# HAT THE



### BUBLE IS ABOUT

# The book of Revelation

### the revelation

noun rev∙e·la·tion \ rĕv′ə-lā′shən \

- 1. a. The act of unveiling, revealing or disclosing.
  - Something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realised.
  - c. A sudden insight or idea.
- 2. Theology. A manifestation of divine will or truth.

Middle English revelacion, from Old French revelation, from Latin revēlātiō, revēlātiōn-, from revēlātus, past participle of revēlāre, "to reveal"; originally translated from the Greek noun ἀποκάλυψις, apokalypsis (root ἀποκαλύπτω, apokalyptō (v)) meaning "laying bare, making naked, unveiling, disclose what before was unknown."

#### **Revelation 1:1-2**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants - things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by his angel to His servant John:

Who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

servant ( $\delta o \tilde{u} \lambda o \varsigma$ , doulos): devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

signified (σημαίνω, sēmainō): to give a sign, to signify, indicate, render into signs; from sema (mark), translated as sign, wonder or miracle in the Bible (e.g., a spiritual code)

revealed to hrist written

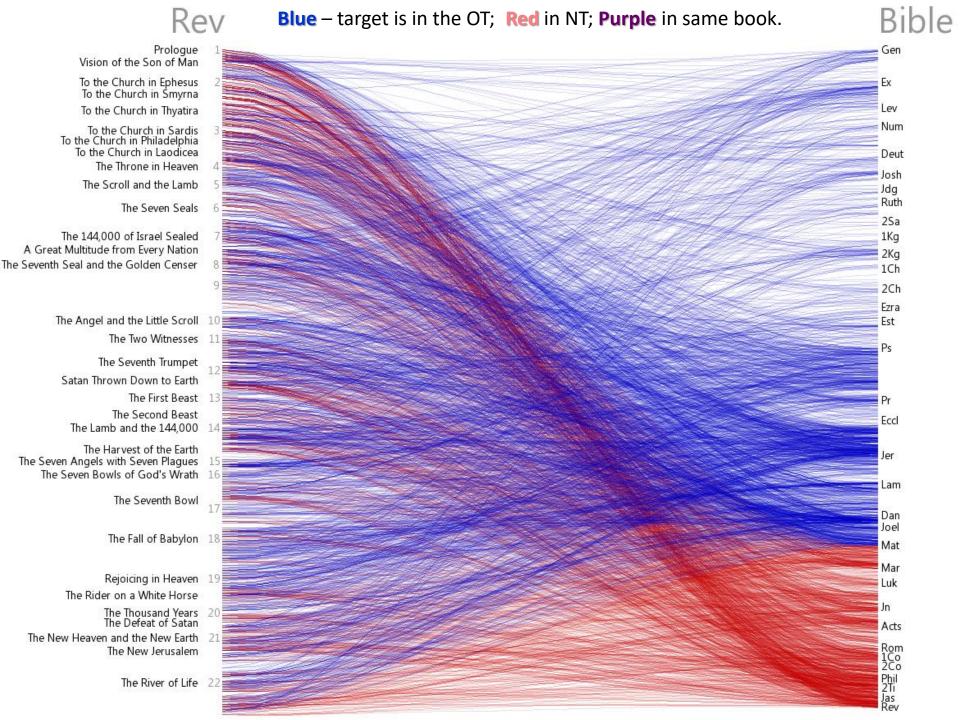
<sup>\*</sup> By Christ, His angel, elders, etc.

#### **Key Points**

The book of Revelation is in code

Every code is explained in Scripture

Virtually every book in the Bible is required to interpret the code.



#### Interpreting the book of Revelation

God means what He says and says what He means.

The Bible is an integrated whole: Every detail is there by design.

(Matthew 5:17,18)

Nothing is trivial: all things are for our learning.

(Romans 15:4)

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible.

#### **A Unique Promise**

- <sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.
- <sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

(Revelation 1:3-4)

Blessed (μακάριος, *makarios*)-hallowed, consecrated, approved, made happy or prosperous

#### **The Seven Spirits**

Isaiah 11:2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

- 1. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
  - 2. the Spirit of Wisdom,
    - 3. and Understanding,
      - 4. the Spirit of Counsel
        - 5. and Might,
          - 6. the Spirit of Knowledge
            - 7. and of the Fear of the LORD.

- <sup>5</sup> And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, and the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- <sup>6</sup> And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
  - In Israel, the tribe of Judah was the royal line and the tribe of Levi was the priestly line. No one was both.
  - Some 2,000 years before Christ (Genesis 4:18), Abram met Melchizedek<sup>1</sup> king of Salem<sup>2</sup> who was both. Abram tithed 10% to and took communion from Melchizedek.
  - Psalm 110 & Hebrews 7 identify Jesus as king and priest.
  - So Melchizedek, Jesus and who else? You and me! (Rev. 1:6.)

<sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.



\* "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

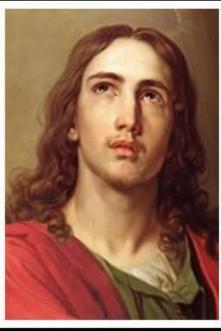
<sup>9</sup> I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

### WANTED BY ROME

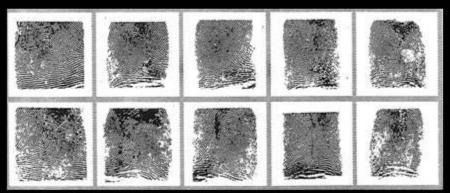
#### **JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE**

**ALIASES:** John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, John the Elder, the Beloved Disciple, unnamed disciple of John the Baptist





(current photograph not available)



#### DESCRIPTION

AGE: 94 est., born c 006 AD, Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records) reported death c 100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: heaven OCCUPATION: fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian FATHER: Zebedee MOTHER: Salome BROTHER: James KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Jesus Christ, Mary, the "Twelve Apostles"





- <sup>10</sup> I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- 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 Laodicea.



