

LESSON SIX

Revelation 4 & 5

Chapter 4 is the beginning of “what will take place later” that we read about in Chapter 1. In Chapters 4 and 5, John is given an unveiling of the throne room of God. In various Old Testament prophetic books, we receive glimpses of the throne room. However, these two chapters are a more complete description. John was in the Spirit but there is a sense that his visitation was more than just a vision since the “voice” said, “Come up here.” It was essential for John to experience the majesty and power of the throne room before he would be shown the horrific judgments that would be coming on the earth. There is no question this experience was unique to John and for our benefit.

1. Compare Revelation 4 to Ezekiel 1:4-28, Ezekiel 10:15-20 and Isaiah 6:1-5. What do you notice?
2. The description of the “four living creatures” as having the appearance of a lion, ox, man and flying eagle is like the fourfold way Jesus Christ is described in the four gospels. One interpretation is :

Matthew portrays Jesus as the Lion of Judah

Mark portrays Jesus as a servant symbolized as an ox

Luke portrays Jesus as the Son of Man

John portrays Jesus as a flying eagle.

What do you think is the significance of this duplication?

3. Read Revelation 5. Remember John is still in the spirit in the throne room. Why do you think John “wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll”?
4. Why do you think Jesus is referred to as the Lion of Judah and the Root of David? See Genesis 49:9 and Isaiah 11:1-10.
5. What is the significance of the Lamb that was slain taking the scroll? See John 1:29.
6. This may be a vision of Jesus receiving the inheritance of the throne from God the Father. What do you notice about the rest of Revelation 5? See also Philippians 2:6 and 1 Peter 1:17-21.

Prayer Almighty Father, you sit enthroned above all the universe. You are glorious and majestic. Our human experience cannot even fathom your glory. Give us a true appreciation of Jesus as the Lamb of God, the one “looking as if it had been slain”. It is the cross that enables Jesus to open the seals that bring about his reign on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to see past the fear of God’s judgment to the enormity of God’s love. We ask this in the name of the Lamb, Jesus. Amen.