

Revelation, Chapters 4 and 5

When John went to heaven, he encountered the court of God, the worship of God in heaven, the magnificence of God in heaven, and Christ the Lamb in heaven.

Compare the following verses:

1. Ezekiel 1: 4-5 with Revelation 4:4-5; (God's heavenly court)
2. Isaiah 6:2-3 with Revelation 4:8; (Heavenly worship)
3. Exodus 3:14 with Revelation 4:10; (Description of God)
4. Genesis 49:9 with Revelation 5:5; (Description of the Lamb of God – Christ)

What similarities do you see in the verses?

What differences do you read in the verses?

What do you know about John and his knowledge of Jewish scripture based on comparing the verses?

John writes in Chapter 5, verse 6, that he “saw a lamb as if it had been slain.” Where else in the New Testament do we encounter “The Lamb of God”? (hint: it's in the gospel of John – think John the Baptist)

Revelation, Chapters 6, 7, and 8

The Opening of the Seven Seals

Christ the Lamb opens the seals one by one and John is stunned to see a series of visions of destruction, connected to four riders on horses and seven angels blowing trumpets. What does the opening of the seven seals represent?

The four horsemen of the Apocalypse (6:1-7), the martyrs (6:9), the gathering of the faithful (7:4 – 17) and the long silence accompany the opening of the seven seals. (8:1) What might each of these heavenly scenes represent in the story of salvation?

Group Discussion Questions

1. In Revelation Chapter 4, John gets to experience worship in heaven. Why do you think God allowed John to witness worship in the heavenly court before showing him visions of future events?
2. How does worship at CUMC help us to relate to and understand the hardships we experience in the world today?
3. Some people say that we are living in the last days according to these chapters (5-8) of Revelation. What do you think? Why?
4. Read aloud Matthew 24: 35-36. What does Jesus tell us about the timing of the coming of the last days?
5. On the first Sunday of the Advent season, through biblical (lectionary) and church tradition, the church reminds us that we are in the “in between time”; the time after the birth and resurrection of Christ, but before the second coming of Christ. We know that the battle between good and evil has already been won by Christ’s resurrection, but we acknowledge that we are still fighting evil/good “battles” here on earth. How do we structure our lives, our relationship with God, and our good deeds in these “in between” times?

Assignment for Next Week

1. Read chapters 9-12 in the New Testament book of Revelation.
 2. Make notes about what you are reading asking the questions who, what, when, where, and why. Note the most confusing passages.
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1. Pray each day for at least 5 minutes.