

Lesson III

Chapters 4 and 5

Introduction:

1. Chapter 4 verse 1 moves the scene from earth to heaven.
2. Let us notice the wording in verse 1
 - a. After this I looked
 - i. After what?
 - ii. After seeing “The things which are”
 - iii. After the church age
 - b. A door was opened in heaven.
 - i. The Niv, Nlt, and AmpC says that there was “..a door standing open in heaven.”
 - ii. The door is standing open for us so we can move into God’s presence.
 - c. The first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me;
 - i. This is the voice John hears in chapter 1:9-11

9) I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto

- 1) A quick overview of Chapter 1
 - a) Verses 1-3 are the introductory remarks.
 - b) Verses 4-8 are the Salutation to the seven churches.
 - c) Verse 9-10 is where John begins his explanation of the revelation he receives

Note: A great voice as of a trumpet spoke to him.

d) Verse 11-16 is a description of the Risen Lord who is now at the right hand of the Father.

e) Verse 17-20 is John's orders for writing the book, and an explanation of what he has seen.

2) The first time John heard the voice, the voice was ordering him to write, as well as identifying Himself to John

ii. This time, the voice is saying

Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

1) Come up through the open door

2) Come up from the earth

3) Come up into the heavens

4) Come up and see what shall be hereafter.

Note: There are some things we cannot see, even now, unless we come up hither, and have an encounter with God. In Psalms 42:7 it is recorded that "Deep calleth unto deep...", therefore, as we move deeper, God calls us deeper.

Note: The events from chapter 4 forward are "hereafter" events.

3. With the beginning of Chapter 4, we move from the "Church age" into Daniel's "Seventieth Week."

4. Revelations has a lot of symbols, and we will try to explain many of them as we advance through this book.

I. The Rapture is represented in chapter 4:1-2

1) After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. 2) And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

A. Again, let me remind that there are three distinct divisions of Revelations

1. The things which John saw in chapter one...John's vision in verses 1:10-20.

2. The things which are...The "Church Age" in chapters 2 and 3.

3. The things which shall be hereafter...Chapters 4 throughout the end of the book.

- a. The word “church” or “churches” is mentioned 19 times in chapters 1-3.
- b. In the third division of Revelations, which is things that shall be hereafter, the word church or churches is not found until the conclusion of the book in Revelations 22:6-21, and the word “churches” is found in verse 16.
- c. The church age is over, and God is dealing with the Jewish nation.
- d. Mercy is not seen as much as judgment from here throughout the rest of the book.

Note: There is a danger that we go beyond mercy and God’s judgment deals with us.

- 4. A synopsis (overview, or rundown) of the rest of Revelations
 - a. Chapters 4 and 5 are events in heaven.
 - b. Chapters 6-19 are the events of Daniel’s 70th week.
 - c. Chapter 20 gives an insight of events after the Tribulation and the Millennium.
 - d. Chapters 21 and 22 us a snapshot of eternity.

B. Let us examine these first two verses

- 1. The door opened in heaven
- 2. The voice as a trumpet
 - a. This voice was among the candlesticks or churches in chapter 1:10-16,
 - b. This voice is now in heaven in Chapter 4:1
 - c. Why the difference?
 - i. The church is being removed from the earth to heaven.
 - ii. The one who walked among the churches is the bridegroom, and His bride is brought up to where He is. (Example Rebecca being brought to Isaac)
 - d. Scriptures
 - i. 1st Corinthians 15:51-52

51) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

ii. 1st Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

3. John said that “immediately I was in the Spirit.”

a. When was John immediately in the Spirit?

At the sound of the voice which spoke like a trumpet.

b. Two examples of the rapture

i. Elijah in 2nd Kings 2:11-12

11) And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12) And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

1) He was caught up or snatched away

2) He was separated from Elisha

Note: There will be a separation according to Matthew 24:38-42

38) For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39) And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40) Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41) Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42) Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

ii. Enoch in Genesis 5:21-24

21) And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22) And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Note: Some are separated, and some just do not come home, for they will disappear without a trace.

Note: God took Enoch and Elijah, and God will take us. John in Revelations 4:1 is representative of the whole church as he was caught up to heaven. This is symbolic or representative of the Rapture.

