

Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation 5-6

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Revelation 4 Review

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

The Door

- The door is simply the entrance to heaven, not necessarily an actual door.
- It is Christ that is serving as an escort for John

*2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting was **like** a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, **like** an emerald in appearance.*

The Throne

- The throne of God stands for the majesty of God.
- We enter into some sort of court in heaven, representing God's majesty.

Description of God the Father

God the Father is often described as light, rather than describing His form. (1 Timothy 6:16, **psalm 104:2**)

- Indescribably Light
 - o Jasper – clear stone, like a diamond
 - o Sardius – red stone
 - o Emerald – Green stone

4 And around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.

24 Elders

- We do not know who they are.
 - o Twelve tribes X2? Apostles X2?
 - o Priests in Israel were divided into 24 different "courses". (1 Chronicles 24:7-18)
 - o 12 patriarchs and the 12 apostles combined
 - o Symbolic representatives of the faithful people of God
- They must have been rewarded believers with wonderful responsibility.
- White garments are a symbol of purity.
- The crowns are crowns of achievement rather than: diadem (monarch's crown) –passed from generations
If you spend your Christian life trying to figure it out, you surely will not be one of them!

And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 And the first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

The Seven Lamps

- These are not the earlier mentioned lampstands
- These are torches that represent the seven spirits of God mentioned previously in Chapter One which are most likely the Holy Spirit in all His fullness.

Four Living Creatures

1. Full of eyes – they don't miss anything
2. always near the throne and the lamb
3. Six wings and full of eyes
4. Constantly praising and worshipping God
5. Very similar to the four creatures in Ezekiel's vision – likely the same
6. Ezekiel's four creatures were definitely cherubim (cherub angels)
7. The Cherubim are angelic beings who are close to God and the guardians of His throne.
8. The four living creatures most likely stand for everything that is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftness in nature.
9. The lion is supreme among beasts.
10. The ox is supreme among cattle.
11. The eagle is supreme among birds.
12. The human is supreme among all creatures.

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Revelation 5

1 **And I saw** in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 **And I saw** a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it. 4 And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." 6 **And I saw** between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came, and He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

The Scroll

- The Scroll is held by God the **Father**.
- They are seeking someone to **open** the scroll.
- Sometimes translated as "Book" – same word we have been translating as scroll – scroll is the better translation
- Seven Seals represent **extreme secrecy**. **ancient days had a wax seal with kings ring mashed into the wax**
- It was a record of what is to happen in the **last days** – God's judgment.
- John weeps wondering if he will never know!

The Lamb

- The Lamb is **Christ**
- Still bearing the marks of having been **slain**
- The seven horns for omnipotence or **power**
- The seven eyes for his omniscience of **infinite knowledge**
- Lion of Judah (From Jacob's blessing – Genesis 49:9)
- The root of David (Isaiah's Prophecy)

Why does Jesus get the scroll?

John 5:21-22

21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, NASB

John 5:27

27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. NASB

Change from weeping and waiting to praising!

8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The prayers of the saints

Psalms 141:2

2 May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee;

The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Praise builds!

- The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders
- many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,
- Every created thing** which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them

Important Terms

The Tribulation

This is the period of unparalleled suffering. The trouble will embrace the entire earth (Rv 3:10). Yet in a distinctive sense it will center upon Jerusalem and Palestine, being called by Jeremiah specifically "the time of Jacob's distress" (Jer 30:7).

The Great Tribulation

The colossal scenes of the Revelation, beginning with chap. 5 and the opening of the seven-sealed book, through chap. 10, form a prelude to worldwide commotion prior to the Great Tribulation itself described in chaps. 11-18.

The First Advent

Christ's first coming.

The Second Advent

Christ's second coming.

The Millennium

The theological term based upon Rv 20, indicating the thousand-year period of Christ's future reign on the earth in connection with the establishment of the kingdom over Israel (Ac 1:6). Three common millennial views are held: postmillennialism, amillennialism, and premillennialism.

Postmillennialism

Christ's second coming is **after** the millennium. This interpretation maintains that present gospel agencies will root out evils until Christ will have a spiritual reign over the earth, which will continue for 1,000 years. Then the second advent of Christ will initiate judgment and bring to an end the present order.

