

## Recap: Revelation Chapters 1-5

Revelation - Greek word 'apocalypsis'

- 19 times noun => 'revelation' or 'unveiling';

26 times = verb => "to unveil"

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (1:1-3)

John the Apostle: Ephesus - 96 AD

## Interpretations

- o written for those in the first century
- o historical, symbolic language.
- o idealist view - book strictly allegorical; Christ reigns in our hearts and not literally on earth.
- o Prophetic (1:30)

Christ will reign on earth

- o A-millennial – Christ will not reign
- o Pre-millennial - Christ will rule on earth for 1000 years after His Second Coming and before the final judgment.
- o Post-millennial view - literal 1,000-year period before Christ's Second Coming.

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

(Rev 1:19)

1. Salutation, "To the angel of the church ..."
2. Title – Christ's self-designation – this title Christ uses of himself is relevant to the letter.
3. Commendation – "I know ..."
4. Condemnation – "but I have this against you..."
5. Warning – "remember therefore..."
6. Exhortation – "He that has an ear..."

## 7. Promise – “To him that overcomes”

- Ephesus - apostolic church
- Smyrna – age persecution of the early church
- Pergamus - ‘per’ = ‘mixed’ or ‘objectionable’; ‘gamus’ = marriage => ‘mixed marriage’ – syncretism; integration of church and state under Constantine.
- Thyatira - medieval Roman church
- Sardis - denominational church following Reformation.
- Philadelphia - the missionary church, speaking of the great awakening in 18-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Laodicea - modern church of today and beyond.

## Chapter 4

“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.” (4:1)

*after this = Greek metataute*

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

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.

24 elders NOT angels, but representatives of the whole church.

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.

Judgment.

Four living creatures

- covered with eyes, in front and in back - scrutiny, knowledge and wisdom
- first like a lion, second like an ox, third like a man, fourth like a flying eagle.
- cherubim - about to assist God in judgment (Rev 15.1)

Chapters 4-6 play out like a vast oratorio or opera, comprising four acts.

- Act 1 begins in Ch. 4, climax with worship of God as creator.

- Acts 2 - begins in chapter 5; the Lamb on the throne, Jesus worshipped as Redeemer.
- Act 3 – Ch 6, Lamb opens the seals; climax with the wrath of the Lamb
- Act 4 - final climax, uncountable number from every tribe and nation assemble before the Throne of God.

... the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. (4:8)

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (4:11)

## Chapter 5

"who is worthy to open the seals" (5:2)

The only one worthy to open the seals had to be Kinsmen of Adam and no one is qualified.

"Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah the root of David has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." (5:5)

Book of Ruth - Boaz - takes on role of a Kinsmen Redeemer.