

Apocalypse Now:
The Challenge of Revelation
Week 3—Revelation 4-5
September 28, 2020

- I. Review: things are not as they seem.
- II. Chapter 4. Look! A Throne!
 - A. Background
 - 1. Roman emperor requiring worship of himself.
 - 2. Christians had to make a choice.
 - 3. Is the earthly power more real, or is God more real?
 - B. A Door to Heaven
 - C. Look! “Behold” Most frequent command in Revelation.
 - 1. Look! A Throne. John wants us to see the throne. Why?
 - 2. The throne image dominates Revelation.
 - 3. Nero began feeding Christians to lions ca. 57.
 - a) Domitian had more than 40,000 Christians killed.
 - D. Someone sitting on the throne
 - 1. It is good news *someone* is sitting on the throne.
 - 2. The one who sits on the throne is altogether lovely.
 - 3. Living creatures call him “Lord God Almighty” (4:8).
 - E. Listen
 - 1. Four living creatures sing Holy, holy, holy.
 - 2. 24 elders sing: worthy... to receive glory, honor power.
 - 3. Everything that exists owes being to the One on throne.
 - F. From the Throne.
 - 1. “Flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.”
 - 2. We see and experience a picture of awesomeness.
 - G. Behind the Throne.

1. The rainbow, symbol of God's promise: no more flood.

H. Surrounding the throne

1. 24 other thrones with 24 elders wearing crowns.
2. Four living creatures.
3. Everyone is worshipping the one who sits on the throne.
4. Implications.

I. Before (in front of) the Throne

1. Seven lamps and the spirits of God
2. A sea of glass

III. Chapter 5 Look! A Scroll and a Lamb

- A. Scroll represents God's final plan for the world.
- B. No one is worthy to open the scroll
- C. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is worthy.
- D. The lion is a slaughtered lamb.
- E. He stands at the center of the throne.
- F. This vision of heaven clears up our vision of earth.
 1. The center of reality is the One who suffers.
 2. The center of reality is costly grace.
 3. We work from the victory, not toward it.
 4. The lamb is the key to life.
 5. We (will) reign as the lamb reigns.