#### The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.
- <sup>14</sup> His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- <sup>15</sup> His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
- He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.



Similar to Matthew 17:2 (Transfiguration) and Daniel 7 (Ancient of Days).

#### The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Maclothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chast with a golden band.
- as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- <sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
- 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Hair; head Daniel 7:9

Eyes, Heb 1:13; 4:13; Flame of fire 1 Cor 3:13; Malachi 3:2, etc

Feet, symbol of walk; Brass = judgment

Voice, many waters Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Dan 10:6

Right Hand 7 stars, lampstands: in the midst; in His hand

Mouth: two-edged sword Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17; Isa 49:2; Judges unbelievers John 12:48; Earth smitten Isa 11:4; Antichrist consumed 2 Thess 2:8

Countenance, Sun Matt 17

- <sup>17</sup> And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.
- <sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
- <sup>19</sup> "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.
- The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.



#### The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which you have seen,

and the things which are,

and the things which will take place after this.

(Revelation 1:19)

#### The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which you have seen,

The Vision of Christ ...... Chapter 1

and the things which are,

The Seven Churches ...... Chapters 2,3

and the things which will take place after this.

What follows after the Churches .. Chapters 4-22

(Revelation 1:19)



#### The book of Revelation

# THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN (Chapter 1)

• John' vision of the exalted Christ, Ch. 1

# THINGS WHICH ARE (Chapters 2-3)

• The messages to the seven churches, 2-3

## THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER

(Chapters 4-22)

- Throne in heaven, 4-5
- Tribulation on earth, 6-9, 10-14, 15-19
- The Kingdom of Christ, 20
- The new heavens and earth, 21-22

<sup>20</sup> The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:

and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

#### Who or what are the "Angels"

- Angels (ἄγγελος, aggelos) a messenger, envoy, one
   who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God.
  - Some believe the "angels" are pastors, whose role was to read, pray and preach in the assembly.
  - Some believe the "angels" are guardian angels over each congregation.
    - Some think the "angels" weren't literal beings at all, but the prevailing spirit of each church.
- In any case, notice where the "angels" are in the right hand of Jesus.

#### Chap 1. The things which John has seen in his vision.

- Heavenly Christ and
- Earthly churches



- Corrupted world
- Compromised church



#### Chap 4-5. Things are alright in Heaven.

- God is on the throne (all of history)
- Christ is in charge (end of history)

#### Chap 6-18. Things will get much worse before they get better.

- For world: war, bloodshed, famine, disease, natural disasters, many deaths
  For Israel: 3.5 years peace followed by 3.5 years of strife by unholy trinity (Satan, antichrist, false prophet); Babylon; deaths.
- For the Church: depends upon your view of Eschatology

#### Chap 19-22. Things will get much better after they get worse.

Return of Christ to earth; 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth; people still sin; Day of judgement (heaven or lake of fire); new heaven and new earth; New Jerusalem; Bride of Christ

#### Structure of the book of Revelation

Things as they are now and promise that Jesus is coming soon. (Rev. 1:1-8) The letters to the seven churches in the world about their B problems in the world. (Rev. 1:9-3:22) The vision of Jesus and opening the scroll. (Rev. 4:1-6:17) Sealing of the 144,000 saints and the trumpets that bring D plagues. (Rev. 7:1-9:21) John attested as a true prophet as he eats the scroll like E Ezekiel. (Rev. 10:1-11) Satan waging war on the Church as it proclaims the Gospel. (Rev. 11:1-14) Satan continuing waging war on the Church as it proclaims the Gospel. (Rev. 12:1-13:10) The churches are warned against the deception of the Ε false prophet. (Rev. 13:11-18) Redemption of the 144,000 and the outpouring of the D bowls of wrath. (Rev. 14:1-19:10) Jesus returns to conquer, sets up a thousand year reign, then opens scrolls for judgement. (Rev. 19:11-20:15) The Church in glory in the new heaven and earth. B (Rev. 21:1-22:5) Things as they are now and promise that Jesus is coming soon. (Rev. 22:6-21)



#### Who or what is a "church"?

- "Church" in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century was not like today. There were no dedicated buildings, altars, professional clergy or competing denominations or religions.
- For much of the time, Christian assembly was unlawful and carried out in homes or even secretly in caves.

