

REVELATION 2

1. What does the word revelation mean?

-To open or to make known.

2. In the book of Revelation, what is being opened or made known?

-God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are opening or making known to us Christians what will happen in the future.

3. Who alone can tell us about the future?

-God.

-This is because it is God alone who has prepared the future.

4. What will happen in the future?

-The Lord Jesus will punish all evil, put an end to sin, death, and Satan, and return to begin His reign on earth.

5. Why is it important for us Christians to know that we are living in the last days?

-So that we can live our life expecting Christ to return soon at any time.

6. When we live our life expecting Christ to return soon at any time, how will this help us?

-We will use our life for God, and not waste our life on the things of the world.

7. Why did God through John write the book of

Revelation?

-To encourage all Christians that the Lord Jesus will return soon.

8. Why did the Lord Jesus call Himself the Alpha and the Omega?

-To teach us that He has no beginning and no ending.

9. What does it mean to be in the kingdom?

-To be in the kingdom means to be under the care and protection of God Himself with God as our king.

-In our last lesson in Revelation 1:19, we learn that God told John this:

-“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later.”

-“What you have seen” is what John saw which we studied in the last lesson.

-This was Chapter 1 of the book of Revelation, and was the vision of Christ in all of His glory while John was “in the Spirit,” yet still on earth.

-“What is now” are the seven letters to the seven churches.

-These are Chapters 2-3 of the book of Revelation which we will not study at this time.

-“What will take place later” are Chapters 4-22 or the rest of the book of Revelation.

-In this lesson, we will study Chapters 4-5 when John is taken to heaven “in the Spirit,” and sees the throne of God in heaven.

Let’s read Revelation 4:1

1-After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

-John saw a door standing open in heaven, and heard the same voice which was like a trumpet.

-It was the voice of the Lord Jesus calling him to come up to heaven.

Let’s read Revelation 4:2-3

2-At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

3-And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

-What did John mean when he said that “at once I was in the Spirit”?

-In the last lesson, we learn that John was “in the Spirit,” but he still remained on earth.

-Now, John is “in the Spirit,” but he is in heaven.

-While John’s body remained on earth, the Lord took his spirit to heaven.

-What did John see first in heaven?

-A throne and someone sitting on the throne.

-As you may know, a throne is a special chair only for kings.

-Who was sitting on the throne?

-God.

-What does God sitting on the throne in heaven teach us?

-That God is king over heaven and earth.

-God is king of all of the angels.

-God is king of Satan and all of his demons.

-God is king of all of the countries of the world.

-God is king of all people in the world.

-God is king of everything and everyone.

-There is nothing in heaven or on earth that God is not king of.

-There is no one in heaven or on earth that God is not king of.

-If God is king over everything and everyone, what should this teach us?

-That nothing can happen in heaven or on earth without God's permission.

-If we are children of God who is king over everything and everyone, what should this teach us?

-That even though we have difficulties in life, God has allowed them for our good.

-Sitting on the throne, God had the appearance of jasper and ruby.

-A jasper is like a diamond and speaks of the holiness of God while a ruby is very red and speaks of the righteousness of God.

-While people have many ideas about the exact meaning of jasper and ruby, we can be certain that both are pictures of our God the Father in all of His glory.

-As God was sitting on the throne, a green rainbow encircled the throne.

-The color green is a picture of life, and the rainbow is a picture of God's promise to Noah and to all people of His desire to give all people eternal life.

-While people have many ideas about the exact meaning

of the green rainbow, we can be certain that it is a picture of our God the Father in all of His glory.

-While John was in Spirit, yet still on earth, He saw the Lord Jesus in all of His glory.

-Now that John is in the Spirit, yet in heaven, He now sees God the Father in all of His glory.

-As we learned in the last lesson, the glory of God does not change.

-The glory of God is the same in the past, now, and in the future.

Let's read Revelation 4:4

4-Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

-Surrounding the throne of God were 24 other thrones.

-On these 24 thrones were 24 elders who were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

-Who are these 24 elders?

-Some would say that they are angels, but never in the Bible are angels sitting on thrones or wearing crowns.

-As they were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads, we can know that they are believers in Christ.

-Their white clothes tell us that the Lord Jesus has purified them.

