

A Study of the Book of Revelation

Source Material: *Come, Lord Jesus* by Mark Braatan

Week 5: October 11, 2009

Read Revelation 4:1-6a

Braaten notes that “At the center of the universe is a throne! This world is not left to chaos; it is not a hopeless mishmash of events. There is a throne and a ruler; there is a purpose!” (pg. 43)
What is the purpose of the throne and what does this lavish imagery teach you about John’s view of heaven?

Read Revelation 4:6b-11

What is the point of having all these creatures surrounding the throne of heaven?

A Word about Chapter 4

“First, notice how this new part of Revelation (which includes most of the rest of the book) begins in God and in the worship of God. What is central for Revelation, what is central for creation is Almighty God. Too often Revelation is seen as a book of only judgment and destruction. We do well to observe how John begins the heavenly vision with the glory and wonder of God.

Second, Revelation is thoroughly rooted in worship. . . . One of the messages of Revelation is that we are to be a people of worship.

Third, as we deal with both chapters 4 and 5, we do well to step back and see the sheer majesty of God.”(Braaten, pg. 46)

Read Revelation 5:1-7

What is the significance of the shift from the Lion to the Lamb?

What does the shift from Lion to Lamb teach us about John’s use of imagery?

Read Revelation 5:8-14

What do these verses teach us about John’s understanding of Jesus’ role in the salvation of the world and our proper response to Jesus?

A Word about Chapter 5

- “1. The Lamb, of course, is Jesus. . . .
2. The change of image from Lion to Lamb is not to be seen as a contradiction. Nor is it a denial of the Old Testament promises and expectations. Quite the contrary, in the wisdom of God, all the Old Testament promises and expectations for the Lion are fulfilled by the Lamb.
3. John’s imagery here ought to make us think of Palm Sunday. The crowds on Palm Sunday turned out to welcome the warrior king who would fight off the Romans. Instead they met the Lord who rode in on a donkey and died as a servant. John’s change of images here is rooted in the ministry of Jesus.
4. Incredibly, this Lamb does conquer. But the Lamb conquers not by killing his enemies, but by dying for his enemies.”(Braaten, pg. 47-48)

“Two additional comments . . . first, the Lamb does not replace God. The Lamb rather joins God at the throne and as the center of worship. The Lamb is the means by which God works out his purposes for the world.

Second, . . . this heavenly vision is rooted in worship. This entire book is rooted in worship.” (Braaten, pg. 49)

If you had to describe the majesty of heaven, how would you do it?