

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 7: A Game of Thrones

July 11 & 12, 2015

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor

Revelation 4 & 5

Before God gives us a view of what is to come he wants us to have a clear picture of what is!

Using the words “had the appearance,” “resembled” and “what looked like” means John is struggling to describe the indescribable.

Notice the position of the throne: central.

Application: Jesus must be central in everything or it's worthless.

The Identity of the 24 Elders

Some have suggested a combination of Old Testament patriarchs and New Testament apostles. Others have suggested an angelic guard. Others have suggested Jews and Gentiles.

Grant's position: I don't know, but it appears to be deeply connected to the Redeemed of God through all of human history

The Identity of the Living Creatures

Deeply connected to the character of God; Majesty and Royalty (Lion), Faithfulness (Ox), Intelligence (Man), Sovereignty (Eagle)

What or who the elders and the living creatures are is not nearly as important as what they are doing or saying!

Revelation 4:8-11

⁸“‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

The elders and creatures are leading in worship.

They're making bold proclamations:

God is holy (vs. 8)

God is eternal (vs. 8b and 9)

God is worthy (vs. 11)

God is the true source of everything (vs. 11b)

Who is worthy to open the scroll?

A Lion (symbolizing Jesus' power and authority)

A Lamb (symbolizing Jesus' submission to God's will)

Interesting Note: God collects tears (Psalm 56:8) and prayers (Revelation 5:8)

There is only one fitting response when encountering the worthy Lion and the submissive Lamb: Worship!

Revelation 5:9-14

⁹“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹²In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

¹⁴The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Next Steps

Respond in worship and obedience through baptism. If you've chosen to follow Jesus but haven't been baptized, sign up at the Connection Point today for one of the baptism classes on July 18/19 after services. Details on today's insert.

Read Revelation 6 this week. Pay attention to “what is” not only “what is to come.”

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's the most beautiful thing you have ever seen? Try and describe it. Is it hard to put it into words?
- 2) Grant stated, “Jesus must be central in everything or it's worthless.” Agree or disagree?
- 3) Why does it matter that God is holy, eternal, worthy and the true source? How does that affect your day-to-day life?
- 4) Is it possible to worship God 24/7? How do you worship God at work? How do you worship God in your recreation? Can you worship God continually?
- 5) Why is it important to know “what is” before you learn “what is to come?”
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?