-As they are sitting on thrones with crowns on their heads, this tells us that they are reigning in heaven with the Lord Jesus.

-Understanding the above, we can know that these elders are a picture of all Christians in heaven.

-As we learn in 2 Timothy 2:12, all Christians will reign with Christ.

-As we learn in Ephesians 2:6, God has raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in heaven.

Let's read Revelation 4:5-6a

5-From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

6-Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

-In the Bible, lightning and thunder are a picture of God's presence, and His anger against sin.

-When God came down to Mount Sinai to talk with Moses, there was lightning and thunder (Ex 19:16).

-As we will see in later chapters in this book of Revelation, God's presence and anger against sin in the last days will be accompanied by lightning and thunder.

-In front of the throne of God, seven lamps were blazing which are a picture of the seven spirits of God.

-Who are these seven spirits of God?

-As we learn in the Bible, the number "seven" means "completeness" or "fullness."

-Therefore, the seven spirits of God mean the one Holy Spirit, yet in all of His completeness or fullness.

-This is the Holy Spirit in all of His completeness or fullness in front of the throne of God.

-Also in front of the throne of God was a clear sea.

-As the clear sea was in front of the throne of God, it is a picture of the laver in front of the tabernacle of God where priests would wash before entering.

-The clear sea is a picture of the Word of God which cleanses us from sin so that we can enter into the presence of God.

Let's read Revelation 4:6b-8

6-In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.

7-The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

8-Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty," who was, and is, and is to come."

-John also saw four living creatures or living beings around the throne of God.

-What are these four living beings?

-As we learn in Ezekiel 10:20, these are cherubim or special angels whose work is to lead the praise of God in heaven.

-As verse 8 teaches us, "Day and night they never stop saying, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'"

-As the moon reflects the light of the sun, these angels reflect the glory of God.

-Angels never bring glory to themselves, but rather give all glory to God alone.

-These special angels had six wings and were covered with eyes in front and in back in order to give glory to God alone.

-When we look at each one of these angels, we see the reflection of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The angel who was like a lion reflects the strength of the Lord Jesus who overcame death so that He could save us.

-The angel who was like an ox reflects the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross so that He could save us.

-The angel who had the face like a man reflects the Lord Jesus becoming a man so that He could save us.

-The angel who was like a flying eagle reflects the Lord Jesus risen to heaven after having conquered death.

-It is possible that each special angel may also represent all of God's creation, that is, wild animals, house animals, people, and birds which are reflecting the glory of God.

-We know this because all that God created in the beginning was good, and reflects the glory of God.

Let's read Revelation 4:9-11

9-Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives

for ever and ever,

10-the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11-“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

-As the special angels give glory, honor, and thanks to God, the 24 elders fall down before the Father and worship Him, laying their crowns before the throne.

-It was God alone who created the world.

-It was God alone who created you and me.

-It was God alone who created all people and all life.

-While sin and death and Satan have taken over control of the world for a time, God will take back control.

-God will take back control of the world, punish all who do not believe in Christ, and put an end to sin, death, and Satan.

-Chapter 4 teaches us about the glory of God who is on the throne in heaven.

-Now, in Chapter 5, we learn that God who is on the throne is holding something in His hand.

Let's read Revelation 5:1

1-Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

-What did John see in the right hand of God who was sitting on His throne?

-John saw a scroll which was sealed with seven seals.

-What was written on the scroll?

-While the Bible does not say, we can know that it is the will of God for Christ to punish all evil, put an end to sin, death, and Satan, and return to begin His reign on earth.

Let's read Revelation 5:2

2-And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

-What did the angel ask?

-“Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

-Was there anyone worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?

Let's read Revelation 5:3-4

3-But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

4-I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

-When John saw the scroll in the right hand of God, why did he cry?

-Because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll.

Let's read Revelation 5:5

5-Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

-Who alone is worthy to take the scroll, break the seals, and open the scroll?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-The Lord Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, stronger than Satan and all sin.

-The Lord Jesus is also a descendant of David whom God promised would rule as king forever.

-Why is the Lord Jesus alone worthy to take the scroll, break the seals, and open the scroll?

-When God created Adam and Eve, God gave them ownership of the world.

-When Adam and Eve, however, sinned against God, their sin gave ownership of the world to Satan.