4. The voice as a trumpet said “Come up hither.”

a. 1st Thessalonians 4:16 says that

...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

b. Let us notice Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John 11:43...And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

5. Scriptures concerning the rapture

a. 1st Corinthians 15:51-52

51) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

b. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

6. Let us notice a few Scriptures that give the indication that the Rapture will take place before the Tribulation period.

a. Luke 21:34-36

34) And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

i. Escape the events of Luke 21:4-33

1) Some of the reference is the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. .

2) Also, we find this referencing our escaping the desolation and destruction

during the Tribulation period.

ii. Escape the events found in Matthew 24:4-26 which has reference to the Tribulation period.

iii. Escape the events of Revelations chapter 6-19.

b. Revelations 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

c. 1st Thessalonians 5:1-11

i. v1 tells us that we should know the season in which you are living...

v1...But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

ii. v2 reminds us that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1) v3 shows us that when mankind feels safe, then destruction comes

3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

2) v4 tells us that God's people are not living in darkness

4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

3) v5 reminds us that we are people of the light, or knowledge

5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

iii. Therefore, says v6, Let us be ready

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1) v7 reminds us that those sleeping are in darkness

7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

2) v8 reveals to us how we, who are of the day should be prepared.

8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and

for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

3) Verse 9-10 tells us that we, the children of God, are not appointed to wrath, but to salvation

9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

4) v11 reminds us that we, therefore, should encourage one another with the knowledge of our escape of the tribulation and judgment of God

11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

iv. Notice that in Revelations 4:1-22:5, the word “church” is not mentioned while it is mentioned 19 times in Revelations 1-3.

1) Beginning with Revelations 4, the church is removed from the earth.

2) God’s focus turns back to the Jews, His people.

v. Notice the original Greek in Revelations 4:1

1) “After this” comes from the Greek meaning “After these things.”

2) After these things is referring to the events after the churches

3) Those things “which are” concerns the churches, and the things which must be hereafter are events after the “church age.” (v1)

4) The influence of the Holy Spirit and the influence of the church which is Holy Spirit anointed and Holy Spirit led must be removed before the anti-christ can come into full authority and power according to 2nd Thessalonians 2:6-8

a) KJV...

6) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

b) NLT...

6) And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. 7) For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. 8) Then the man of lawlessness will be

revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

c) AmpC

6) And now you know what is restraining him [from being revealed at this time]; it is so that he may be manifested (revealed) in his own [appointed] time. 7) For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, [but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. 8) And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming.

Note the corresponding verses in 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-12

i. KJV...

1) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5) Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

ii. NLT...

1) Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. 2) Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. 3) Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. 4) He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. 5) Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? 6) And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. 7) For this

lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. 8) Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. 9) This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. 10) He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. 11) So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. 12) Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

iii. AmpC

1) But relative to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and our gathering together to [meet] Him, we beg you, brethren, 2) Not to allow your minds to be quickly unsettled *or* disturbed or kept excited *or* alarmed, whether it be by some [pretended] revelation of [the] Spirit or by word or by letter [alleged to be] from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has [already] arrived *and* is here. 3) Let no one deceive *or* beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first [unless the predicted great falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come], and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom (of perdition), 4) Who opposes and exalts himself so proudly *and* insolently against *and* over all that is called God or that is worshiped, [even to his actually] taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God. 5) Do you not recollect that when I was still with you, I told you these things? 7) And now you know what is restraining him [from being revealed at this time]; it is so that he may be manifested (revealed) in his own [appointed] time. 7) For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, [but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. 8) And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming. 9) The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity *and* working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs *and* delusive marvels—[all of them] lying wonders—10) And by unlimited seduction to evil *and* with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth *but* refused to love it that they might be saved. 11) Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error *and* a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, 12) In order that all may be judged *and* condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth, but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness.

C. The Church is represented in Heaven by the 24 elders.

1. Around the throne are 24 seats with 24 elders in v4.

4) And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

2. Note verses 10 and 11

10) The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Note: Here they are worshipping the one sitting on the throne.

3. Look at chapter 5:8-10, and 14

8) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth....14) And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Note: They are worshipping the Lamb who receives the book from the one on the throne.