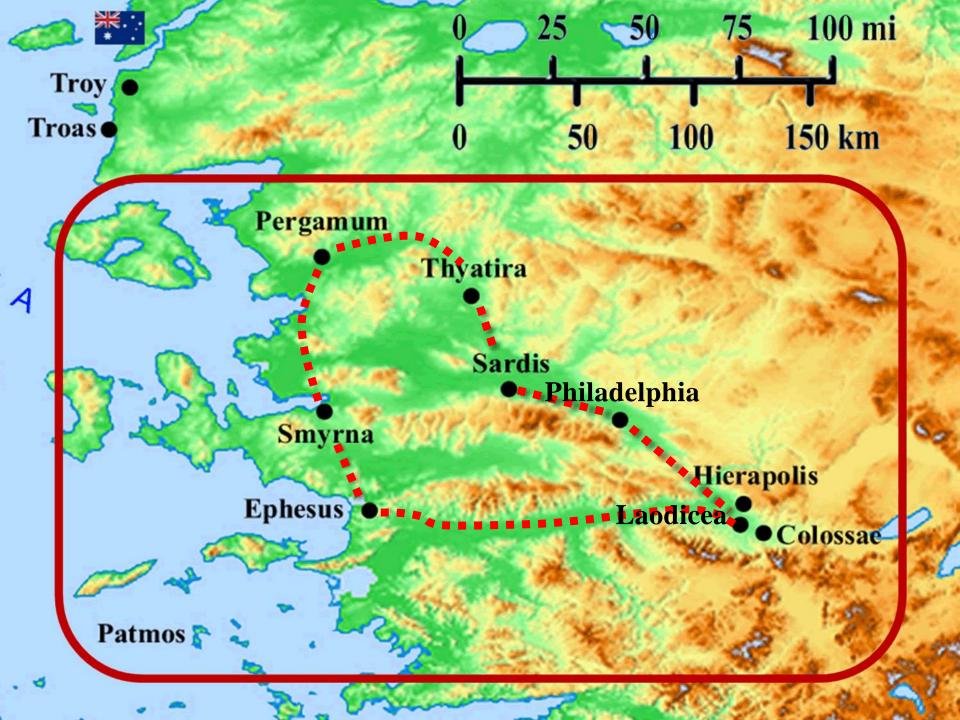


- In fact, the word "church" is a deliberate 17<sup>th</sup> century mistranslation of the Greek ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia, assembly).
  - As the official religion of the Roman Empire, many pagan temples were "Christianized" into churches. Both Eastern and Western Churches adopted many unbiblical pagan practices over time, and invented still others.
  - Pagan influences moulded leadership into a "sacred priesthood".
  - Most Protestant reformers (former Catholic priests) retained many traditions.
  - Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, stipulated in Rule 3 for the KJV that ecclesiastical words (e.g., church (vice congregation, assembly), apostle (envoy), bishop (overseer), devil (accuser), demon (evil spirit), minister, deacon, preacher) would be kept, even though nonbiblical and inherited from Rome. This reinforced Church of England hierarchy and authority.

#### ἐκκλησία, ekklēsia, assembly

- 1. From ek, "out of," and klesis, "a calling" (kaleo, "to call"); a body of citizens "gathered" to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39.
- The "gathering" of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a "gathering" regarded as representative of the whole nation.
- 3. It has two specific Christian applications:
  - a. to the whole company of redeemed throughout the present era of which Christ said, "I will build My Church," (Mat 16:18) and "the Church which is His Body," (Eph 1:22; 5:23),
  - b. in the singular (Mat 18:17), to a company (congregation or assembly) of professed believers, and in the plural, with reference to all believers in a community or district.





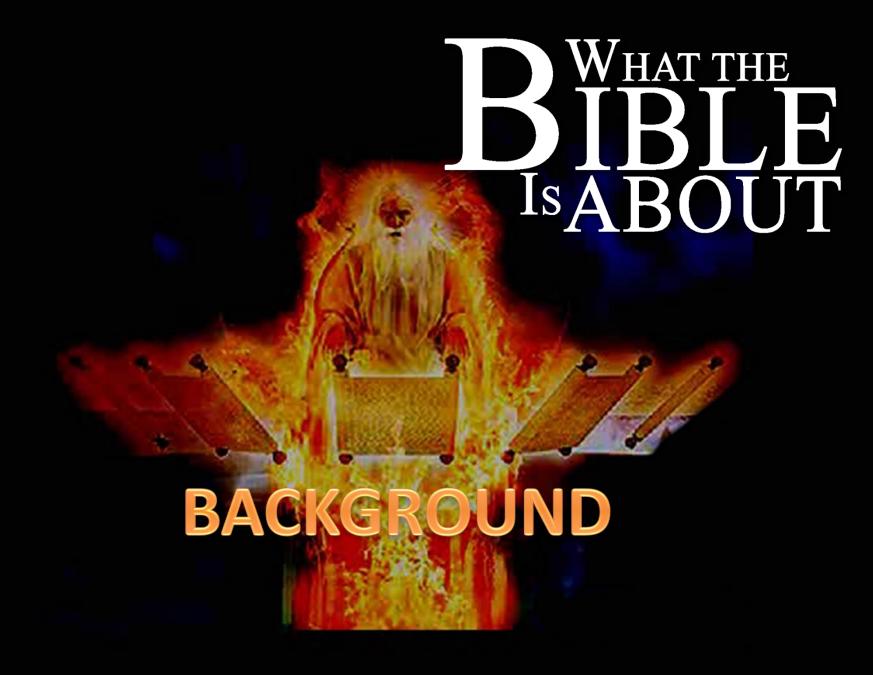
#### The Seven Churches

- 1. Each city/region had active Christian believers in the day.
- Each letter alludes to known prior history relevant to each city/region.
- 3. Each letter alludes to known current events relevant to each city/region in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.
- 4. Each letter contains prophetic allusions to current events, over-horizon events, and future events.
- 5. Each letter was intended to be read by believers in all cities/regions in the day.
- Lessons from each church can be applied to our own lives.
- 7. Each letter can be equated to a period in the history of Western Christianity from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to today.

#### The name of each church is relevant

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
  - Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
    - Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
      - Thyatira\* ("Sacrifice" or "Daughter")
        - Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
          - Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")
            - Laodicea ("Rule of/by the people")

<sup>\*</sup> Formerly named "Semiramis"



### Jesus' report cards to ALL congregations

Each was surprised by its report!

Those thinking they were doing well, weren't.

Those thinking they weren't doing well, were.



The reports are through God's eyes, not Man's!

