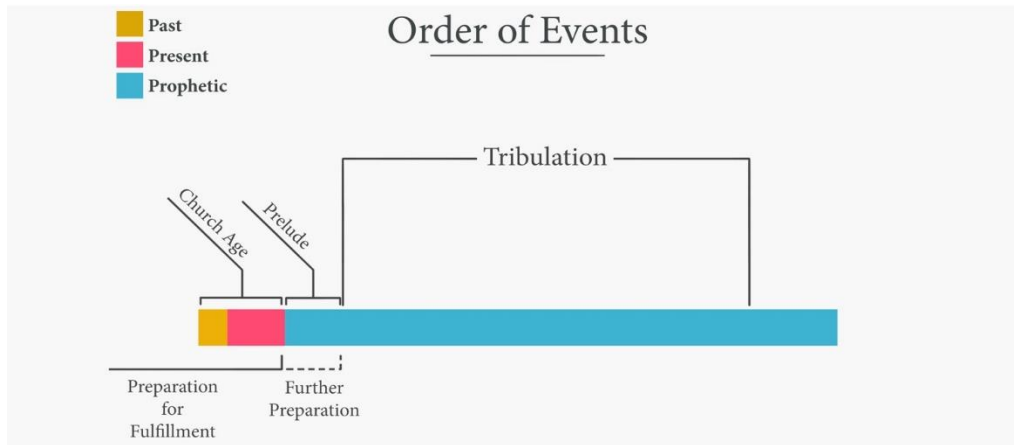


Revelation 5 – The Opening Of The Scroll By The Lord



Rev.5:1-2: *“Then I saw in the right hand of Him Who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a might angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”*

** Identity Of The Seven-Sealed Scroll:

- A seal denotes authority, confirmation, ownership, evidence, or security. Here it denotes ownership and security. To unravel the scroll, the seals must be broken.
- In John’s day, a scroll was rolled up a little, sealed, rolled a little more, sealed, and so on. Thus, when a seal was broken, the scrolled unrolled to the next seal.
- What is this scroll or book? Here are some thoughts:
 - A) The title deed to the earth (most common view)
 - B) Book of the New Covenant
 - C) Book of judgment
 - D) God’s counsel and purpose for the world
 - E) A testament of God concerning the promise of the future kingdom.
 - F) An unfolding of church history – similar to letter D

Vss. 5-6: *“And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals. And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*

- Vs. 5 is an obvious reference to Christ. He has conquered death, hell, the enemy, and sin. He is the Lion (power, strength) from the tribe of Judah and from the line of David (Isa. 11:1,10).
- The title “Lamb” is found 26x in Revelation and refers to Christ. It died a violent death to bring us salvation. That is seen in the word “slain.” See Heb. 7-10.

- The “seven horns” speak of Christ’s power and strength (1 Kings 11:11; Dan. 7:24; Rev. 13:1). The idea of rulership and authority are seen in this.
- The “seven spirits” we saw last week. It could refer to the complete work of the Holy Spirit, His work with Christ (Isa. 11), and God’s Omniscience and Omnipresence. The Lord knows all and is everywhere.
- Note the song of redemption sung and words of praise in Rev. 5:8-14.

The Seal Judgments Of Revelation 6

**** The judgments we are going to see in Revelation are sequential.** First, the seal judgments. Next, the trumpet judgments. And then, the bowl judgments. Here is why I favor this view:

- A) The contents of the judgments are not parallel.
- B) The seventh seal introduces/contains the seven trumpets.
- C) The interlude between the sixth and seventh seal and sixth and seventh trumpet are different.
- D) The seven bowls are called the seven last plagues.
- E) The seventh bowl is introduced with the words, “It is done.”

