

## I. Welcome to Wednesday in the Word

- A. This is the fifth week of our Revelation study and we're picking up with Chapter 4. Last week we finished looking at the letters to the seven churches and got some powerful glimpses of the heart of the Father and of Jesus toward the church. Remember, the primary purpose of the book of Revelation is to reveal Jesus to us so that we can know and love Him more fully. Understanding the end times is only secondary to this! If you've missed any of our previous sessions, we recorded them and they are available on our website along with the handouts. If you don't have internet access I encourage you to request a copy at guest services. We do not charge for our media, we just ask that you give a donation as you feel led to help cover the production costs.
- B. Today we will spend the next hour in chapters 4 and 5. We will then have an optional question and answer session afterwards. Please write your questions down as we go and save them for this time so that we can get through the material in a timely fashion. Also, feel free to email me questions during the week as you study Revelation on your own. I won't pretend that I know all the answers, but if I can help you or find the answer I will.
- C. **START RECORDING**
- D. Thanks for coming to study Revelation with me. It's so exciting to get to discover Him together and He reveals Himself to us through His word! – PRAY –

## II. Structure and approach

- A. As we pick up where we left off, we are beginning a new section of the book. So let us look where we are in the structure of the book I laid it out in the first session. As you may remember, we broke the book down into 4 main parts and then broke the last and largest part down into 10 sections. Today we will cover part 3 which is comprised of chapters 4-5. This part is called "Jesus Takes the Scroll" and is a powerful setting up of the final, largest section, dealing with main prophetic body of the book.
- B. On your handout is a visual example of how we're dividing them.
  1. Chapter 1 – John's Calling
  2. Chapter 2-3 – The Seven Letters
  3. **Chapter 4-5 – Jesus Takes the Scroll**
  4. Chapter 6-22 – Jesus' Battle Plan

## III. Overview

- A. In all of Scripture, Rev. 4 and 5 give us the most comprehensive look at the throne room of God. The only other places in Scripture that give us glimpses of this seat of power and government over all of creation are Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, and Daniel 7. Of these three Daniel gives the clearest picture, but it pales in comparison with what is revealed to John in this book.
- B. Several concepts concerning the throne of God are important to understand:
  1. It is the centerpiece of government for the universe – all authority comes directly from the Ancient of Days seated upon it.
  2. The atmosphere around the throne is permeated with perpetual worship and adoration of God. Where the fullness of His presence is manifest, no created thing has any choice but to worship and glorify Him. It is the central purpose of all creation.
  3. There is an entire symphony of music, songs, sounds, lights, colors, fragrances, and beauty surrounding the throne, fulfilling every longing and desire the human heart could ever experience.
  4. There is power, far surpassing human understanding, which is released through supernatural thunderings, lightnings, sounds, actions, and decrees issuing from God.
  5. The throne of God is mobile. In Daniel 7, Daniel sees God's throne upon a crystal like expanse being carried upon the wings of mighty angels and wheels that moved wherever the Spirit wanted. In Rev. 21 the New Jerusalem with the Throne as its centerpiece descends from heaven and comes to rest upon Mount Zion.

- C. Chapter 4 sets up the context of the heavenly throne and then chapter 5 is a privileged look into the divine drama that initiates the end of the age. It truly is spectacular and is given us to help our hearts come alive with the reality of the Spiritual realm as it prepares to break in on the earth in a tangible, perceivable way in judgment and liberation. Chapter 4 gives us the eternal Father and all that surrounds Him while chapter 5 reveals Jesus' place in the midst of it all. Here we see the Father exalting Jesus above all others and clearly naming Him as the only one worthy to execute His plan for all of creation.
- D. The revelation of the throne room is designed to create awe and wonder within our hearts. Without a living vision of the beauty and majesty of the throne room, we will live bored and in constant search of lesser things to fascinate our hearts. We were made for encountering God in this place of unmatched perfection, wonder, beauty, and pleasure!