"For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 55:8

# **Historical Interpretation in the Day**

#### **Real Cities**

Ephesus

("Desired One" or "Darling")

Smyrna

("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")

Pergamos

("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")

Thyatira

("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")

Sardis

("Escaping" or "Remnant")

Philadelphia

("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")

Laodicea

("Rule/judgement of/by the people")

#### **Real Issues**

- The loveless church (Active and busy, but lost sight of why.)
- The persecuted church (God sees your plight. Have strength.)
- The compromising church (Stop your compromise with the world.)
- The corrupt church (Many good works, but corrupt leaders.)
- The dead church (Blinded by pride, the enemy is winning.)
- The faithful church (You persevere through trial; well done.)
- The lukewarm church (Worldly wealth but spiritually naked.)

# Each letter NAILED the specific congregation

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
- Thyatira ("Semiramis" or "Daughter")
- Sardis
  ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
- Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")
- Laodicea ("Rule/judgement of/by the people")

- Devotion, not just doctrine
- > Endure persecution
- > Stand fast against the world
- > Abandon pagan practices
- > Watchfulness, diligence
- Outreach; faithfulness
- > Prosperous compromise

### **Expectation**

Ephesus

Early church

Return

Smyrna

Persecuted church

Remain

Pergamos

Married church

Reclaim

Thyatira

Corrupt church

Remove

Sardis

Dead church

Reborn

Philadelphia

Obedient church

Reward

Laodicea

Apostate church

Repent

#### **Chiastic Church Correlation**

**Ephesus** 

Abandoned first love (Rev 2:4).

Ardour becomes lukewarm Smyrna

Problems with false Jews (Rev 2:9). Crown of life promised (Rev 2:10)

Faithfulness through trials Pergamos

By apostasy (Rev 2:14)

Living faith threatened

Thyatira

Sardis

By formalism (Rev 3:2)

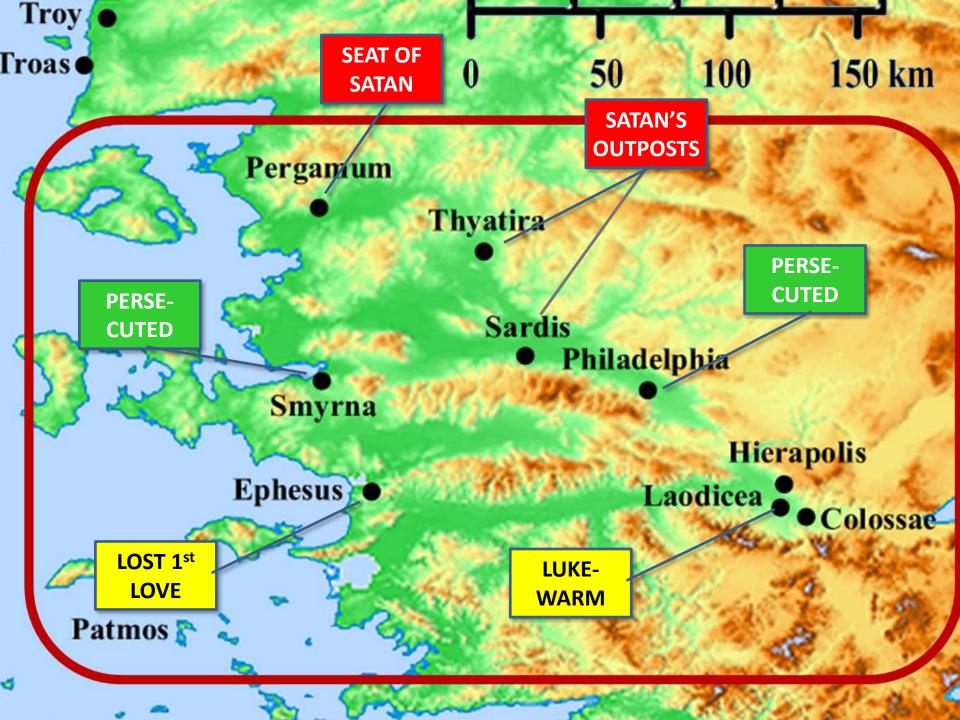
Philadelphia

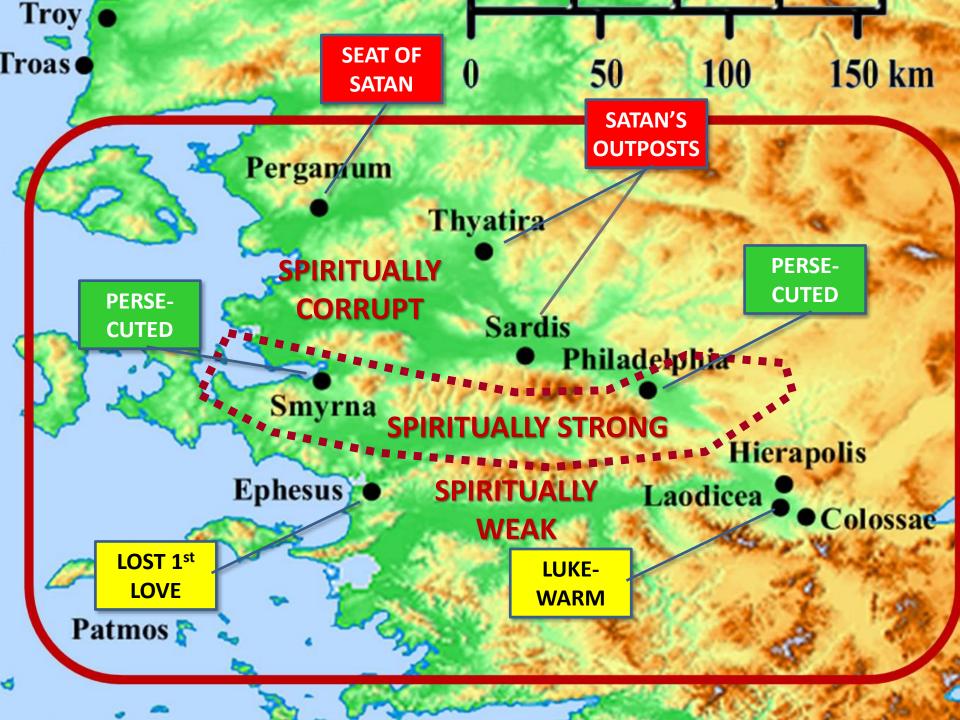
Victory over false Jews (Rev 3:9). Crown of life promised (Rev 3:11)

