

REVELATION

Sermon Points

Title: Our Lamb & Lion

Date: 6.26.22 • Scripture: Revelation 4-7

- **Main Point:** With God's final judgment towards His enemies certain, His present day warnings call us to urgently witness to a world desperate for the hope of Jesus, inviting them to trade their kingdom for His.
- *Revelation is addressed to people who are suffering and persecuted. We often read apocalyptic as if the message of the book was "The end is near!" But what if it's not? What you need and what apocalyptic supplies is: How do I get through this if the end is not near? If I still have years to go? If I still have many of my family members to watch being martyred in front of my eyes? How do I survive that? That's what apocalyptic gives us... in the face of Satan's persecution, seduction, and deception, that resistance is not futile. We can maintain hope that there is a different future - that this is not the way the rest of the story goes. Heaven is a real place, and there is a glorious ending for those who remain faithful. That's the payoff pitch for apocalyptic: Stay faithful. Stay in the game. Give it all you've got. It's worth it. You will never regret in eternity the sacrifices you made for Christ and the gospel here on earth. - Iain Duguid*

Trumpet #1 - SUSTENANCE: seeking provision in earth's resources

Trumpet #2 - SECURITY: seeking protection in earth's powers

Trumpet #3 - SATISFACTION: seeking pleasure in earth's pursuits

Trumpet #4 - SPIRITUALITY: seeking perception in earth's wisdom

Reasons we are uncomfortable with God's Judgment

#1 - We don't see the seriousness of sin

#2 - We don't see the injustice of sin

#3 - We don't see the persecution of the saints

#4 - We don't see the evil of God's spiritual enemies

#5 - We don't see the precious value of eternity

#6 - We don't see the patience and mercy of God's witnesses

#7 - We don't see God's righteous wisdom as the Just Judge

- *Modern readers are apt to be shocked at the idea that God should be prepared to kill in order to provide an object lesson for those who survive. John is more realistic about the fact of death. All men must die, whether they die late or soon, alone or in company, violently or in their beds. Their ultimate destiny is not determined either by the moment or by the manner of their death, as the untimely death of the martyrs should prove. The idea that life on earth is so infinitely precious that the death which robs us of it must be the ultimate tragedy is precisely the idolatry that John is trying here to combat. We have already seen . . . that John calls the enemies of the church 'the inhabitants of earth' [or 'earth-dwellers'], because they have made themselves utterly at home in this transient*

world. If all men must die, and if at the end earth must vanish, along with those whose life is irremediably bounded by worldly horizons, then it is surely in accord with the mercy of God that he should send men from time to time forceful reminders of the insecurity of their tenure” - G.B. Caird

Summary: Because of the warnings from Jesus, worshipers of Jesus are called to be witnesses to Jesus in a world desperate for Jesus.

8-9 - 1st 6 trumpets: partial judgments paralleling the seals from a different perspective - in which humanity experiences the empty and destructive effects of sin within a worldly kingdom ruled and terrorized by Satan.

10-11:15 - Our role in the midst of these warnings as God’s Witnessing church to a world headed towards final judgment and desperate for the hope of Jesus.

11:15-19 - The 7th trumpet picture of the final transfer of God’s Kingdom, as his enemies are vanquished for good and his people enjoy His presence forever.

1 - Take the hard words in:

- **See the temporality of earth** - it’s not our home
- **See the triviality of sin** - it doesn’t give security or satisfaction; it’s empty
- **See the lethality of idols** - their lifeless worship leads to ruin and death
- **See the duality of kingdoms** - you belong either to the world ruled by Satan, or Christ’s.
- **See the brutality of spiritual war** - its deception, destruction & seduction is being waged right now all around us.
- **See the fatality of unbelievers** - they are hurting, tormented, and hopeless apart from Christ
- **See the finality of impending judgment** - it’s inevitably coming; hear the warnings.

2 - Speak the sweet words out

- **Praise God for His Justice**
- **Thank God for His mercy**
- **Take God to His enemies**