



A Study of Revelation

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Week Four – The Throne Room of God and the Seven Seals (Revelation 4-6)

I. THE THRONE ROOM OF GODⁱ

- *Rev. 1:9-19* – John’s vision begins on earth at Patmos, and they pertain to the Church of the current age.
- *Rev. 4:1-2* – John’s vision changes from the earth to heaven, and from the present to the future.
- John’s vision takes him to the throne room of God, and his vision is focused on one clear agenda: the _____ of _____.

◆ Chapter 4 – _____

The key focus is God’s throne (used 14 times in the chapter).

• _____ the Throne - Almighty God (2-3)

This is more precisely God the Father, since the Son approaches the throne (5:6) and the Spirit is seen before the throne (4:5). John’s description is vague (“He...was *like*”), because he finds no human words to describe what he is seeing (Psalm 104:2; 1 Timothy 6:16).

• _____ the Throne (3-4, 6-8)

- A _____ surrounds the throne in a circle, signifying that it never ends. Also, the rainbow reminds us of God’s covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:11-17), and is a symbol of mercy and peace.
- _____ sit around the throne as the King’s court. These elders represent the people of God in heaven, enthroned and rewarded.
 - Twenty-four courses of priests were appointed for the OT temple (1 Chron. 24:3-5, 18; Luke 1:5-9)
 - God’s people are called “kings and priests” (Rev. 1:6; 5:9-10), reigning with Christ.
 - Daniel saw these thrones set up (Dan. 7:9), but here they are filled.

- They are clothed with white robes represent their purity, but not that it was their own. They are covered in the purity of God.
- They are wearing “ _____ ” (*stephanos*, 2:10), signifying that they are overcomers because of their faith in Christ (1 John 5:4-5).
- Four living creatures are found around in the midst of the throne. These creatures match Ezekiel’s description (Ezekiel 10:20-22), where he calls them “cherubim” (Ezekiel 1:4-14).
 - Creature #1 – _____, the highest of created beings
 - Creature #2 – _____, domestic animal life
 - Creature #3 – _____, wild animal life
 - Creature #4 – _____, celestial life

Their many _____ signify that they have seen all that God has done and their wings signify their swiftness in declaring God’s glory. They have one continuous action—to _____ the glory of God (8; see Psalm 19:1-4) as the Almighty (emphasizing God’s power; used 10 times in NT, 9 in Revelation, but 31 times in Job which emphasizes God’s power in nature).

- _____ / _____ **the Throne (5-6)**

- *Lightning, thundering, and voices* proceed from the throne as a further sign of God’s fearsome _____ (Exodus 9:23, 28; 19:16) and of His immanent judgment which always proceed from His throne (8:5; 11:19; 16:18).
- *Seven lamps of fire* represent the _____ (compare with the lamps of the seven churches as the empowerment of the Holy Spirit), and the *sea of glass* represents the purity and holiness of God.

- _____ **to the Throne (9-11)**

- *Worship* erupts in a sequence: first the four living creatures (representing creation), and then the twenty-four elders (representing the redeemed). This worship is to the _____ on the throne, and its theme is praise to *God the* _____.

◆ **Chapter 5 – _____**

- **The _____ (1)**

- It was written on the inside and outside, indicating that nothing more could be added. What was written was complete and final.
- It was rolled up and sealed with seven seals, signifying the authority of a king.
- Within this one scroll is the entirety of John’s vision—the seven seals, trumpets, & bowls.

- **The _____ Takes the Scroll (2-7)**

- When all hope of redemption was lost in John’s eyes, one of the elders introduces the Redeemer. Here, this Redeemer is giving several names:
 - *Lion of the Tribe of Judah* – Through Jacob’s prophetic passing of the scepter to Judah, God made the tribe of Judah the tribe of the kings (Genesis 49:8-10). The “lion” speaks of sovereignty and authority. This speaks of his _____ – the Redeemer is the ruler of the rulers.
 - *Root of David* – The Redeemer brought David’s lineage into existence. Concerning His humanity, Jesus has His roots *in* David (Isaiah 11:1, 10), but concerning His deity, Jesus is the root *of* David. This speaks of his _____ – the Redeemer is eternal, being both David’s Lord and David’s son at the same time (Matthew 22:41-46).
 - *Sacrificial Lamb* – The Lamb (Gr., *arnion*, “a pet lamb,” used 29 times in Revelation) was in the midst of the throne—all of creation (four living creatures) and all of the redeemed (24 elders) are centered around Him. He had seven horns (perfect power: omnipotent), seven eyes (perfect wisdom, omniscient), and seven spirits (perfect presence; omnipresent). This speaks of His _____—the Lamb-Redeemer is God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

- **The Redeemer Is _____ (8-14)**

As soon as the Redeemer takes the scroll, all of heaven fall before Him in worship.