Laodicea

Neither hot nor cold (Rev 3:15).

Plunged into greatest spiritual darkness in history - into the depths of Satan (Rev 2:24).





### **Historical Parallels with the Old Testament**

Adam affection for Eve superseded his first love (God); expelled from Eden.	<b>Ephesus</b>	As with Adam, Ephesus lost its first love.  Overcomers will be restored to Eden.
Trouble for lergel in Equation to the 10		Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days) Faithful

Trouble for Israel in Egypt up to the 10 plagues. Passover lamb saved faithful.

Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days). Faithful promised not hurt of second death.

From Exodus through Judges, did right in their own eyes. Balaam/Balak. Manna.

Did right in own eyes, married idolatry. Balaam/Balak. Promised hidden manna.

Their own eyes. Balaam/Balak. Manna.

Balaam/Balak. Promised hidden manna

People wanted king. Kingdoms peaked

Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with

W/ Solomon; declined through Jezebel.

Thyatira

Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy. Jezebel.

Cardia (receptor for the paper)

Remnant escape Nebuchadnezzar and remain faithful after AD 606.

Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest.

Under Cyrus open door to return to Israel and rebuild Temple. Homeland in Israel. Celphia of trial; Open door. Homeland w/ Jesus.

Spiritual Israel blind to Christ despite John the Baptist. Jerusalem destroyed AD 70.

Spiritual Laodicea blind to Christ ("Stand outside and knock.") Jesus offers grace.

### Parallels with the Seven Kingdom Parables

Seed is sown. Some is gobbled up by birds. Some superficial. Some burned off by persecution. Some takes root.	Ephesus	False Apostles (birds) error entered the church and Ephesus lost its first love. Nicolaitans (clergy) are a problem.
Enemy sows tares (false Christians) among the wheat. Persecuted by Rome and Synagogue of Satan.	Smyrna	Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days). Faithful promised not hurt of second death. No criticism.
Abhorrent unnatural growth from a small mustard seed into a huge tree, which provides shelter for birds.	Pergamos	Married the world, compromise, served under Satan's seat, Nicolaitans, apostasy, church-state union (4th-5th century).
Woman (Jezebel?) kneads leaven (sin, hypocrisy, wickedness) into fellowship offering; symbolic of sacrifice not peace.	Thyatira	Apostate satanic doctrine and unending sacrifices; parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy; Jezebel.
Treasure (faithful Jewish remnant in the diaspora) hidden in the field (world). Jesus' sacrifice buys the field for them.	Sardis	Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest; dead church; real remnant are those few remaining faithful.
Oysters not Kosher. Jewish Merchants sell but do not prize pearls. They grow by irritation; must leave shell for value.	Phila- delphia	Small faithful Christian remnant spared severe hour of trial; open door. Promised homeland with Jesus.

Laodicea

Parable of the net where all are caught

and separated afterwards.

Rich in worldly wealth but spiritually poor,

Laodicea blind to Christ ("I stand outside

and knock"). Jesus offers grace.

# **Summary of the Church Age**

book of Acts).

**Brief description** 

Rapid spread during the lives of the apostles (see the

**Church Age** 

**Ephesus** 

AD 30-100

<b>Smyrna</b> 100-313	Pagan persecution of the underground church until Constantine as Emperor issued the Edict of Milan.
Pergamos 313-600	Marriage of the church to the State (Roman Empire), mixing residual paganism and Christianity.
Thyatira 600-1517	The medieval rule of the Roman Catholic Church as a queen, living deliciously with the kings of the earth.
<b>Sardis</b> 1517-1648	Reformation and the Catholic Counter-reformation and ongoing destruction of the Protestant movement.
Philadelphia 1648-1900	Rapid spread worldwide through missionary zeal and outreach.
Laodicea 1900- ?	Apostasy and the decline of the nominal lukewarm modern (Western) church.

# Patterns recur over time

City	Prophetic patterns observed				
<b>Ephesus</b> ("Desirable"; "Desired One")	Most desirable tourism site in Asia. Artemis amulets local best seller. First love (Living Water) lost as bay receded (siltified); new attempts to recreate canal.				
Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering")	Long-lost ruins found underneath Muslim cemetery. Site of 1922 Christian (Armenian, Greek) genocide. Arab Spring has ethnically cleansed Middle East.				
Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")	Satan's seat now in Berlin inspired Nazi ceremonies. Caduceus (commerce) now used as medical symbol. Plundered by archaeologists; treasures in Berlin.				
Thyatira ("Perpetual sacrifice")	Subsumed under town; no interest in excavation.  No evidence of Christian presence; ruins of spruiked basilica are actually of secular city hall/guild hall.				
Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")	Appearance w/o substance; impregnable citadel built on clay, now eroded; fell numerous times thru sloth. Integration of wealthy synagogue with gym/baths.				
Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")	Indefensible, but final Christian city in Asia; never fell. Main evidence are three pillars of 6 <sup>th</sup> century basilica. Only site with current chapel (nuns tending roses).				
Laodicea ("Rule of the people")	Moved to well rather than stay with calcified water. Excavations say, "We need nothing" re govt funding. Aspires to be greater tourist site than Ephesus.				