#### IV. VERSE BY VERSE – CHAPTER 4

- A. (Rev 4:1) 1 *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."*
  - 1. "after these things" is a transitional phrase used throughout the book to let the reader know that new vision is occurring or that the scene is shifting. It is also a sign of chronological progression. Everything John has said up to this point happened before what is to follow. The "things" John is referring to is Jesus appearing to him in bodily form on the isle of Patmos and dictating letters to the seven churches. After this, Jesus disappears from before His eyes and suddenly a door way is visible in the air above him.
  - 2. "behold" This word, used 25 times in Rev., is a word that is meant to distinguish that which is to follow as stunning, shocking, and amazing. It's like John is saying, "this really happened right in front of me. Take a moment and picture this really happening visibly in front of you. It's that real and that incredibly overwhelming."
  - 3. "a door standing open in heaven" is a literal door. As real as the doors to this sanctuary are. John could see the sky all around it, but looking through it He was seeing into a completely different place as if these doors were open and we could see into the lobby. The only difference was that it was a passage between the natural realm and the spirit realm.
  - 4. "the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet" John is saying that He heard the same voice that Jesus had just used when speaking to him. There are multiple other voices that John hears through the rest of the book, but he wanted to make it clear that Jesus was the one inviting Him to enter in to the vision. It was clear and loud and unmistakable like a trumpet.
  - 5. "come up here" John is invited to enter the door way and see incredible things that Jesus wants to show him. Notice, Jesus does not force John into the door or into the visions. He invites him. So many of us think that if we're ever going to receive a vision from God, it will just come upon us. However, Jesus never forces Himself on any one who does not respond to His invitation. Jesus, even now, is inviting believers to gain a heavenly perspective on earthly things by receiving visions from Him. How many of us quiet ourselves like John, spending time alone with Him and tuning into His voice. I challenge you to, like chapter one where John says He was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, set aside time to just be in the Spirit, spending time communing with Jesus. I guarantee you'll be surprised by the invitation He is speaking to You to have visions that lead to a greater revelation of Him and a deeper love and longing for Him to come back!
  - 6. "show you what must take place after these things" Here Jesus is telling John He's going to show Him what's going to happen in the future. Remember, in Rev. 1:19 Jesus told John to write the things He had seen up to that point, the things which are, or the seven letters to the seven churches, and then "the things which will take place after these

things.” Notice it’s the exact same wording as here. From here on out in the book we enter the “things which must take place after these things” part of the book referring specifically to events that will occur after John’s day.

- B. (Rev 4:2-3) *2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.*
1. So John encounters the throne. More important that the seat itself, however, is the one seated upon it. John actually sees the full, manifest, personal presence of the uncreated God, the Father, the Potter, the Ancient of Days. There are several implications of this.
    - a. God has a physically manifest form. He can be visibly described and has the ability to assume a posture of sitting. It is hard to conceive, but God who is omnipresent, everywhere at once at all times, can actually at the same time visibly and tangibly manifest Himself in bodily form upon the throne.
    - b. God the Father is seated. When a monarch is seated on his throne, it indicates that He is in the process of doing the work of his kingdom. He is making judgments, issuing edicts, and carrying out his will. The God of all is not aloof or absent from creation. He is in the midst of creation, moving throughout it upon His throne, working His will with perfection and authority.
    - c. No one else is seated on His throne. His throne is truly, as Daniel saw in Dan. 7, exalted immeasurable above every other throne. Every other supposed “kingdom” or rule of authority is nothing when compared with Him.
  2. Imagine seeing God’s throne and actually seeing Him upon it with your own 2 eyes! John is not just picturing it in His mind. He has physically gone into the Spirit realm and is seeing this for himself! And He actually sees physical feature of God!
    - a. The appearance of God is described as being like Jasper stone and sardius.
      - i. Jasper is an opaque stone known for its smooth surfaces and variety of colors. While green jasper is the best known today because of its high popularity in Asian cultures, other common colors of jasper are red, yellow, and brown. Jasper is colored by whatever impurities are found in it. The less impurities a piece of jasper has, the higher its value and the less opaque it becomes.
      - ii. In Rev. 21 we see the New Jerusalem described as being made partly from crystal-clear Jasper that radiates the beauty and glory of God. Thus, John is saying that God looks as though He is made from actually pure, crystal-clear jasper because of His smooth, shiny appearance combined with the amount of light and glory radiating from within Him.
      - iii. Ps. 104:2 says God covers Himself with light as a garment, and 1 Tim. 6:16 says that He dwells in unapproachable light. His appearance is brilliant, dazzling, and radiant. The very atmosphere that emanates from His is naturally unapproachable yet spiritually enticing, compelling, and magnetic to the human frame.
      - iv. Sardius, called carnelian today, was a deep, fiery red gem. Sardius was actually named after Sardis, the city in which it was first found and sold, which happens to be one of the seven churches.
      - v. John saw that within the brilliant light emanating from the clear beauty of the Father coursed a violent and passionate red glow that reminded Him of this stone. This redness is the passion of the Father for His creation and the burning of His judgment towards all evil and injustice.
      - vi. This mixture of God’s fiery zeal and His bright holiness can be seen in many passages of scripture and even in seen in the description of Jesus in

