

Week 3: Chapters 4-8:5

Worship & the Seven Seals

For this session use your handout for 'Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls'

****For next time read Revelation 8:6-11, Exodus 7:14-10:29, and Joel 2****

What elements of Isaiah 6, and Ezekiel 1 do you see in the throne room of Revelation 4 and 5?

Chapter 4: The Throne Room

- Numbers in Revelation – Pay attention to the numbers 3, 4, 7, and 12

3

4

7

12

- Theophany: *Theophany means a manifestation of God. There are certain things that occur when God appears, or in the book of Revelation, there is a pattern of what John sees and hears in the throne room. Note how the throne room is described in these four areas, as well as what is going on at the time that John sees it. For background on this part, see Ezekiel 1 and Exodus 19:16-25*
 - Revelation 4:5
 - Revelation 8:5
 - Revelation 11:19
 - Revelation 16:18-21

Quotes to consider:

"False worship, such as John portrays in the worship of the beast, is false precisely because its object is not the transcendent mystery, but only the mystification of something finite."

Richard Bauckham, 'The Theology of the Book of Revelation' p.45

"By giving readers a glimpse of God's heavenly court, John presses Christians in the seven churches to see such popular displays of power as garish imitations of the true sovereignty that belongs to the Creator, who alone is truly worthy of being called "Lord and God".

Craig Koester 'Revelation and the End of All Things' p. 75

Chapter 5: The Scroll and the Lamb

Contrast what is seen vs. what is heard

Chapter 6: The First Six Seals:

- *How does Zechariah 1 play into an understanding of what is happening with the four horsemen of Revelation 6?*

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse:

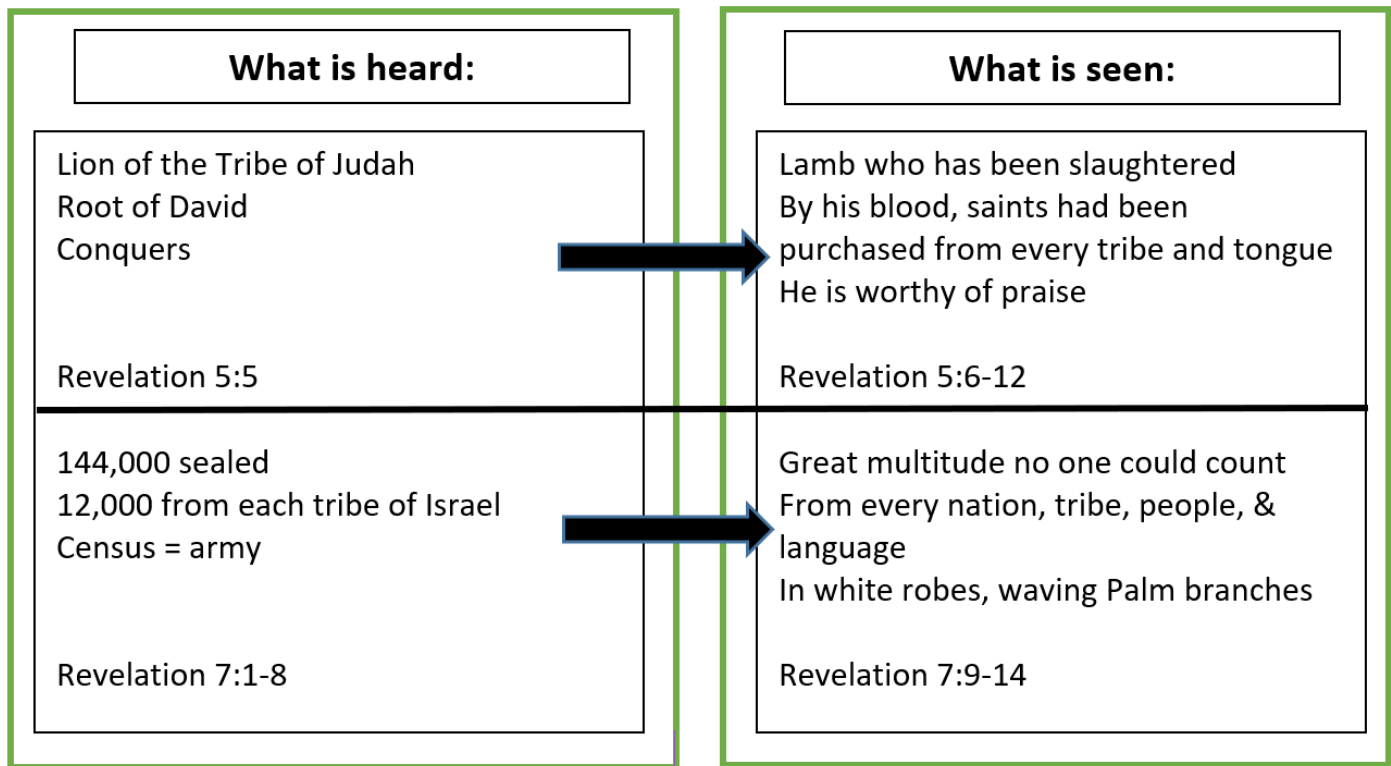
- Seal 1 = White Horse
- Seal 2 = Red Horse
- Seal 3 = Black Horse
- Seal 4 = Pale Green Horse
- Seal 5 = Souls under the altar asking "How Long?"
- Seal 6 = Earthquake, blackened sun, everyone cries out, "Who can stand?"

Quotes to consider:

"Some modern readers are bothered by the martyrs' cry for justice, arguing that it does not measure up to the standard of turning the other cheek and loving one's enemies, as Jesus taught; but the plea for justice cannot be easily dismissed. The martyrs suffered not because they were sinners but because they were faithful. One rightly asks: Does God care? Does genuine love turn a blind eye while the wicked shed the blood of the innocent? Or is mercy another name for indifference?"

Craig Koester 'Revelation and the End of All Things' p.87 (both quotes)

Chapter 7: Wrath is Paused, God Seals His People



As to why 144,000 is the whole people of God

- 144,000 is clearly a symbolic number: 12 x 12 x 1000, or 12 tribes by 12 apostles
- “servants” used elsewhere in Revelation refers to all believers or witnesses (1.1; 2.20; 6.11; 10.7; 11.18; 19.2, 5, 10; 22.3, 6, 9)
- Using servant here in narrower sense leads to the conclusion that God only gives his special protection to only some in church based on their ethnicity, gender, marital status
- This sealing connects this group with others in 3.12; 22.4
- There is a tribe that has been replaced – see Gen. 35:22-26

Chapter 8:1-5: The Seventh Seal

“When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”

-Revelation 8:1

- Zephaniah 1:7 “Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand.”
- Habakkuk 2:20, “But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!”
- Zechariah 2:13, “Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”