**** The following chart shows the parallel between Revelation 6 and Matthew 24:**

The Olivet Discourse and the First 6 Seals

Olivet Discourse		The First 6 Seals	
24:4-5	False Christs	6:1-2	White Horse
24:6-7	War	6:3-4	Red Horse
24:7	Famine	6:5-6	Black Horse
24:9	Death	6:7-8	Pale Horse
24:9-13	Martyrdom	6:9-11	5th Seal
Luke 21:11	Signs	6:12-17	6th Seal

Vss.1-2: *“Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals...And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And it’s rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.”*

- I do not believe it is Christ. He will return in Rev. 19:11-14 with His saints. Christ has a sword, not a bow. Christ wears many crowns, not just one. Plus, the Greek word describes the crowns of Christ are different than here in vs. 2.
- When the Lord returns, that is it. No more judgments on the earth.

- Who is the rider on the white horse? A bow without an arrow indicates peace. His conquering would be by peaceful means (Rev. 13:4). He makes peace with Israel through a covenant (Dan. 9:27), through diplomacy. This most likely refers to the Antichrist.
- Others think it is the Gospel message being preached or imperialism, desire of man for power.

Vss. 3-4: *“When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.”*

- This may be Mt. 24:6-9 where we read of “wars and rumors of wars.”
- The rider is the picture of wars on the earth (Zech. 1:8; Zech. 6:2).
- There is a short time of peace (first seal) on the earth and then peace is gone.
- Red often refers to war and bloodshed (2 Kings 3:22; Nah. 2:3).

Vss. 6-8: *“and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

- Here are five thoughts I have found regarding the sea of glass. **(1)** It may picture purity and peace; **(2)** God’s separateness (people don’t just walk up to the throne); **(3)** the Word of God (Rev. 15:2), a mark of steadfastness in heaven; **(4)** God’s holiness and righteousness (Heb. 12:14), and the church is at rest; **(5)** before God all is revealed (Heb. 4:13).
- Who are the four living creatures? Ezekiel sees similar creatures in Eze. 1,3,10. He identifies them as Cherubim, a class of angels. There are slight differences between what he sees and what John describes.
- Other thoughts include that these creatures represent, as leaders, all NT saints.
- Some see them representing the attributes of God. For example, the lion indicates majesty and omnipotence, the man indicates intelligence.
- My view is that they are angelic beings who proclaim God’s greatness. I do not know why they look as they do though it may refer to things such as majestic, servanthood, able to travel (like an eagle). Angels serve God at His call. Or they could be symbolic of creatures of all of God’s creation (e.g., domestic, wild).
- Here are a few things these angels do. They praise God and give glory to Him (Rev. 4:8); They worship God (Rev. 7:11-12).
- They speak of the holiness of God (Rev. 4:8). Holiness describes God in all His perfection, separate from evil in His Person and in His dealings with us (Lev. 19:2; Ps.99:9; 1 Jn. 1:5).

- God is transcendent. He is the Lord God Almighty (Rev. 4:8), Sovereign over all. He is unchanging in His character (“Who was and is and is to come”).

Vss. 9-11: *“And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him Who is seated on the throne, Who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who is seated on the throne and worship Him Who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”*

- This is a “song of creation.” God is our great Creator and Redeemer.
- The four living creatures give God glory, honor, and thanks (vs. 9). The word “whenever” describes something that will happen in the future, but the time is not definitely known. This does not mean they are not at this point doing what vs. 9 notes. In the future, during the tribulation time they will be doing this.
- The crowns cast down by the elders (vs. 10) are “stephanos” or “victor’s crowns”, given to NT saints. This word is found in Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4. It was the crown given to victors in the public games, such as someone who wins a race.
- Note the words of praise the elders bring to the One on the throne (vs. 11). He is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power because He is the Creator of all things. All things exist only because of the will of God.

Practical Application:

- As we see God in His glory, what should be our response to His Lordship over all of creation, which would include our lives?
- What are some ways that we give glory to God with our lives? How is God’s work in our lives shown to others?
- What motivates us to serve the Lord? To be noted, get rewards, or out of love.

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