

Setting the scene:

The book of the Revelation is divided into three sections

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

1) The things which you have seen. Revelation chapter 1: Jesus' identity and ministry is revealed to John.

He is Almighty God

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

He is the resurrected God

Revelation 1:18 *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

2) The things which are. Revelation chapters 2-3 Jesus message to the seven churches.

3) The things which will take place after this. Revelation chapters 4-22 What will happen after the church age. The tribulation period, the millennial kingdom, and heaven and hell.

Revelation 5 belongs to the things that will take place after this category.

Revelation chapters 4-5 describe John's vision of heaven.

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

After these things – after Jesus finishes addressing the seven churches.

A door standing open in heaven - The locality of revelation chapters 4 and 5 is heaven.

**Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.**

John's focus is upon God the Father and upon the scroll which He is holding. We know it is God the Father sitting on the throne, because Jesus will come and take the scroll from his hand.

The scroll is the title deed to the earth.

Daniel 7:13-14 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

**Revelation 5:2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"**

This reminds of the words of the song, Is He worthy by Andrew Peterson.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?

Of all blessing and honor and glory

Is He worthy of this?

He is

When John saw this vision, he had not yet read the book of the Revelation. So at this moment, John would not know if anyone was worthy to open the seals.

**Revelation 5:3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

No one was found worthy to open the scrolls.

**Revelation 5:4** So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

He wept because all the promises for the restoration of Israel, and the blessings of the millennial kingdom were written on the scroll.

**Revelation 5:5** But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

The angel is talking about Jesus. He came as a gentle lamb to die for our sins.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

When he returns he comes as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, to pour out his wrath against the ungodly.

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

**Revelation 5:6** And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

The lamb that was slain – John recognizes Jesus

**Revelation 5:7** Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Jesus takes the scroll out of the Father's hand

I have had several opportunities to witness to people belonging to the Truth Tabernacle. They teach that Jesus is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They reject the trinity. They deny that there is one God who exists in three persons.

Here are some other verses that I use to challenge those who would try to deny the trinity.

Daniel 7:13-14 <sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed. – the Son of Man coming to the Ancient of Days – God the Son coming to God the Father

Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." - God the Son

being baptized, God the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and God the Father speaking from heaven

**Genesis 19:24** Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. The Lord in Sodom and the Lord from heaven.

**Zechariah 2:10-11** "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. The LORD sending the LORD.

**Revelation 5:8** Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Heaven breaks forth rejoicing when Jesus takes the scroll from the Father.

**Revelation 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Who are the redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people and nation? It has to be the church. The church is composed of Jew and Gentile redeemed from every nation. And they are in heaven before Jesus opens the scroll!

**Revelation 5:10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Those in heaven are identified as kings and priests. It is speaking of the church, which is known as the priesthood of believers. And they are looking forward to going back to the earth.

**Revelation 5:11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

There is a great multitude of believers in heaven.

**Revelation 5:12-14** <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

When Jesus takes the scroll, heaven breaks forth worshipping the Father and the Son.

The church is already in heaven when Jesus opens the first seal.

**Revelation 6:1-2** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The rider on the white horse is the antichrist. The church will be in heaven before he is revealed.

That is confirmed by the Apostle Paul.

**2 Thessalonians 2:5-12** <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own

time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do* so until He is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The tribulation period begins when the antichrist confirms the covenant with Israel for seven weeks (of years in context)

Daniel 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

The tribulation period begins when the antichrist signs the covenant with Israel. He cannot be revealed until the restrainer has been removed. And the church is in heaven before Jesus opens the first seal. That means that the church must be in heaven before the tribulation period begins.

The church is not given to wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

God's wrath begins to be poured out at the beginning of the tribulation period. Remember it is Jesus who is opening the seven seals.

Revelation 6:12-17 <sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The great commission says that we are to be witnesses until the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

During the tribulation period, God will raise up 144,000 Jewish witnesses who will take the gospel to the whole world. (Revelation chapter 7) Why would God raise up those 144,000 to preach the gospel? The church age is come to an end.

When Jesus spoke of the tribulation period, he is not addressing the church. He is addressing Jewish believers who will be alive at that time.

Matthew 24:15-16 <sup>15</sup> "Therefore when you see the (V)'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>15</sup> "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

We don't live in Judea, we live in Calgary or Mexico

Matthew 24:20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Christians don't keep the Sabbath, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Sunday.

**Luke 21:12** But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.

Christians do not attend synagogues.

So I have some good news today. We will be in heaven before the tribulation period begins! The church will be raptured before the antichrist can be revealed.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you (X) by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words

There may be someone sitting in our church, or listening to our broadcast who has never received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Lord is not willing that any should perish.

The Book of the Revelation ends with an invitation.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

If you would like to receive Jesus as your Savior this morning, receive the gift of eternal life, and escape the wrath to come, I would invite you to come forward during the closing hymns and to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you are watching on line, then please email our church and tell us you would like to do that.