chapter 1. Fire and light are 2 of God's purifying mechanisms in the earth. May He visit us with His burning and glory!

- b. We also see an emerald rainbow surrounding the throne.
  - i. Emerald is a glowing, green gem. In the Bible, green always represents life and the Lord's mercy in interacting with His creation. There is a rainbow of mercy that surrounds God on His throne like a dome. His mercy envelopes all that He is in righteousness (jasper) and justice (sardius).
  - ii. The rainbow is also the constant reminder to all of His promise of mercy to Noah that He would never destroy the earth with a flood.
  - iii. God is making it clear that He has surrounded all that He is in mercy. All that He does passes through His mercy.
- C. (Rev 4:4) *4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.*
  - 1. This is where we first see the 24 elders. But, who are they?
  - 2. There are 3 main beliefs as to who the 24 elders are and each have very convincing arguments:
    - a. Elders = 24 representatives of raptured saints
      - i. They are wearing white garments which throughout Revelation represent salvation – the clothing of saints with the righteousness of Jesus Christ
      - ii. They are wearing “stephanos” crowns which in revelation is the greek word for the kind of crowns offered to saints who overcome.
      - iii. The term “elders” is only used elsewhere in the Bible when speaking of human leaders of Judaism or the church.
    - b. Elders = 12 apostles and 12 patriarchs of Israel
      - i. These are the leaders of all of God's people and recognized as the authority and rulers of them all.
      - ii. They are wearing white garments which throughout the Bible are promised to those who place their faith in God for their salvation
      - iii. This scene takes place before the seals are opened and the trumpets are blown and the raptured saints are clearly not given their crown rewards (and it can be argued not even raptured yet) until the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:18). Thus they would have to have already died and received their reward.
    - c. Elders = 24 angels
      - i. Angels are always pictured as wearing white garments because white represents purity and holiness
      - ii. Beings other than saints are pictured with “stephanos” crowns on their heads such as the Antichrist in 6:2, the demonic locusts from the pit in 9:7 and the woman who represents Israel in 12:1. The crown just represents authority given from God. Also, in Daniel, Michael, the Archangel, is called a prince, one who has ruling authority.
      - iii. The Old Testament is clear that the temple practices were patterned after what Moses was shown in heaven. Everything from the lamp stands to the cherubim around the mercy seat. In Mosaic Judaism, there are 24 classes of priests and one from each is chosen to represent them and its from these 24 that the high priest was chosen each year and was the only one who could draw near to God. These 24 men could be a reflection of the 24 angels their positions are patterned after in heaven.

