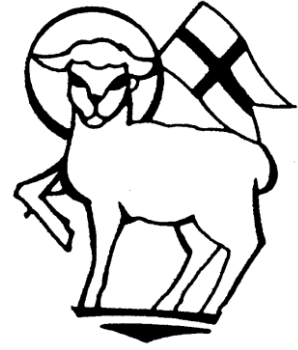


September 21, 2010

REVELATION 5 THE CORONATION OF THE LAMB!



¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹Then I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and around the winged creatures and the elders, and their number was ten thousands times ten thousands and thousands times thousands (Brighton), ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures were continually saying, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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- v. 1 - “in the right hand... a scroll written within and on the back”
+ God’s right hand works salvation for his people (Exodus 15:6, 12)
+ The scroll symbolically contains God’s plan of salvation
+ “written within and on the back” indicates God’s complete and total plan of salvation
- “sealed with seven seals”- 1st century last wills and testaments would be sealed with seven seals, one for each witness who had to be present before the administrator could open the will and read out the inheritance.
- v. 2 - “a strong angel”- also in 10:1 and 18:21 with more detail, we’ll discuss it when we get there!
- “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?” – Who has legal claim to come before God’s throne and take it from God’s right hand?
- Why does John begin to weep when no one is found worthy to open the scroll? What does that tell us?*
- v. 5 - “the lion of the tribe of Judah” – Jesus’ human descent from the Israelite tribe of Judah
+ Gen 49:8-10, Micah 5:2. / 4 Ezra 11:36-46- roaring lion as symbol of the messiah
- “the Root of David” – Continuing Jesus’ descent from King David would come the messiah
+ 2 Sam 7:12-16, Isaiah 11:1-10, Matt 9:27 (“Son of David”)
- v. 6 - “a lamb standing as though it had been slain” – the image of Christ as Passover Lamb
+ 1 Cor. 5:7
+ John’s focus is on the lamb as He is received before the throne
- “with seven horns & with seven eyes,”
+ Horns- in the OT horns are symbols of power in human affairs (Deut 33:13-17)
+ Eyes- this Lamb has total omniscience as well (Zech 4:10)
+ Given the number 7 the Lamb rules over both the human and spiritual realms

- “the seven Spirits (Holy Spirit) of God” the Holy Spirit now acts on behalf of Christ
- v. 8 - “and when he had taken the scroll” – A LOT happens because of this seemingly mundane detail
 - + What is so significant about the Lamb taking the scroll?
 - + Daniel 7:13-14
 - + Creed- “ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
- “each holding a harp” – the traditional instrument of psalms- Ps 33:2
- “golden bowls full of incense” – Ex. 30:1, 7-8; Ps 141:2
- v. 9 - “they sang a new song” – the Greek includes a force best rendering the idea- “They began to sing and continued to do so without ceasing.”

What does the song say is the reason why the Lamb is worthy to take the scroll?

- v. 12 - “power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing”
 - + Who says this and where are they located?
- v. 13 - “blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever”
 - + Who says this and where are they located?

So when does this coronation and enthronement take place???

The Ascension of Christ looks probable:

- After the suffering, death, and resurrection (5:6)
- The ascended Christ would sit in glory at the right hand of God the Father (John 17:24)
- Before Stephen’s martyrdom he sees Christ enthroned in glory at God’s right hand (Acts 7:55-56)
- Peter claims that Christ was exalted before Pentecost (Acts 2:32-35, 3:12-13)

Brighton: The ultimate purpose of Christ receiving the scroll and then revealing its contents to John and the church is to strengthen the church’s faith and to encourage the church, in the midst of all the sufferings, to remain faithful to Christ and so to attain the promise of everlasting glory. That faithfulness involves carrying out the mission Christ has given to her... The entire destiny of the church, of the human race, and of all history is thus revealed as the scroll is opened – NOT as a blueprint or a time schedule of human history, but rather as a visionary, prophetic picture of the times from the ascension of Christ to the [last moment].” (pg 139)

**NEXT WEEK!
THE FIRST SIX SEALS ARE OPENED!**