-Because Jesus was without sin and died to pay for the sins of all people, only Jesus is worthy to open the scroll and take back ownership of the world.

Let's read Revelation 5:6a

6-Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

-While John may have been looking for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, he saw instead a Lamb standing, as though it had been killed.

-Who is the Lamb who has been killed?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-In John 1:29, this is what John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus:

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

-Although the Lord Jesus was alive, what was still visible?

-His wounds.

-After dying and rising from the dead, why does the Lord

Jesus appear in heaven as a lamb that had been killed?

-So that we will remember the great sacrifice He made to save us from eternal sin and death.

-When we arrive in heaven, we will see the Lord Jesus as our all powerful God, but also as our Savior who was crucified that we might have eternal life.

-As the Lord Jesus showed Thomas after having risen from the dead, we will see the nail prints in His hands and feet and the wound in His side.

-What is the message of the Word of God from beginning to end?

-The punishment for sin is death, but God gave His life so that we might live.

-What did Jesus command us to do here on earth to remember His sacrifice?

-To have the Lord's Supper to remember His body and His blood which he gave so that we might live.

-Why was the Lord Jesus standing in the center of the throne?

-After Christ returned to heaven, He returned to His place with the Father on the throne in heaven.

Let's read Revelation 5:6b

6-The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

-The seven horns are a picture of the Lord Jesus having complete power in heaven and on earth.

-The seven eyes are a picture of the Lord Jesus having complete knowledge in heaven and on earth.

Let's read Revelation 5:7

7-He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

-No man nor woman is worthy to take the scroll, as we have all sinned against God, and sin is more powerful than we are.

-No man nor woman is able to defeat sin, death, and Satan and take back the earth from Satan.

-No angel is worthy to take the scroll even though the angels in heaven are without sin.

-No angel is able to save people from sin nor take back the earth from Satan.

-Only Christ is more powerful than sin.

- Only Christ is more powerful than death.
- Only Christ is more powerful than Satan.
- Only Christ is able to take back the earth from Satan.

Let's read Revelation 5:8

8-And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

- When Christ took the scroll, the four living beings and the 24 elders fell down to worship Him.
- Each of the 24 elders had a harp which is like a guitar.
- The 24 elders use their harps to praise the Lord Jesus.
- They praise the Lord Jesus for defeating sin, death, and Satan, and taking the earth back from Satan.
- In the Bible, harps are also used for prophecy.
- All of the prophecies in the Bible which teach of God finally defeating sin, death, and Satan, and taking the earth back from Satan would soon be fulfilled.
- The 24 elders were also holding bowls of incense which are the prayers of Christians.

-The prayers of Christians according to the will of God are also an acceptable worship to God.

-Some people say that we must pray to elders in heaven who will give our prayers to God, but this is not true.

-As we read in Philippians 2:5, there is only one mediator in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-As Christ takes the scroll from the Father, the 24 elders, the four beings, and uncountable angels praise God.

Let's read Revelation 5:9-10

9-And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10-You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

- Never in the Bible do we read that angels sing to God, nor do angels sing to God because they have been saved.
- This is because angels do not need to be saved.
- What is the new song that the 24 elders were singing?

-It is a song thanking Christ for being worthy to take the scroll and open its seals.

-It is a song thanking Christ for saving people from every tribe and language and people and nation.

-Christ's blood has not only purchased us for God, but we have also been made to be a kingdom and priests.

-As Christians, we are part of God's kingdom, and will reign with Christ on earth.

-As priests of God, we enter into the presence of God, and remain with Him.

-What then did John see and hear?

Let's read Revelation 5:11-14

11-Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

12-In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

13-Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever

and ever!"

14-The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

-First, John saw more angels than can be counted around the throne.

-These angels were saying that which the 24 elders were singing.

-Secondly, John heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea also saying what the angels were saying.

-Then, John heard the four living creatures say "Amen" to all that had happened.

-Many people refuse to believe in God.

-Yet, here is every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and on the sea are praising God.

-One day, in the future, Satan, his demons, and all who do not believe will kneel before the Lord Jesus Christ.

-In the next lesson, we will learn what will happen on earth when the Lord Jesus begins to open the seals of the scroll.