- *Creation and the Redeemed* worship Him with both song and the prayers of the saints. Both praise and prayer are united in their worship, for incense is a picture of prayer rising up before the throne of God (Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10; Revelation 6:9-11; 8:1-6).
 - He is worshipped for being our slain _____ – for each person (Galatians 2:20), each family (Exodus 12:3), for the nation of Israel (Isaiah 53:8; John 11:49-52), and for the whole world (John 1:29; 3:16-17).
 - He is worshipped for being our universal _____ – every race, every people group, and every nationality will be represented among the redeemed.
 - He is worshipped for being our victory _____ – all of the redeemed are a kingdom of priests to God who will reign with Christ on the earth (i.e., Millennium).
- Innumerable Angelic hosts worship Him, followed by every created being.
 - *Philippians 2:5-12* – As Jesus humiliated Himself in every way (weakness, poverty, ridicule), so it is returned to Him in this moment.

II. THE SEVEN SEALS

- *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*

Daniel 9:27

Covenant of Prince with Israel	Fulfillment of 6 Purposes in vs. 24
SEVENTIETH SEVEN (7 YEARS)	
3 ½ Years	3 ½ Years

This final week of Daniel’s vision is what is described in Revelation 6-19. Following this timeline, this part of Revelation is broken up in three parts: **the first 3½ years (6-9), the middle period (10-14), and the second 3 ½ years (15-19).**

➤ *Revelation 6*

John records the Lamb opening each seal in sequence. As each of the first four seals are opened, one of the living creatures summons a rider on a horse (“Come and see” should read, “Come!”). The events that take place on the earth are because they have been directed by God in heaven.

◆ **First Seal – The _____ (1-2)**

The Great Tribulation is inaugurated by the formal establishment of the Antichrist. As first, he comes as a peacemaker, but will quickly move to conqueror. He is the second “beast” found in Revelation 13. As his title suggests, the Antichrist will resemble *the* Christ (“-Christ”) so to deceive the people of Israel (John 5:43; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). In the end, however, he shows himself to be everything that is contrary (“anti-”) to the real Redeemer.

- He comes on a _____ horse – counterfeiting the purity and holiness of Christ
- He comes with a _____ but no _____ – counterfeiting the peace of Christ
 - The Antichrist reveals his cowardice, seeking to conquer from afar (a bow). The weapon of the Lord is a _____, requiring to be in the midst of the battle (Revelation 19:15).
- He comes wearing a _____ – counterfeiting the reign of Christ.
 - The crown the Antichrist wears is a “_____ crown” (*stephanos*) signifying achievement; the crown of Jesus is a “_____ crown” (*diadema*), signifying status.
- He comes to _____ – counterfeiting the victory of Christ over sin and death.

❖ **Excursus: Will the Antichrist be a Jew?**

➤ *Ezekiel 21:25-27*

➤ *Daniel 11:36-37*

➤ *John 5:43*

◆ **Second Seal – _____ (3-4)**

The Antichrist comes promising peace, but the earth soon plunges into war. This horseman immerses the earth into a bloodbath of unprecedented proportions.

- _____ Horse – often associated with terror and death (red dragon, Revelation 12:3; red beast, Revelation 17:3). It is a picture of wanton bloodshed.

◆ **Third Seal – _____ (5-6)**

Inevitably following such a war is worldwide famine, represented by the black horse.

- _____ Horse – often associated with famine (Jeremiah 14:1-2; Lamentations 5:10). As with any famine, a shortage of food inevitably drives up prices and causes enforced rationing.
- “A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius” – A quart of wheat was an extremely small amount, while a denarius was a person’s average daily wage (Matthew 20:2). Barley, known as the bread of a poor man, was only slightly more available.
- “Do not harm the oil and wine” – Oil and wine were widely used but were not essential. It was often found among the luxuries of the wealthy. Therefore, while the famine is severe, it does not affect everyone equally.