### The seven Kingdom parables

#### Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

#### Ephesus

("First", "Desired One" or "Darling")

#### Smyrna

("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")

#### Pergamos

("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")

#### Thyatira

("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")

#### Sardis

("Escaping" or "Remnant")

#### Philadelphia

("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")

#### Laodicea

("Rule of the people", Lukewarm")

#### Matthew Chapter 13

- The Sower and the Four Soils

  Matthew 13:3-9
- The Tares and the Wheat
  Matthew 13:24-30
- The Mustard Seed

  Matthew 13:31-32
- The Woman and the Leaven
  Matthew 13:33
- The Treasure in the Field
  Matthew 13:44
- The Pearl of Great Price

  Matthew 13:45-46
- The Dragnet

  Matthew 13:46-50

### Revelation 2 & 3 versus Paul's Epistles

#### Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

#### Paul's 7 epistles

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
- Thyatira ("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")
- Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
- Philadelphia ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")
- Laodicea ("Rule of the people", Lukewarm")

- Ephesians (keep self & church holy)
- Philippians (joy through suffering)
- Corinthians (marriage to world)
- Galatians (religious externalism)
- Romans (Paul's definitive doctrine)
- Thessalonians (raptured Church)
- Colossians (A few km from Laodicea; instructed to trade letters with Laodicea; Greek phrases unique to these letters).

#### **Promises to the Overcomer**

Ephesus
Eat of the Tree of Life

Smyrna Not hurt of second death

Pergamos Manna, Stone, Name.

Thyatira
Power over nations.

Sardis
Walk with Him in white;
name not blotted out.

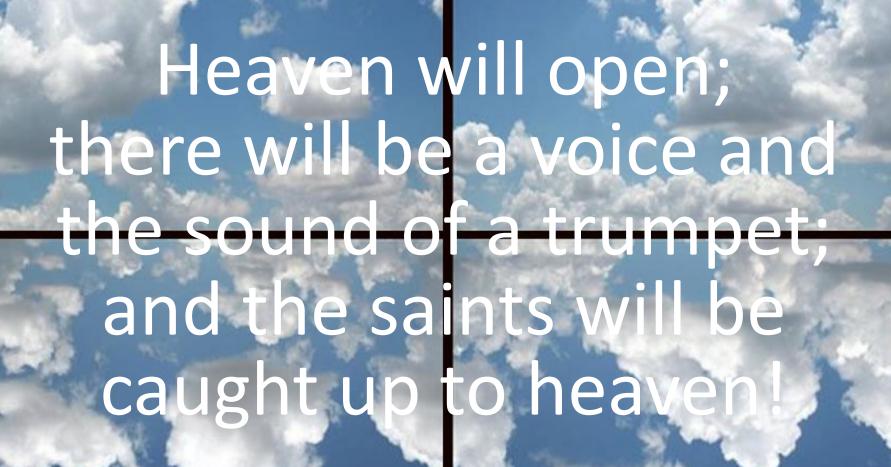
Philadelphia Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name.

Laodicea
Sit with Him on His throne.

### Each letter applies to YOU AND ME individually

- Ephesus Neglected priorities ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna Satanic opposition ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Thyatira Flee pagan practices; the Word ("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")
- Philadelphia > Loyal Ambassadorship ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")





GOD'S JUDGMENT THEEMAIN WILLBEGIN

- But first He gives us a glimpse into glory and permits us to witness worship in heaven.
- Two aspects of worship are presented for our instruction and imitation:



Chapter 5 REDEFIER

### Worship

# God's people Worship the Creator (Chapter 4)

- On the throne—Almighty God (vv. 2–3a).
- Around the throne—a rainbow (v. 3b).
- Around the throne—elders and living creatures (vv. 3–4, 6–7).
- Out of the throne—storm signals (v. 5a).
- Before the throne—lamps and a sea (vv. 5b–6a).
- Praise to the throne (vv. 9–11).

# God's people Worship the Redeemer (Chapter 5)

- Because of who He is (vv. 5–7).
- Because of where He is (v. 6).
- Because of what He does (vv. 8–10).
- Because of what He has (vv. 11–14).

### **God's people Worship the Creator**



On the throne—Almighty God (vv. 2–3a).

Around the thronear a rainbow (v. 3b).

Out of the throne-storm signals (v. 5a).

Around the throne-elders and living creatures (vv. 3–4, 6–7).

Before the thronelamps and a sea (vv. 5b–6a).

Praise to the throne (vv. 9–11).

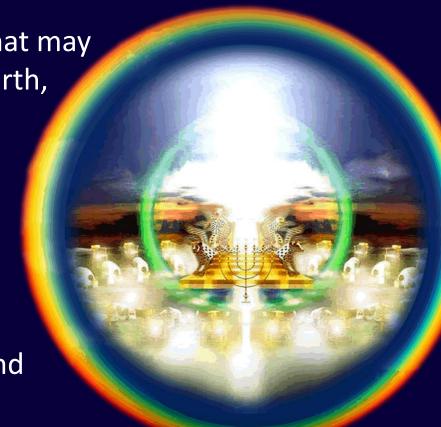
A singular focus in heaven

Focal point is the throne (used 14x this chapter, 46x in Revelation).

No matter what may happen on earth, God is in complete

The imagery emphasizes God's glory and sovereignty.

control.



The Father is on His throne (4.2-3).

