

Lessons From Revelation

The One On The Throne

(Rv 4:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Revelation.”
 - a. We just finished up looking at the last three churches of Asia.
 - i. Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
 - b. Some things to remember when studying Revelation.
 - i. It is a book of symbolism.
 1. **Rv 1:1** “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and **signified** it by His angel to His servant John”¹ (NKJV) (emphasis mine)
 - ii. It was written to the seven churches of Asia and is meant to be immediately relevant to them and “then” later Christians.
 1. **Rv 1:1; 22:6-7, 12, 20** “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must **soon take place**...22:6 And the Lord...has sent his angel to show his servants what must **soon take place**. 7 And behold, I am **coming soon**...12 Behold, I am **coming soon**...20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am **coming soon**.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”
 - iii. It was written to bring comfort when things seemed there worse.
 1. **Rv 6:10** “They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?””
 2. **Rv 6:12-17** “When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?””
 - c. Today we begin the “apocalyptic” aspect of the book.
 - i. From here on out we have Jesus setting out His revelation on how He will be victorious over the Roman Empire and it’s puppet master Satan in symbolic language.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From Revelation

3. With Christ's victory over Rome and the end of worldwide persecution being the central theme we find chapter four giving us the opening scene of this narrative and brethren what a scene it is.

I. The Scene

- A. John sees an open door and hears a voice from within it
 1. **Rv 4:1** "...Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this"
- B. John goes to the open door and sees this amazing scene and begins to describe the different ones in the vision
 1. There before him is throne in heaven..
 - i. On that throne is One that without a doubt belongs there.
 2. The One on the throne has an appearance like that of jasper and carnelian.
 - i. Jasper here is most likely what we would think of as diamond today since modern Jasper is yellow or red and not clear as crystal.
 - a. **Rv 21:11** "having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal."
 - b. This was used by royalty most often as a pendent.
 - ii. Carnelian is a red stone used that was used by royalty as well.
 - a. It has been described as the "blood red stone."
 3. Around the throne was a rainbow.
 - i. This rainbow was not like the one we see today but was emerald in color.
 4. Also around the throne were twenty-four thrones each having an elder seated in it.
 - i. These elders were clothed in white and had crowns on their heads.
 5. In front of the throne were seven torches.
 - i. These seven torches were the seven spirits of God.
 6. In front of the throne most likely under the torches there is a sea of glass.
 - i. This glass is like crystal, thus clear, and later will simply be "no more."
 - a. **Rv 21:1** "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."
 7. In the midst of (close to) the throne and around the throne were four living creatures.
 - i. They were full of eyes in the front and back and had six wings.
 - a. One was like a lion.
 - b. One was like an ox.
 - c. One was like an eagle.
 - d. One who had a face like a man.

Lessons From Revelation

- C. John also describes here what these different ones/things are actively doing
 - 1. The throne which had the One seated on it.
 - i. From it were lightning flashes, thunders, and voices/sounds.
 - 2. The four living creature were worshipping the One on the throne night & day.
 - i. “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”
 - 3. The twenty-four elders, after the living creatures worship, fall down casting their crowns down and worship the One on the throne.
 - i. “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
- D. Thus...
 - 1. This is the scene that is played out in front of John and what a truly jaw dropping scene it is.

II. The Message

- A. As amazing a scene as this is, what is the message being sent to the churches in Asia
 - 1. First the message is clearly shouted from the pages that God the Father is magnificent and is worthy of glory, honor, and power.
 - i. He worthy because He is pure and righteous in His decisions like jasper and carnelian.
 - a. This is key as the Father here will be seen giving this authority over to the only one worthy to pronounce judgment on Rome, the Lamb.
 - ii. He is worthy because He keeps His promises and is merciful on us like an emerald rainbow.
 - a. This is key because the persecuted Christians needed to know their God was with them and the torment would soon be over.
 - iii. He is worthy because even the religious leaders are subject to Him like elders with thrones themselves who throw their crowns down before Him.
 - a. This is key because we are not far off from elders ie religious leaders starting the process of leaving sound doctrine.
 - 1. This being about 95 or 96 AD and in 100 AD you have it suggested that there should be a “head bishop” with 180 AD finding most churches with a “head bishop.”
 - b. All need to be aware that the Father is superior to every man.
 - iv. He is worthy because He is omnipresent like the seven spirits of God.
 - a. This is key because it lets the struggling Christians know their God sees their pain and is aware of all of it.
 - v. He is worthy because He will remove the barrier of persecution that has separated man from God like the sea of glass.
 - a. This is key because it is going to be pronounce and made clear that those that overcome the beast will be able to come before God (Rv 15:2) and that there will be no more separation (Rv 22:1).

Lessons From Revelation

- vi. He is worthy because even the angels bow down before Him and worship Him day and night.
 - a. This is key because if the angels are willing to never cease worshipping God so to should the righteous on earth enduring the persecution.
- B. Thus...
 - 1. The message is clear God the Father who sits on the throne in heaven is worthy of glory, honor, and power.

III. The Implication

- A. There is a home prepared for the righteous
 - 1. Paul talks about this home we should all long for.
 - a. **II Co 5:1-2** “For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling”
- B. This home is a place where worship is constant
 - 1. Paul points to the importance of have a life dedicated to worshipping God.
 - a. **Ro 12:1** “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”
 - 2. The Hebrew writer suggests we worship God with reverence and awe.
 - a. **He 12:28** “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe”
 - 3. Why has the Scripture made clear the need to have a life dedicated to the worship of God and the need to do so with righteousness?
 - a. Because in heaven it appears there is only blissful, reverent, awe inspiring worship of God Almighty.
 - b. If we are not willing to worship God here on earth as much as possible we will not be permitted to worship God in heaven.

Lessons From Revelation

CONCLUSION

1. In talking to those that have chosen earth over heaven Anton Chekhov wrote, “You have lost your reason and taken the wrong path. You have taken lies for truth, and hideousness for beauty. You would marvel if, owing to strange events of some sorts, frogs and lizards suddenly grew on apple and orange trees instead of fruit, or if roses began to smell like a sweating horse; so I marvel at you who exchange heaven for earth. I don't want to understand you.” (<http://goo.gl/G7hHBp>)
2. Question: Are you amazed at the heaven that awaits you. Are you awe stricken so that you are willing to do anything to get there?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**