◆ **Fourth Seal – _____ (7-8)**

John sees two images: the fourth horseman named Death, and Hades (the realm of the dead) following him. Death claims the _____ while Hades claims the _____ of the dead.

- _____ Horse – invoking a sense of bleakness, coldness, and despair.
- Given _____ to kill over ___ of the earth’s inhabitants – its weapons are inevitable following the earlier horsemen: the sword, hunger, disease (death), and (added to these) beasts of the earth (see Jeremiah 15:2; 24:10; Ezekiel 14:21).

◆ **Fifth Seal – Cry of the _____ (9-11)**

A remnant of martyrs appear with the opening of the fifth seal.

- “_____ the _____” – That the martyrs are under the altar reveals that they have already been slain. During an Old Testament sacrifice, the priest would pour out the blood (representing life; Leviticus 17:11) of the sacrifice onto the base of the brazen altar (Leviticus 4:7, 18, 25, 30). Here, the souls of the martyrs are “under the altar,” indicating that their lives were given sacrificially to the glory of God (see also Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 2:9-12).
- “slain for _____ ...and for the _____” – “Martyr” (Gr., *martus*) means witness (Revelation 2:13; 17:6). These believers were slain because of their witness for the word of God and the gospel of Christ under the reign of the Antichrist, since their testimony undermines his evil agenda.
- “How long...until you judge?” – Since their persecutors are still _____ on the _____, these martyrs were apparently killed in the early part of the Tribulation.
- Given a white robe – representing their purity in Christ (see Revelation 4:4).
- Told to “rest a little while” – More are going to be killed for their faith. Nevertheless, God is aware and in control (Revelation 11:7; 12:11; 14:13; 20:4-5).

◆ **Sixth Seal – _____ (12-17)**

While the fifth seals reveals the cry of the martyrs (“_____ us!”), the sixth seal reveals the cry of those remaining on earth (“_____ us!”).

- “a great earthquake – This is the first of _____ major earthquakes (Revelation 11:13; 16:18-19).
- Sun, moon, stars, sky, mountains, islands – Whether earthly atmospheric conditions cause the darkening of the heavenly lights or the lights themselves cause the upheaval, it is not clear. What is clear is that _____ will be affected (compare Isaiah 13:9-10, 34:2-4; Joel 2:30-31, 3:15).

- Men [_____] hid themselves...”Who is able to stand?” – Rank and wealth will not deliver anyone in that terrible day.
- The “wrath of the _____” – This paradox is important, because the victims of the sixth seal are unrepentant. Instead of running to the Lamb as Savior, claiming His sacrifice for themselves, they would rather hide from God in fear. They are proof that judgement *by itself* does not change the human heart.

Parallel of Sequence of Events – Matthew 24 & Revelation 6

MATTHEW 24	REVELATION 6
False Christs (4-5)	White Horse – Antichrist (1-2)
Wars (6)	Red Horse – War (3-4)
Famines (7a)	Black Horse – Famine (5-6)
Death (7b-8)	Pale Horse – Death (7-8)
Martyrs (9)	Martyrs under the Altar (9-11)
Worldwide Chaos (10-13)	Worldwide Chaos (12-17)

Also, Matthew 24 states that the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom will reach the whole world, which may be where Revelation 7 fits in. God may use the 144,000 sealed Jews to share His gospel with the world, resulting in the salvation of multitudes.

The Sequence of the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

First Seal			
Second Seal			
Third Seal			
Fourth Seal			
Fifth Seal			
Sixth Seal			
<i>INTERLUDE</i>			
Seal	First Trumpet		
	Second Trumpet		
	Third Trumpet		
	Fourth Trumpet		
	Fifth Trumpet		
	Sixth Trumpet		
	<i>INTERLUDE</i>		
	Trumpet	First Bowl	
		Second Bowl	
		Third Bowl	
Fourth Bowl			
Fifth Bowl			
Sixth Bowl			
Seventh Bowl			

ⁱ Notes for this section have been taken and adapted from Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985).