

The Throne

May 28, 2023

The things John saw (Chapter 1)

The things that are (Chapters 2-3)

The things to take place (Chapters 4-22)

Important principles for studying Revelation:

1. Revelation was given to reveal, and not to conceal (Rev 1:1; 22:6)
2. We are to interpret much of what is written symbolically
3. Keep the big picture in view

·Purpose: To comfort the militant church in its struggle against the forces of evil.

·Theme: The victory of Christ and of His church over Satan and His helpers.

G.K. Beale wrote, "The Apocalypse was revealed so that believers would be blessed by having a heavenly perspective on redemptive history and consequently obeying the commands of the Lord of History."

4 View the book as cyclical not chronological: Seven cycles or sections that cover the period of time between the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ

1. Christ in the middle of the seven golden lampstands (1-3)
2. The book with seven seals (4-7)
3. The seven trumpets (8-11)
4. The woman and the man-child vs. the dragon and his helpers (12-14)

5. The seven bowls of wrath (15-16)
6. The evil one's fall (17-19)
7. Judgement and New Creation (20-22)

Revelation 4:1-11

Jesus and His throne are at the center of all things

The THRONE symbolizes royalty, authority, government, sovereign control, and grace

The stones intensify the light around the throne reflecting the unapproachable purity, brightness, and glory of God

The rainbow is a sign of God's mercy





24 elders on 24 thrones represent the 12 patriarchs of Israel and the 12 Apostles of Christ and together, are representative of God's elect who have died past and present, future. The church TRIUMPHANT!

The elders are clothed in the righteousness of Christ and wearing victor crowns, not because of their own works, but because of the work of Christ.

In Christ, they share in victory and are overcomers.

The thunder and lightning reiterate the presence, power, and majesty of God and the judgment that will ring out from His throne (Exodus 19)

The seven torches are another symbol of the full and complete working of the Holy Spirit (Connections to Exodus 25, Zechariah 4)

The sea of glass, like crystal (vs. 6): Calm and perfect peace Christ brings

Four living creatures represent the cherubim, the highest order of angels (Gen 3:24, Ex 25:20, 1 Kings 23-28).

· They guard in all directions the holy things of God · The many eyes and wings representing their service to the all seeing One, carrying out His assignments to the four corners of the earth · The faces representing strength (lion), service (ox), intelligence (man), and swiftness (eagle) by which they serve.

Why are these elders and living creatures present?

- To enhance the significance of the Throne and the Worship of God - God is praised for His holiness, eternity, and power.

We have seen that the symbol of the throne of God relays three truths:

- 1) It is a Throne of glory
- 2) It is a Throne of judgment
- 3) It is a Throne of mercy and grace

Two takeaways today.

- 1) How does God on the throne impact your day to day living?

Colossians 1:15-20 speaks of Christ as creator and as being in everything preeminent. He is first and central! None above Him.

- 2) The purpose of it all is to lead you to worship Him