3. Regardless of who the elders are they clearly are pure, holy, and operate in authority as they help to lead the worship of the Father and Jesus throughout Revelation and eternity. They also have divine knowledge of the ways and the will of the Father as is revealed in their participation in John's visions and their leadership. An elder even explains things to John in Rev. 7:13.
  4. The most memorable thing about these elders is the way they react throughout Revelation to the presence and leadership of the Father and Jesus. They are constantly falling before the Father as they sit in the presence of His beauty and holiness, completely overwhelmed by Him. And, every move that Jesus makes is accompanied by their praise and worship as they glorify Him for His perfect leadership and love and judgment. They are tremendous examples to us as to how our hearts should be moved by ever revelation we receive from God!
- D. (Rev 4:5-6a) *5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal...*
1. Next we are told that coming from the throne or Him who's on it, shooting out through the rainbow of mercy are lightnings and sounds and thunder.
  2. This is not just static electricity from God wiggling on the throne or discharges of access power that He cannot contain accidentally slipping out of Him. This is God's purposeful and overwhelmingly powerful response to the prayers of His people.
  3. In Rev. 8:3-5 we see that an angel fills a golden censor with the prayers of the saints and incense, holds it before God, and then throws it down on the earth. The result is noises, lightnings, thunderings, and an earthquake on the earth. Whenever the prayers of His people reach Him, God always responds by sending His answer. But God doesn't just answer a question with empty words. His words contain power to alter reality and impact our hearts. Here John is seeing this power and the sounds of God's responses to His people issuing from His seat of government and authority. How incredibly reassuring it is to see the power of God's response to His people. The earth even quakes when receiving it!
  4. Here we also see the seven spirits of God mentioned. At their first mention in chapter one we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the two main views of who these seven spirits are. The first was that it is describing the seven-fold nature of the Holy Spirit based on a possible description of Him given in Isa 11:2. The second was that these are the 7 archangels from Jewish tradition who stand before God and go out into the earth to serve Him at various times. Whatever the case, the Lord is revealing His power over creation that He either commands every aspect of the Holy Spirit or that He commands every move of the 7 archangels who stand in awe before Him.
  5. The last description we are given of the physical setting of the throne is the sea of glass before it. The sea of glass was seen by at least 4 Biblical authors: Moses, Daniel, Ezekiel, and John. Also, with Moses was Aaron and the 70 elders of Israel when he saw it. (Ex. 24:10)
  6. Each author describes it slightly different yet very similarly.
    - a. Moses described it as a sapphire pavement as clear as the sky(Ex. 24:10). Sapphire is a blue clear stone.
    - b. John describes it as a glassy, crystal sea (Rev 4:8)
    - c. Daniel sees the throne with a river of fire flowing out of it (Dan 7:10). This represents the love and judgment issuing from His throne.
    - d. Ezekiel sees describes it as an expanse like the awesome gleam of crystal spread out over the angels and wheels that carried it and upon this was the throne. He

even sees the fiery appearance of God and the rainbow surrounding Him.  
(Ez.1:22-28)

- E. (Rev 4:6a-8) 6 *...and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.* 7 *The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.* 8 *And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."*
1. This is where we first meet the 4 living creatures in Revelation. These are real creatures, specifically created by God for a unique purpose, and as such, He has fashioned them with all that they need to carry out their purpose.
  2. These creatures are extremely unique in all of creation. The other time they are seen in the Bible is in Isaiah 6. He calls them Seraphim, which literally means “burning ones.” He describes them very similarly as having six wings and crying out “Holy, holy, holy!” while flying around God. It is one of these seraphim that touches the coal to Isaiah’s lips enabling him to stand before and even speak before God in His holiness.
  3. In Ezekiel 1 and 10 he sees Cherubim, who are apparently a different set of angelic beings that differ in number of wings and in the fact that they each have 4 faces while Seraphim each have one face.
  4. The primary job of the seraphim is to lead all of creation in worshipping Yahweh. They fly around Him looking at Him, studying Him, and with every revelation they receive about Him, they are completely overwhelmed and declare His holiness. To say that God is holy is that say that He is entirely other than. Other than what? He is other than, completely different from, and entirely above all that has been created. He is set apart and transcends all of creation. So the living creatures are continually discovering new things about God and declaring to all present that this new thing is something they have never seen before and have no words to describe besides saying that He is completely different from every created thing.
  5. My favorite feature of the living creatures is that they are covered in eyes. It sounds gross at first. However, their job is to stare at and study who God is and what He is like. They are commissioned with searching out the Unreachable One! So as an act of mercy and love, He covered every inch of their bodies with eyes so that they can take in as much of Him as physically possible at every given moment. I believe when we stand before Him and see Him, He will be so amazing beautiful that we will wish for more eyes to be able to take in more of His beauty at once.
  6. Each of the four have a unique facial appearance:
    - a. Lion – denoting the majesty of searching out God (Prov. 25:2)
    - b. Calf – denotes sacrificial work and patience in searching out He who is unsearchable
    - c. Man – denotes rational power and intelligence – knowing God is the highest purpose of all ability to learn
    - d. Eagle – denotes sovereignty and supremacy – there is no higher position than that of searching out the Ancient of days
- F. Rev (4:9-11) 9 *And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,* 10 *the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,* 11 *" Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."*

