



## STUDY GUIDE • WEEK 2 • REVELATION 4-5

WE ARE SO EXCITED YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR OUR DEAR CHURCH SERMON SERIES. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS THE CAPTIVATING, POWERFUL, AND AT TIMES CONFUSING LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT GOD WILL SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH THIS SERIES. EACH WEEK, ALONG WITH THE SERMON OUTLINE, WE WILL PROVIDE A FOUR-PAGE STUDY GUIDE TO HELP YOU READ, UNDERSTAND, AND APPLY THE CHAPTERS COVERED. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE HELPFUL FOR YOU PERSONALLY AS WELL AS FOR DISCUSSION AND SHARING WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS MATT SMETHURST SAID, *"GOD DID NOT GIVE US THE BOOK OF REVELATION SO WE'D BUILD BOMB SHELTERS IN THE BACKYARD. HE GAVE US THIS BOOK SO WE'D BUILD BIGGER DINNER TABLES AND INVITE OUR FRIENDS OVER AND TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS."*

WITH LOVE, PASTORS GLENN AND ERIC

## UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 4 - 5

Now that Jesus has addressed the seven churches, He invites John into heaven to reveal to him all that will take place. However, before God reveals to John the end times, he beholds the magnificent glory of God. He witnesses living creatures, none that has ever been found on earth, proclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"(4:8) It is only after witnessing the glory of God and the Lamb that God reveals His plan represented by the scroll and its unsealing.

The overarching questions that we are faced with are: What event do the mysterious scroll and its unsealing represent? And when do these events occur?

The book of Jeremiah 36:2-32 actually provides insight into what these mysterious scrolls mean. In chapter 36 this word came to Jeremiah, "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin." The scroll mentioned in Jeremiah served as a warning to the people Israel, Judah, and all other nations to turn from their wicked ways, and repent.

Last Sunday, Pastor Glenn introduced the 4 views of Revelation. Here is a brief description of each view which has been widely accepted by evangelical scholars:

**Historicist Approach:** classical Protestant interpretation of the book, sees the book of Revelation as a pre-written record of the course of history from the time of John to the end of the world.

**Preterist Approach:** views the fulfillment of Revelation's prophecies as having occurred already.

**Futurist Approach:** asserts that the majority of the prophecies of Revelation have never yet been fulfilled and await future fulfillment.

**Idealist Approach:** does not attempt to find individual fulfillments of the visions but takes Revelation to be a great drama depicting transcendent spiritual realities, such as the perennial conflict between Christ and Satan.

Now that we know the different approaches, here is what each view says about the unsealing of the scrolls:

**Historicist Approach:** The unsealing of the scroll represents the beginning of the fall of the Roman Empire.

**Preterist Approach:** The unsealing of the scroll represents the judgment of God upon Jerusalem.

**Futurist Approach:** The scroll and its unsealing represents the Rapture of the church and the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

**Idealist Approach:** The scroll and its unsealing represents God's dealings with mankind seen in cycles of war, martyrdom, and judgment recurring repeatedly throughout history.

It can be easy to get caught up in trying to figure out which view is the right one, when in reality there is much truth to each perspective. Our hope is that you will be able to gain a better understanding of the book in its entirety and to remember God's sovereign plan to redeem all things back to Him.

## **READ • REVELATION 4 : 1 - 11**

### **APPLICATION**

- Who is the figure on the throne? What is he like? What are the 24 elders like?
- How do verses 9-11 inform your understanding of who God is and how He relates to his creation?
- Imagine yourself in this scene. What do you feel? What impresses you about God as described in these verses?

## **READ • REVELATION 5 : 1 - 14**

### **APPLICATION**

- What do you think makes the scroll so significant? Why is Christ the only one worthy enough to open it?
- What events do the mysterious scroll and its unsealing represent? When do these events occur?
- What does it mean that Jesus is both a Lion and a Lamb? What does this mean in your life?
- Read verses 12-13 aloud. How do these verses impact you as you view our out-of-control world?

## WEEK 2 • REFLECTION

### SERMON

What stood out to you from the sermon? How will you apply it to your life?  
Who will you share it with?

### READING

How might this vision of God enhance your worship life? Your everyday life?

### PRAYER

This week during your prayer time, try and envision yourself within the scene, and pray the song sung by the four living creatures in Revelation 4:8:

“Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come.”

Pray it as many times as you want, paying attention to how it makes you feel about God to speak these true words aloud or in your heart.