

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June	1John 1
2) 14 June	1John 2
3) 21 June	1John 3
4) 28 June	1John 4
5) 05 July	1John 5
6) 12 July	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July	Rev 1
8) 26 July	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August	Rev 18
13) 30 August	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- Revelations may be one of the most emblematic books of the Bible, but it is also quite revealing since it explains what most of its symbols mean
- Get ready to get a glimpse of the throne room of God and witness the 7 seals of wrath being released on the earth

Passage	Comments
<p>Rev 4:1-11</p> <p>Other Visions of God's Throne are found in: Ezek 1:4-28 Isaiah 6:1-4 Dan 7:9-10</p> <p>Note: Throne is mentioned 13x in this chapter</p>	<p>Incomprehensible Scene of Shock and Awe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. If we were there with John our human senses would have been overwhelmed with the number of colors, the brightness of light, and very loud noises • BUT focus is on God who was sitting on the Throne • vv6-11. Around the Throne are 24 elders, 7 spirits of God, and 4 living creatures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 24 Elders are men (or angels); possibly representing the 12 tribes of Israel & 12 for the NT Church age ♦ 3 possible explanations for the 7 spirits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symbolic of the Holy Spirit 2. Seven angelic beings (i.e., seraphim / cherubim) 3. Seven attributes of God as seen in Isaiah 11:2 ♦ We would need several commentaries to explore who the 4 living creatures are ♦ More important than who they are is what they do ♦ God is worthy of continuous praise – & these beings, not robotically, but in a devoted way, fulfill that role
<p>What Will Heaven Be Like?</p>	<p>What is clear from Scripture is that we will NOT be sitting on a cloud strumming a harp, but we will be gainfully working for, ruling with, praising, and exploring God</p> <p>As Paul says, the eye hasn't seen or the ear heard what God has in store for those who love Him.....1Cor 2:9</p> <p><u>Ecclesiastes 9:10</u> says there is <u>NO Activity or Planning or Knowledge or Wisdom</u> in Hell (Sheol). THEREFORE, in Heaven we will be making short and long term plans, performing all kinds of productive and enjoyable activities, and growing in knowledge & wisdom in God</p>
<p>5:1-14</p>	<p>Jesus has Earned the Right to Start Final Judgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. John "wept and wept" – Does John get his tears wiped away? • v8. God retains our precious prayers and sees them as a sweet smelling incense – something to be treasured • v9. They (24 elders and 4 living creatures) "sang a new song" – Heaven will be a fresh place since new experiences will be enjoyed – Heaven won't be boring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Also, humans in their resurrected bodies (as seen with the elders) will do new things together with heavenly beings (i.e., with angels & living creatures) – There will be no class distinctions to worry about

Passage	Comments
<p>6:1-17</p> <p>The Seven Seals</p>	<p>Some Won't Repent No Matter What Happens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-14. God would prefer to use milder forms of persuasion to get men to repent, such as His goodness (Rom 2:4) and lovingkindness (Jer 31:3) • If a soft approach doesn't work, God has other means at His disposal to get some to repent. Why does it take at times deadly forms of judgment to get some people to consider repentance, if they do at all?..... Jer 36:3,7 • vv15-17. We see that the unrepentant, great and small, would prefer to die and spend an eternity in Hell than spend one moment with a Holy and Righteous God

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

Jer 36:3 "Perhaps the house of Judah will hear all the calamity which I plan to bring on them, in order that every man will turn from his evil way; then I will forgive their iniquity and their sin."

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS:

Just as all of Heaven is focused on God, the earth will soon be focused on Jesus, who is the only way for men and women to get to Heaven

NEXT WEEK:

Revelation 7-13. We will be introduced to the 144,000 and the greatest Revival of all time; the 7th Seal releases the 7 Trumpets of judgment; the 2 Witnesses; the Woman and the Dragon; and the 2 Beasts, who are the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet. This won't be a 1-pager.

The Seven Seals

Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1-5

1



Rider on white horse carries a bow, wears a crown and appears as a conqueror

2



Rider on red horse removes peace from earth

3



Rider on black horse holds a pair of scales

4



Death, on pale horse, and Hades claim a fourth of the earth

5



Martyrs are given white robes and told to wait until their fellow servants were killed

6



Earth quakes, sun turns black, moon turns red, stars fall; people hide from the wrath of the Lamb

7



Silence fills heaven for a half hour before an angel hurls a censer with fire to earth and seven angels blow trumpets

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com