

REVELATION - THE FINAL VICTORY

(Lesson 2)

Intro: How are we to understand the seven "visions" that John saw - real visions, dreams, his imagination?

- The Second Vision: The Seven Seals

1. John's Vision of God (4:1-11)

- What is Jesus going to reveal to John as he was "in the Spirit" for a second time?
- Who is the one who sits on the rainbow-circled throne?
- Who are the 24 elders? (Cf. Matthew 19:28; Genesis 49:28)
- What is significant about them sitting on thrones? wearing crowns? clothed in white?
- If the sea as the wicked is described as a "tossing sea which cannot rest" (Isaiah 57:20) what would the sea of glass, clear as crystal represent?
- Who are the four living creatures directly around the throne? (Cf. Ezekiel 1:4-14; Isaiah 6:2-3)
- Why is it important that they proclaim God as "Holy, holy, holy"?
- What is slightly different about the elders praise before the throne?

(Queen Victoria of England wanted to be alive at the Savior's second coming because, as she said, "I would so dearly love to lay my crown at his feet.")

- Compare our song of praise the *Te Deum* on page 48 in the Hymnal to what John records.

2. The Book of the Seven Seals (5:1-5)

- What do the seals on the book tell us regarding future events (5:1)?
- Who alone is able to open the book and its seven seals? (Cf. Genesis 49:9,10; Isaiah 11:1,10)

3. The Lamb Before the Throne (5:6-8)

- What immediately strikes John about the appearance of the Lamb?
- What are the seven horns and seven eyes? (see also 4:5)
- What is significant about Jesus' position before the throne?
- Does verse 8 teach us that our prayers should be addressed to the saints and angels?

4. The New Song of Praise to the Lamb (5:9-14)

- What did the Lamb's redemptive work accomplish?
- Here we are introduced to the four-fold description of the earth and its people. (See also 7:9, 10:11, 11:9, 13:7, 14:6, 17:15)
- In what sense are those redeemed by Christ a "kingdom" and "priests," and how will they "reign on earth"?
- Draw a picture of the scene John describes in verse 11.
- Another significant number in Revelation is the number 7 (3 plus 4). It represents God (represented as 3) and his covenant with the earth (represented by 4).
- Notice the millions of angel's praise in verse 12. Coincidence of seven-fold praise?
- How does all this set the stage for the opening of the seven seals?
- Compare our songs of praise before Communion, pages 34-35 in the Hymnal. Why are they appropriate praise before we receive Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament?

Conclusion: What "pictures" of Jesus do our minds conjure up, the pictures based on his holy Word?