II. Actions of the church in Heaven seen by the 24 elders

A. The Elders

1. Twelve represent the Old Testament Saints
2. Twelve represent the New Testament Church
3. The Old is not complete without the New, and the New is not complete without the Old. Therefore, the twenty-four elders represent all the saints that have followed God in holiness and righteousness.
 - a. The writer of Hebrews uses chapter 11 to discuss those who lived in faith.
 - b. Now let us notice what he says in Hebrews 11:39-40

39) And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:
40) God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

B. The activities of the Elders or Church

1. 4:10... They fall down before the throne and worship Him that sits on the throne.

2. 4:10... They cast their crowns at His feet, and they acknowledge that He is supreme above all.

Note Romans 14:11-12

11) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12) So then every one of us shall give account

3. In 4:11, they acknowledge the worthiness of God to receive glory and honor.
4. In 5:8, they bow before the Lamb
5. In 5:9-10, they sing a song unto the Lamb

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

6. In 5:14, they fall down again in worship

C. Characteristics of the elders.

1. In v4, we see them clothed in white raiment, which a fulfillment of the promise to the church at Sardis in 3:5

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

2. In v4, we see them with crowns of gold on their heads
 - a. Crown is from the Greek “stephanos” which means a wreath, or a prize that was given in the public games signifying victory.
 - b. John saw that the elders, or church, had obtained the victory, and they were now around the throne of God.
 - c. This fulfills the promise made to the church at Smyrna in chapter 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

3. The elders or church have learned to praise God in verses 10-11

10) The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

4. These elders, or the church have “harps” in chapter 5:8

5. These elders have “golden vials full of odors which are the prayers of the saints” in chapter 5:8

Note Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

6. These elders sing a new song in verses 5:9-10

- a. They sing a song of His worthiness to open the book (5:9)
Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof:
- b. They sing a song of the redeemed (5:9)

For thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

- c. They sing a song of victory (5:10)

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

- i. This is promised to the church at Thyatira if they will overcome in Revelations 2:26-27

26) And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27) And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

- ii. This must represent the church for the church shall reign on the earth for a thousand years according to Revelations 10:3-6

3) And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5) But the rest of the dead lived not again

until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

III. Description of what John saw in heaven

A. The throne with the Father seated on it

1. One sat on the throne---This is the Father (2)

a. John describes Him as being like a “jasper and a sardine stone.” (3)

b. John can only describe what he saw in our terms, and he liken the things in heaven to the things he understood.

2. There is a rainbow around about the throne like an emerald which reminds us of God’s covenant with Noah. (3)

3. Round the throne are 24 seats (4)

4. Proceeding from the throne is (5)

a. Lightnings

b. Thunderings

c. Voices

Note the similarity to what the Children of Israel experienced at Mt Sinai in Exodus 19-20

i. Exodus 19:16-20

16) And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. 17) And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18) And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. 19) And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. 20) And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

ii. Exodus 20:18

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet,

and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

5. Before the throne is a sea of glass like crystal (6)

6. Round the throne are four beasts similar to the ones that Ezekiel and Isaiah saw. (6-8)

a. Revelations 4:6-8

6) And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7) And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8) And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

b. Ezekiel 1:4-28

c. Ezekiel 10:1-22

d. Isaiah 6:1-8

e. David Griffis comments about the four faces and their representation

i. Lion... The Messiah is known as Christ the "lion of the tribe of Judah," the King of Kings.

ii. Ox (calf)... The ox reminds us of a lowly and humble servant which reminds us of Jesus who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.

iii. Eagle... The eagle is the most highly lifted up of all God's creatures, and Christ was highly exalted and lifted up to sit at the right hand of the Father.

iv. Man... Jesus was a man for He was God in the flesh

Note: It seems that where the throne goes, these beasts go also, and they continually praise and glorify Him that sits on the throne.

