hill, the lamb was slain on the very altar of God
 - The martyrs are now sitting under the literal covering of the lamb

THE SCROLLS

- Under the Altar
 - God's love poured out through the blood of Christ covers us on earth and in heaven
 - This shows the privilege and security of God's care
 - What could possibly come against us under the very altar of God?

THE SCROLLS

- Sovereign Lord, Holy and True
 - Sovereign Lord translates to “Master of slaves”
 - References God’s complete power
 - However, God is not simply powerful
 - Lord Acton – “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely”
 - This appears to be confirmed in the 4 horsemen

THE SCROLLS

- Sovereign Lord, Holy and True
 - God is different – He is Holy and True
 - The martyrs are not crying for God's unmitigated destruction to be brought simply because God can
 - Rather, they are asking for the full holy and true justice of God to be brought

THE SCROLLS

- White Robe
 - Symbolizes Justification
 - That they are “given” shows that this is all done through the power of God through Christ
 - We cannot justify ourselves

THE SCROLLS

- **White Robe**
 - Also symbolizes Victory as it did with the first horse of Conquest
 - While the martyrs appear to have been defeated, they have actually been granted the victory

THE SCROLLS

- Full Number of Their Fellow Servants
 - This is not in reference to a specific number of martyrs
 - Rather, this implies that the work is not yet completed
 - Evil will be destroyed
 - But it will be destroyed in God's timing
 - We must be patient.

THE SCROLLS

- **Life**

- Our physical presence is vitally important to us
- Our spiritual existence is vastly more important to God
- This Scripture helps to define our “theodicy”
- The temporary seems to be greater than the eternal
- However, our hiding place beneath the altar of Christ is what matters, even if we cannot yet comprehend it

THE SCROLLS

- 6th Seal

- A very physical reaction on earth as the scroll opens
- Joel 2:1-11
- Isaiah 34:1-4
- This is a complete break-up of the entire cosmic system!
- However, much of this is imagery and as we will see, destruction is not yet begun, rather it is clearly impending.

THE SCROLLS

- Who Will Be Impacted?
 - The list of 7 classes of people represents the completeness of those who will be impacted
 - All the enemies of God
 - No matter what standard of greatness we use, all are under the Greatness of Christ

THE SCROLLS

- The People's Response?
 - Calling on the land to consume them!
 - What they now know is coming is far worse than being crushed by rocks!

THE SCROLLS

- The Wrath of the Lamb
 - An Angry Lamb??
 - Thomas Torrance – *The Apocalypse Today*

THE SCROLLS

- Thomas Torrance – *The Apocalypse Today*

“Who ever heard of a lamb being angry? What a terrible thought—the gentlest of all God’s creatures angry! It is the wrath of love, the wrath of sacrificial love which, having done the absolute utmost for us and our salvation, tells us as nothing else could the certainty with which evil awaits its doom at the hand of God”

THE SCROLLS

- The Great Day of Their Wrath
 - There is a day of reckoning for all who reject the very Lamb who now stands over them
 - It may be delayed, but it is coming

THE SCROLLS

- What is the point of this terrifying imagery?
 - This was not intended to scare people into making some coerced decision for Christ
 - This was not meant to incite righteous indignation from Christians to those who are lost

THE SCROLLS

- What is the point of this terrifying imagery?
 - John is not trying to frighten or intimidate the saints
 - John is reflecting the peace that he feels during this scene
 - No where here does John express fear for himself
 - This is a reminder to the saints that God is over all
 - God's purposes will be accomplished, but His love for His people will never fail

THE SCROLLS

- What is the point of this terrifying imagery?
 - Isaiah 54:10
 - “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.