The Holy Spirit is before the throne (4.5).

John sees the Lamb of God (5.6).

The rainbow is a circle vertically (complete). Judgment will fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful. Usually, a rainbow appears after the storm, but here, we see it before the storm.

# **Parallels**

<b>Earthly Temple</b>	<b>Heavenly Sanctuary</b>
<ul><li>Holy of Holies</li></ul>	Throne of God
<ul> <li>Seven-branched candlestick</li> </ul>	Seven lamps of fire before the Throne
Bronze Laver	Sea of glass
<ul> <li>Cherubim over the mercy seat</li> </ul>	Four living creatures
Priests	Elders (kings and priests)
<ul><li>Bronze Altar</li></ul>	Altar (Rev. 6:9-11)
Incense Altar	Incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5)
<ul><li>Ark of the Covenant</li></ul>	Ark of the Covenant (Rev 11:10)

### They worship the Redeemer



Because of

who He is

(verses 5-7)

Because of where He is (verse 6)

Because of

what He does

(verses 8-10)

Because of what He has (verses 11-14)

### **Hymns of Praise in Revelation 4 and 5**

Revelation 4 and 5 include five praise hymns that rise to a magnificent crescendo throughout the universe for the One on the throne and for the One in the midst of the throne!

- There is a progression in the praise.
  - More and more beings join in as the praise is given.
    - They progress in time from creation to the end of the world.



Hymn 1: The eternal existence and holiness of God is seen (from eternity past) (4:8).



Hymn 2: Creation is reason for praise (4:11).



Hymn 3: Ascribes merits from the cross. He then empowers us with the gift of the Spirit (at Pentecost) (5:9).

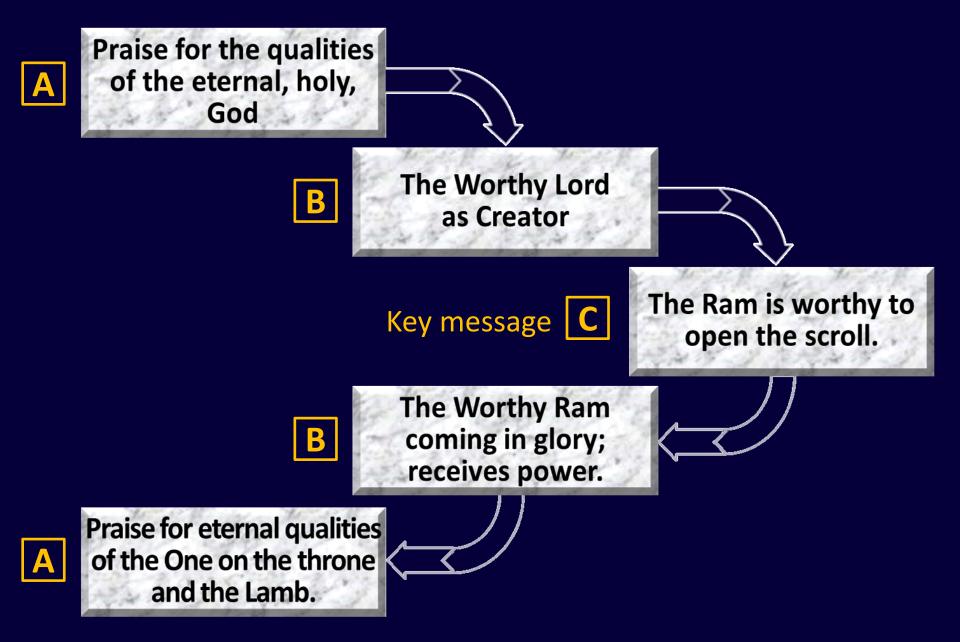


Hymn 4: He has Power. According to Rev 7, this He receives in the judgment (5:10-12).



Hymn 5: The whole universe is involved in the praise. Every knee will bow around the Great White Throne at the end of the Millennium (5:13)

### The five hymns follow a chiastic pattern



**God's Plan of Salvation Seen in Hymns 1-5** 

Praise	Voices	Actions	Divine Qualifications	Event or Time
Prelude	out of the throne lightnings and thunderings and voices (4:5)		+	The fall - By choosing sin, man is without hope. The divine law has been broken.
Hymn 1	Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (4:8)	The 4 living creatures praise the One on the throne day and night.	Righteousness of God in all ages	Looking back to eternity past, and considering creation, through to the time of the cross.
Hymn 2	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. (4:11)	The 24 elders bow, casting their crowns before the throne.	God is worthy as creator and sustainer of all.	After creation. Genesis 2:1
Hymn 3, chiastic center	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; (5:9)	When the Lamb took the scroll, creatures and elders with harps and prayers sang this new song.	Jesus, the divine substitute is worthy to open the scroll (book) is worthy as priest and judge	Inauguration of Christ after His death, resurrection and ascension. He begins the <u>preadvent judgment</u> in the end times Rev 14:6. It is described as breaking the seals in chapter 6. See Daniel's description in Daniel 7:8.
Hymn 4	And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on [over] the earth Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (5:10,12)	The angels along with the living creatures and the elders have seen the records of the opened scroll.	Jesus is found worthy to reign as king (See Daniel 7:14)	The pre-advent judgment ends and the millennial judgment begins at the coming of Christ. Those found righteous reign with Christ as kings and priests per Rev 20:4.
Hymn 5	Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. (Rev. 5:13)	These words are from "every creature" which would include the wicked. (Romans 14:10-12)	The one on the throne and the lamb are both worthy.	The millennial judgment is followed by the <u>Great White Throne Judgement</u> . All the universe including the wicked see God's divine justice. The wicked are destroyed. Rev 20:11-13.
Postlude	Amen (5:14)	The living creatures said, amen, and the elders worshiped	T.	Life of the redeemed forever at peace in a universe living God's love

# **Hymn 1: Revelation 4:8**

This hymn recognizes God's holiness, omnipotence, and eternalness. This is the opening hymn, the "Call to Worship" for what follows.