1. So as the living creatures initiate the worship of God in heaven, the elders are the first to respond. The elders fall before Him and they cast their crowns as an act of complete submission before the source of all authority. They are overwhelmed with each revelation of His holiness that the 4 living creatures receive and they cannot help but to praise Him as the one separate from and over all of creation.
2. The main focus of the praise is the exaltation of God as the one who created all things. It is because He created everything that He is worthy of the worship of everything. Just the fact he created alone should elicit the thankfulness and praise of every human on the planet. Even if He never saved us or showed us love, He deserves all of our worship just for making us. As we see later on, however, the fact that He has saved us and done so much in love for us becomes the focus of the worship when Jesus enters the scene.

V. VERSE BY VERSE – CHAPTER 5 – Chapter 4 set the scene for how things around God's throne look and happen now. However, Chapter 5 is where the end times drama begins with a major shift in the throne room.

A. (Rev 5:1-4) *1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it...*

1. God's right hand in the Bible has several implications which apply here. Gen. 48:13 establishes that it's the right hand which is used to establish blessing and inheritance. In the Psalms His right hand is pictured as the place of protection for God's people and action against the enemies of His people. It's also said to be the location of eternal delight. It is with His right Hand that God moves in favor of His people and in judgment against His enemies. We must agree with His right hand if we are to enter into the favor, pleasure, and protection it offers. Otherwise, we become the ones His right hand moves against.
2. In His right hand John sees a scroll. This is a literal scroll with written decrees that the father holds. These decrees, being in His right hand, are for His people and against His enemies. We must keep this in mind as we look at each decree. This scroll is His written plan to purge His creation of all enemies and release to His people protection, pleasure, and favor forevermore. The Father has a plan of action already written and He is going to see it carried out. Nothing can stop or alter it!
3. The seals are what keep the scroll closed until one is found worthy to open them. The Father could certainly open them because He is worthy of all power and glory. However, He has decided to partner with human beings and He is waiting for one to be worthy of such a lofty thing. The opening of the seals set in motion the events written on the scroll. The seals are indicators of more to come. As we study the judgments released by just the seals, we will see that they prepare the way for and foreshadow greater and more severe judgments to come. Like wrapping paper, they tell the one opening the gift that there is more hidden inside than the greater than what is outside.
4. The question of who is worthy to take and open the scroll is asked by a mighty angel. How mighty must this angel have been if John, in the presence of all He's already described would feel the need to distinguish this angel as mightier than the others He's seen? Of course, no one in heaven or on the earth is found worthy to open the scroll, for the scroll is the title deed to the kingdom of God and no created thing could ever be worthy enough to rule over all of creation. Even the angelic ranks fall short of such an unattainable status.
5. With no one to open the scroll John is struck with deep grief. Imagine that in the presence of perfection, beauty, and love itself, John is weeping uncontrollably in anguish.

That's because, with this one question, John is made aware at the highest level of the failure of man and all of creation to comply with the righteous requirements of God.