Amillennialism

Advocates of this view maintain that **no** Millennium is to be looked for except that which, it is claimed, is in progress now in this gospel age. This theological interpretation spiritualizes or, rather, gives a mystical meaning to the vast kingdom promises in the OT. Zion is construed not to mean Zion but to refer to the Christian church.

Premillennialism

Christ's second coming is **before** the millennium. This interpretation teaches that the age will end in judgment at the second coming of Christ, who will restore the kingdom to Israel and reign for at least 1,000 years. The Millennium would be the last of the ordered ages of time. Eternity will not dawn until the Millennium is complete (Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2Pe 3:13; Rv 21:1). The Millennium will be characterized by the binding of Satan and the severe limitation of sin. The perfect sinless state, however, will occur in the eternal state after the Millennium.

Dispensation

A dispensation is an era of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience to some definite revelation of God's will. Seven such dispensations are recognized by many as dispensationalists at all. Those who hold to seven list them as follows: premillennialists. Other premillennialists speak of only three or four. Still others prefer not to be classed
New Unger's Bible Dictionary

No one knows the day or the hour

Matthew 24:36

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. NASB

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

Revelation 6

The worship described above – is preparation for the wrath described in chapters 6-19!

Each seal represent a judgment that will be poured out sequentially.

First 4 seals seem to take place during the first half of the tribulation

5th lasts 3 and a half year – the great tribulation

6 and 7th – the great tribulation

First Seal Broken

1 And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.

The command "Come" is likely directed at the **horses**.

White Horse: **False** Peace
Notice the Bow, with no arrows

Who is the rider? Christ – Not likely because Christ opens the seal – and he wears a stephanas crown

Crown – given to him

Not the Diadem – one that is passed down, not earned, royalty

This is the Stephanas crown – achieved and earned (crowns that athletes would receive)

Anti Christ – will play the leading role in this – but the other riders are more forces...

Second Seal Broken

3 And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men should slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

Red Horse: **War**
Takes peace from the earth – bloody warfare
Sword given him

Third Seal Broken

5 And when He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." And I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard as it were a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Black Horse: **Famine**
Scales – weighing the food
Almost as if an announcement is being made in the distance – quart of wheat for a denarius (full days pay)
Full days pay for a loaf of bread – these were all the staples in the mid east
Represents famine and poverty

Fourth Seal Broken

7 And when He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." 8 And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Ashen Horse: **Death**
grayish, yellow, green – the color of a corpse

Homework – read Matthew 24 and find the parallels to the first 4 seal judgements (Olivet Discourse)

Fifth Seal Broken

9 And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

- Judgement of Persecution and Martyrdom
- The martyrs petition God in verse 10
- God responds with a gift and a spoken word:

Gift: White Robe symbolizing the purity and gift of eternal righteousness that they will enjoy.

Word: An invitation to rest.

John sees a mass of martyrs who had been slain – seemingly praying for vengeance (that romans 12 promises)
Romans 12:19 – do not take revenge - leave room for God's wrath – vengeance is his!

Sixth Seal Broken

12 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand? "

- Judgment of fear and destruction.
- Reason for Fear (verses 12-14)
This is the great earthquake – the big one!
Sackcloth made of hair – worn by mourners/black wool of sheep. Sun is eclipsed
- Range and Reaction of Fear (Verse 15-17)
Even the leaders are misplaced
Hiding not from the destruction – but hiding from the wrath of God Himself – Notice God in the plural in vs 17

The Seventh Seal is the ushering in of the Seven Trumpet Judgments...

An Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Chapter One:	The Things You Have Seen
Chapters Two and Three:	The Things That Are (Seven Churches)
Chapters Four - Twenty Two:	The Things That Will Take Place

Prologue

- Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified Christ (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Laodicea (3:14-22)

Things That Will Take Place

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)
- Vision of Judgments Upon the Earth that Increase in Magnitude While God in His Mercy Continues to Call Humankind to Repentance (*Revelation 6:1 – 18:24*)
 - Judgment of the Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:1)
 - Judgment of the Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)
 - Vision of the Dragon, Woman, and Beasts (12:1 – 14:20)
 - Judgment of the Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)
 - Judgment of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)
- Return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 19:1-21*)
- Reign of Christ and His Resurrected Saints Over the Earth (*Revelation 20:1-6*)
- Final Destruction of Satan, Evil, and Death (*Revelation 20:7-15*)
- Ultimate Eternal Peace and Perfection (*Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*)

Epilogue

- Final Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 22:6-21*)

