

Sermon Follow-up — August 16, 2020 — The Seven Seals of Revelation 4–8

Sermon Recap

In Rev 4:1, John is invited to enter the throne room of God to "see what must take place after this." After entering, John saw an image of God as a magnificent being on a throne surrounded by symbols of beauty and power. Everyone was worshipping the LORD as the One "who was and is and is to come" (Rev 4:8). The first thing John reveals is that Jesus is sitting on a throne. No matter how things may appear on earth, Jesus is not absent but is seated on His throne. In Rev 5:5, John hears of the mighty warrior Messiah known as the "Lion of Judah" and "Root of David." However, in 5:6 what John sees is not a king ready for warfare, but a lamb that had been slain but was very much alive. The Messiah conquered by His own death, not by killing others. John reminds the suffering church that the pathway to salvation came through Jesus' surrender in death. We need to ask the question, "What has He saved us from?" As the scroll announces judgment on the earth, the kings and people ask, "Who can withstand it?" John hears a census of God's people being taken to prepare an army for battle. However, what John sees is a "great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." The scene shows that the pathway to conquering does not come by the sword but rather by a cross and the pathway of death. Jesus had already told his disciples that they were to take up their cross daily to follow Him if they were to receive salvation (Luke 9:23). Revelation reveals Jesus the Messiah on the throne. He has saved us by laying down His life for us. Are we willing to lay down our lives for Him?

Application Questions

1. Where in your life do you find it difficult to see Jesus on the throne?
2. What was your picture of Jesus growing up (i.e. mighty warrior, lamb, etc.)? How does that compare/contrast to today?
3. John "began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it." The reason John was grieved was that no one could know God's plan without the seeing what God had revealed on the scroll. Can you see how Jesus has "broken open the seals" of the Bible to you so that you can see God's plan?
4. What does it look like to lay down your life for Jesus today? Will you commit to pray and take a next step toward that submission?