The Revelation | Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

13 March 2022 (part 3)

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

What stood out for you?

Read Revelation 4-5

- When you read the words of the worship songs, which one(s) strike you and why?
- When you read the other parts of the passage, what strikes you and why?
- What are the reasons given for worshipping God (4) and the Lamb (5)?
- Read Daniel 7:9-18 and note the similarities between Daniel's vision and John's vision.
- In 5:9 it says that they sang a "new song." One could say that the heart of Revelation is this "new song." Read Psalm 96 and note how Revelation is the fulfilment of this Psalm.
- If praise and worship of God Father, Son and Spirit – is going to be the defining characteristic of life in the new creation how should our lives reflect that here and now?
- Why does the physical description of "the one sitting on the throne" seems to emphasize brilliance? What does this brilliance say about God to us? Why?
- If the 24 elders represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles, does this signify, that representatives of Israel and the early church are engaged in eternal, heavenly worship of God? What implications does this have for us? Why?
- The heavenly liturgy calls God the "ruler of everything," and emphasizes God's glory, honor, and power. How is this vision of God similar to the way you most often think about God, how is it different? What effect does this vision have on you? Why?

- How is John's vision of heaven similar and dissimilar to the vision of heaven familiar to us from popular culture? How is it similar to the images you most often have of heaven? How is it different from those? What difference does this vision of heaven make for our thoughts about heaven? Why? Does John's vision of heaven have a purpose, do we think that is, is there some reason we need to know what John saw? What is it, do we think?
- How do these 2 chapters shape or influence our understanding of worship?
- Of the 3 key emphasis that we looked at:
 - First: it is safe to go through the door and approach the throne of the universe
 - Second: the secret of history is sacrificial love
 - Third: we are now reigning with the reigning lamb which one(s) has the most impact on you? Why?

How does...

- setting the present moment in all of its uncertainty and anxiety in light of the unseen realities of the future
- setting the present moment in all of its uncertainty and anxiety in light of the unseen realities of the present

make a difference in how we read this passage?