B. The Holy Ghost

1. The seven lamps of fire burning before the throne are the seven Spirits of God in 4:5

2. The seven eyes and the seven horns on the Lamb are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into the earth, all the earth in 5:6

C. Jesus

1. Is represented by the Lamb as it had been slain in 5:6
2. The elders fall down before the Lamb and acknowledge Him as the one who has redeemed them in 5:8-10

IV. Activities in Chapters 4 and 5.

A. Praise

1. To the one that sits on the throne
2. To the lamb who died to redeem mankind
3. By the angels
4. By the living beasts
5. By redeemed man represented by the 24 elders

B. Chapter 5 centers around a book that is in the right hand of Him that sits on the throne. (5:1)

1) And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

1. An angel asks: “Who is worthy to open the book?”

2) And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

- a. No man is found that is worthy (3)

Note: The Bible uses the word “man.” They were not looking for an angel, or any other being, but they were looking for a man that was worthy to open the seven sealed book. Furthermore, the words from the Greek can also refer to the female gender as well as male gender, so they were looking for someone from “mankind” to open the book, but there was not any that was found worthy.

- i. Not in heaven
- ii. Not in earth.
- iii. Not under the earth.

b. John weeps because no man was found worthy to open and read the book, neither to look thereon. (4)

c. One of the elders, or “one of the church” tells John to “weep not.” (5)

2. There is a Man that is worthy

a. He is the Second Adam

b. He who represented Man for the purpose of redemption

c. He who had no sin yet became sin. He is worthy.

d. He who left heaven and came to earth clothed as man is worthy.

3. A description of the Man who is worthy (5)

a. He is the Lion of the tribe of Juda,

b. He is the Root of David,

Note: Isaiah 11:1-16 describes his reign during the Millennium

c. He hath prevailed to open the book

d. He hath prevailed to loose the seven seals thereof.

e. Let us notice where He is (6)

i. He is in the midst of the throne

ii. He is in the midst of the elders

iii. He is in the midst of the four beasts

iv. There in their midst stands “a Lamb”

a. He stands as he had been slain

b. All the eyes of heaven are now on Him, the Lamb.

Note: The Lamb is in the midst of all the action, and it reminds me of what John said in John 1:1-3

1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) The same was in the beginning with God. 3) All things were made by him; and without him

was not any thing made that was made.

Note: Jesus was in the midst of all that was completed in the beginning, and He is in the midst of our Redemption. Furthermore, He will be in the midst of taking claim to this world as the Second Adam, and He will be in our midst in the Millennium and throughout all eternity.

4. The Lamb takes the book out of the right hand of Him that sits on the throne. (7)

a. The book is written within and on the backside (1)

b. The book is sealed with seven seals. (1)

5. The moment the Lamb takes the book, action breaks out in heaven (8-14)

a. Praise begin to be issued forth from all beings in heaven

i. The four beasts praise in v8

8) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts...fell down before the Lamb,

ii. The church offers praise in v8...And when he had taken the book,

1) The...four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb,

2) Each elders has a harp

3) Each elder has golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

4) The elders sing a new song in v9

a) Thou art worthy to take the book,

b) Thou are worthy...to open the seals thereof:

c) For thou wast slain,

d) For thou...hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

e) For thou...And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: (10)

f) For thou has made us so...we shall reign on the earth. (10)

iii. Look at the number of angels around the throne in v11

1) KJV...

11) And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

2) NLT...

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.

3) Explain the numbers

a) Myriads x Myriads and chiliads of chiliads

b) 10,000 x 10,000 or 100,000,000 of angels break forth in praise

c) 1,000's x 1,000's or Millions of angels break forth in praise.

Note: This is an indefinite number for John could not accurately number the angels seen in heaven.

b. Everything in heaven is singing in verses 11-14

i. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain

1) He is worthy to receive power

Note Matthew 28:18...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth

2) He is worthy to receive riches

3) He is worthy to receive wisdom

4) He is worthy to receive strength

5) He is worthy to receive honour

6) He is worthy to receive glory

7) He is worthy to receive blessing.

ii. Every creature worships Him in v13

1) Which is in heaven

- 2) Which is on the earth
- 3) Which is under the earth
- 4) Which are in the sea
- 5) John heard all these saying

13) Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

Conclusion of Chapter 5

1. They are saying

13) Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever

2. In v14, we hear the four beasts as they say, Amen.

3. In v14, we see the church in the four and twenty elders falling down and worshipping Him that liveth for ever and ever.