Truly without Jesus, mankind is eternally lost and utterly destitute. So He is weeping over the injustice that the plan of the Father is apparently unable to be carried out.

- B. (Rev 5:5-7) *5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*
1. Then suddenly everything changes. Jesus, bearing the fullness of His Messianic titles and appearing as the Lamb, the one perfectly obedient to the Father even unto death on behalf of everyone else, enters the throne room. He has overcome, truly overcome, and has earned, as a man triumphing over sin, Satan, and death, the worthiness to inherit the Kingdom of God and partner with the Father fully in judging and ruling all of creation forever!
  2. He has seven horns representing His perfect government and authority over the earth and seven eyes that speak of His perfect vision in discovering, understanding, and living out the mysteries of the Father. He has gained the authority to send out the seven spirits of God and oversee the whole earth through them.
  3. So we see the climax of this chapter and possibly the whole book in verse 7. Jesus steps into His role as perfect human partnering fully with God in judging the earth and its kingdoms to end all injustice and bring all authority under Himself as the supreme ruler of all for eternity. A human being for the first time actually touches the right Hand of God and receives all that it contains!
- C. (Rev 5:8-10) *8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*
1. The response to the high point of human history – the Christ man receiving the deed to His full inheritance from the Father is one of complete overwhelmingness. The living creatures fall out of the air onto the sea of glass as the elders cast themselves at Jesus' feet declaring His worthiness. There is a massive swell of worship and praise.
  2. Notice that the elders are holding bowls full of the prayers of the saints. Every prayer from history is stored before the Father, filling up these bowls over time. Here, at the beginning of the end of the age, the bowls are finally full! This means that the more we pray and interceded, the faster the bowls fill and the sooner the scene will be set for Jesus to take the scroll. This goes hand in hand with 2 Pet. 3:12. It is likely that the Father offers the scroll initiating the exaltation of Jesus in response to the filling of these bowls.
  3. So here we have the introduction of the "new song" in heaven. As we see from the Old Testament and from the previous chapter, the song of heaven has been about the Father's holiness since creation. However, in this one moment, the focus of worship shifts from the holiness of the Father to the worthiness of the Son.
  4. In this song we see, too, that, just as Jesus prophesied in Matt 24, there will be people redeemed from every people group before Jesus takes the scroll and initiates the end of the age. And in this song we see the exultation of every saved person to partnership with Jesus in carrying out the contents of the scroll as judges and rulers of creation and ministers to the Father in love and worship. Notice, too that we will not reign in heaven, but "on the earth."

- D. (Rev 5:11-12) 11 *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,* 12 *saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."*
1. At the sound of the elders and creatures' worship, heaven begins to resonate with response. Every angel response with cries of the worthiness of Jesus to inherit and rule over all things.
  2. The phrase "myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands" is an idiom meaning that there were so many angels, no one could count them. They were innumerable to John. What an amazing sight to behold before the throne with light, color, fragrance, sound, music, and an angelic choir numbering in the billions all worshipping a literal physical Jesus standing before the Father fully manifested in glory and smiling down on His Son! This was one of the primary moments the Father created everything for!
  3. The word worthy means more than deserving. It means that Jesus not only deserves everything, but is capable of handling and perfectly controlling everything. I challenge you to look up and study each of the words the angels say Jesus is worthy of in v. 12.
- E. (Rev 5:13-14) 13 *And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."* 14 *And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.*
1. The worship rises to such a level that creation itself gets caught up in it. The stars and planets and space and rocks and atoms and plants and animals and even humans cannot help but express worship in this moment.
  2. Romans 8:20-22 tells us that all of creation is groaning and waiting for this day. What a release must occur when the redemption of not only man, but all of creation begins with Jesus taking the scroll from the Father.
  3. The creatures are so moved and overwhelmed by the worship released from all of creation that they can find no other words to say than "Amen! So be it!" Instead of leading the worship, the congregation of creation overpowers them and they can only fall before the Lord with the elders in agreement. May the Lord unlock our hearts to this kind of worship!