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing;

"Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come."

### **Hymn 1: Revelation 4:8**

- The four living creatures ceaselessly worship the one seated on the throne. The three-fold "holy" (see Isaiah 6.3) is a highly emphatic way of emphasizing God's unique holiness. John was allowed to view the centre of all holiness. The words of the living creatures tie this to John's initial description of God as the ageless one (Rev 1.4).
- In 4.9 we begin to see the function of the four living creatures more clearly. They serve as leaders of worship for the heavenly throng. There are four aspects to their words of worship:
  - 1. They ascribe *glory* to God. God's greatness and power must be recognized.
  - 2. They *honour* God. This can be construed as royal language. To honour God admits God's kingship.
  - 3. They *give thanks* to God. John is shown that the need to give thanks to God will never end, even extending to heaven.
  - 4. They recognize God's *eternity*. God is the one who "lives forever and ever."

# Hymn 2: Revelation 4:10-11

 God's is worthy to be worshiped because he is the Creator of all.

The twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

### Hymn 2: Revelation 4:10-11

- This is the baseline hymn. It is a "doxology" in light of its ascription of worthiness and glory to God.
- The elders follow the lead of the living creatures and offer their own worship by bowing before the throne and offering their crowns to God. They release any claim to their own authority and autonomy. They are utterly devoted to the service of God.
- This is first place in Revelation that anyone "worships." The main New Testament word for "worship" (proskuneo) implies giving obeisance, to bow down. Thus "worshiping" can be a physical position. In English "worship" has the connotation of "giving worth to someone," or "counting someone to be ultimately worthy."
- Worship here is not an emotion. It is an acknowledgement and a full commitment. We worship that which is superior and worthy of our honour. To say "You are worthy" is the very heart of worship: acknowledging the Worthy One. In an absolute sense, God is the only one "worthy to be praised" (Psalm 18.3). When understand that and see worship as spiritual submission to God, he is then our King and Master, and we are his blessed servants.

### Hymn 3: Revelation 5:8, 9

The Lamb's worthiness to open the scroll is revealed in light of his sacrifice on the cross and his formation of a new people of God on earth.

When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song, singing:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints

from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be kings and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

### Hymn 3: Revelation 5:8, 9

- Heavenly worship ceases temporarily to (1) get the judgement underway and (2) introduce the Lamb. Worship resumes when He appears and joins Father God as the object of worship.
- Harps and bowls of incense add to John's spiritual experience.
- The earlier image of the elders as being white robed and wearing crowns signifies their dual role as kings and priests. In this hymn, the king/priest motif re-emerges, recognized as made possible by the Lamb's victory.
- Further evidence of the level of worship given the Lamb is found in the singing of a "new song."
- This worship celebration for the Lamb is motivated by two things:
  - 1. Jesus appears in heaven as the Redeemer for the people of God. He has been slain as an atoning sacrificial victim, and His blood bought redemption to both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus' death is not a defeat, but a victory (he has "prevailed").
  - 2. Jesus is acclaimed because his sacrifice has made him worthy to solve the current crisis: break the seals and open the book.

### Hymn 4: Revelation 5:11, 12

The Lamb's worthiness to be worshiped is on a par with God.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

### Hymn 4: Revelation 5:11, 12

- This is the hymn most full of attributes, all pointed to the Lamb.
- The song of the elders is now joined by the infinite host of heavenly angels. They are innumerable. John's witness to this glorious scene is beyond our imaginations.
- The worship from the angels is seven-fold, the perfect combination.
  It encompasses every possible qualification for worthiness:
- King of Israel Good
  Righteous One Holy and TrueHoly One
  Horn of Salvation Light of the World K
  Iving One Man Of Sorrows Firstborn Fro
  Our Redemption Firstborn Fro
  Mighty
  Word of God Man from Heaven
  Author of Salvation
  Great High Priest Man of God Advocate
  Image of God Life Son of God
  Eternal Life Son of God
  Eternal Life Rabbi Only Begotten
  Ing of the Ages
  Faithful and True
  Precious Cornerstone Lord of lords
- 1. power (authority),
- 2. wealth (riches),
- 3. wisdom (intellect),
- 4. might (empowerment),
- 5. honour (esteem),
- 6. glory (personal splendour) and
- 7. blessing (praise).

# Hymn 5: Revelation 5:13, 14

Universal and eternal worship is both for God and for the Lamb.

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To **the one** seated on the throne **and to the**Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the **four living creatures** said, **"Amen!"** And the **elders** fell down and **worshiped.** 

### Hymn 5: Revelation 5:13, 14

- Universal and eternal worship is both for God and for the Lamb.
- The worship chorus is now joined by all creatures. The celebration is so great that even heaven cannot contain it for it has spread to earth. The acclamation of the creatures is four-fold, symbolic of the entire world, repeating four of the items from the angelic song.
- Human beings are assumed to be present, but they are not the centre of the worship exercise. They are on the outer ring.
- This song is similar to the original song of God's worthiness in Revelation 4.11, except worship now includes the Lamb. The Redeemer of Humankind is worthy of worship, and no human king is similarly deserving.
- The scene ends on a high note with the worship of the four beasts and the twenty-four elders. They worship unreservedly, counting the Lamb as worthy as the One who sits on the throne.