



ONE PLUS GOD

**Get going: We don't have forever to get into forever
A study on Revelation**

Dr. Wynand de Wet (aka Pastor Wayne)

**Week 4
In the Throne Room with God**

One Plus God Ministries

Missions Minded, Every Day, Everywhere.

2890 Harding Hwy E. Unit G Marion, OH 43302

P 740.251.7184 W www.oneplusgod.org E info@oneplusgod.org

Revelation: Lesson plan

Lesson 1 — September 3 — Who is Jesus? (Rev 1)

Lesson 2 — September 10 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 1 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 3 — September 17 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 2 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 4 — September 24 — In the throne room with God: Father, Lamb, and Spirit (Rev 4 & 5)

Lesson 5 — October 1 — Judgement and Grace (Rev 6 & 7)

Lesson 6 — October 8 — The Church has a mission (Rev 8 to 11)

Lesson 7 — October 15 — The Christmas-story through the eyes of Revelation (Rev 12)

Lesson 8 — October 22 — Evil attempting to imitate God (Rev 13)

Lesson 9 — October 29 — Time for grace will run out... (Rev 14 to 16)

Lesson 10 — November 5 — The efforts of Darkness will intensify, yet come to an end (Rev 17-18)

Lesson 11 — November 12 — God's triumph over a one-sided war (Rev 19 to 20)

Lesson 12 — November 19 — God's complete reign is coming soon! (Rev 21 to 22)

Revelation 4:1-3, Meeting the Almighty God!

This chapter starts with a powerful (see the trumpet call as in Ex. 19:16) invitation to enter through the open door (opened by costly grace) into the powerful presence of God (v. 1). God’s power is especially shown by the fact that He is “sitting”—in ancient times people in authoritative positions would have less power the more they moved, and more power the less they would move around (v. 2). The beautiful Isaiah 6:1-4, as well as Ezekiel 1:26-28 are functioning here in the background. The throne however is not in the temple anymore as in Isaiah 6, but in the heavenly throne room!

In a similar way as Jesus was described in Revelation 1 through metaphors, God is now described through precious stones (v. 3). Jasper, which would be a clear stone, such as a diamond, would easily remind of God’s heavenly glory and purity. The red of the carnelian reminds us of His righteous judgement, while the rainbow, green as an emerald, encircling the throne, reminds us of grace, growth, healing, a second chance, and most importantly...the God of the covenant as with Noah (Gen. 9:13-17). It might even be better to simply see these separate metaphors in combination with each other, describing God with an undeniable, indescribable radiance (see also Ezek. 1:28). It is though in this glorious image that we see everything that is holy, pure, righteous, filled with grace, everlasting! Therefore, whether we interpret these as individual metaphors, or functioning together as one combined metaphor, would in this case not make too much of a difference... It continues to be an inadequate effort to describe a meeting with the indescribable Almighty God of this universe!

Revelation 4:4-8a, Another breathtaking scene!

The very first concentric circle (v. 4) around the throne of God is made up by 24 other thrones with those representing (“elders”) the entire family of believers (12 representing all believers from the OT, just like the 12 patriarchs, and 12 representing all believers from NT times, just like the 12 disciples)! They are dressed in white, therefore pure through the redemption of Christ and sharing in His victory, and are having crowns of gold, showing that they are sharing in God’s rule as “kings”—how amazing is that?! Just imagine this scene, coupled with the powerful presence of God (v. 5a; see also Ex. 19:16 and Ezek. 1:4-28), and His Spirit, blazing like fire, ready to judge (v. 5b; see also Ezek. 1:13)! Remember that fire often refers not only to the presence of God in Revelation, but also His judgement (8: 5, 7; 14:10, 18; 17:16; 20:9-10).

This brings us to the exciting verse 6a. One possibility here is that the sea simply reflects the greatness, and glory of God. Another could connect with the judgement of verse 5b, recognizing that the sea was often seen in the ancient world as the residing place of evil (see for instance Psalm 74:14, 104:26; Is. 27:1) . However, here it is depicted in a way that reflects God’s complete control and triumph also over that! Not only does the “sea” (evil) fail to make even one little “wave” from God’s perspective (“like glass”), but God can also see everything it does, or is trying to accomplish (“clear as crystal”)—most certainly some irony at play here! God is indeed the only, true Ruler and Judge of this entire universe! Our God is King—without a doubt!

Close to the Creator God (v. 6b) we now find the 4 living creatures, with a lot of eyes (a reminder of Ezek. 1:18). These creatures are serving God with nonstop vigilance—nothing escapes their attention! Not only can they detect anything happening in God’s creation, but they can also move with agility and the speed of lightning, as they each have 6 wings, covered with eyes all around (see also Is. 6:2; Ezek 1:8-9, 14). Clearly they serve God over all of creation as they can cover the 4 corners (directions) of the earth, and represent all creatures (see Ezekiel again, 1:10 and 10:14). This is the most important to remember about their “faces”. However, when we interpret these “faces” separately it becomes a little fuzzy, and there are many interpretations, for instance that the lion is the most noble of all, representing the wild life; the ox the strongest of all, representing the tamed animals; the face of man being the smartest, and representing all humans, and finally the eagle being the fastest, representing all flying animals. Interesting that there is no face like some kind of a fish, which makes one wonder again about our interpretation about evil residing in the sea...

Revelation 4:8b-11, Worship Him!

The goal of all of creation is worship and adoration to the Lord, God Almighty (v. 8b). Either all of creation join in this worship and adoration to Him who was, and is, and is to come for ever and ever (vv. 9-11), or this same worship will become the introduction to judgement to all who choose otherwise, and it will be the end for them all...

He is the God who very intentionally (“by Your will”, v. 11b) created it all, He is the God who rules it all, He is the God in whom it all still has its being, and therefor He alone is the God who can saves it all!

How can this not be comforting, encouraging, and transformational?!

How can this not get you out of your seat...and going?! Creation needs to know this, hear this, believe this, and be changed by this—all to His glory!

Revelation 5:1-5, A scroll, but nobody to open it...or is there?

The scene shifts to yet another breathtaking, but this time also a teary, terribly...terribly sad scene... God has a scroll, written on both sides—this is clearly a scroll of the utmost importance with a lot to share...from the living God (v. 1)! Just as in Ezekiel 2:9-10 we now have a message from God, a message that will certainly lead to action, as what God says will surely come to pass. We have here the blue print of what is all to follow from Rev 6:1-22:5...we have here salvation, judgement, blessings...we have it all...wonder, glory, adoration, life, new life, new creation, new beginning, everlasting life, being in the presence of God...forever...and ever...and ever...but locked up, sealed, 7 times over!

Who will open this scroll? Who is worthy (v. 2)? And creation starts looking: In heaven...no one...on earth...nobody...under the earth...none...there is absolutely no one (v. 3)!

Johns starts to weep (v. 5a), and he should... Everything...everything...now comes to a stand still in all of creation. Nothing can move forward an inch. There is a complete shutdown of it all...there is no hope...all is lost...the coming and alone-reign of God Almighty over all of creation cannot unfold, a new creation cannot come to fruition, and how are we not all longing for that day...how have we not all been looking forward to that blessed living and being in the presence of the living God forever and ever, and now...nothing!

Yet, just before all hope is lost the Message, indeed the Good Message, indeed the Message of Hope comes: Someone has been found! A Lion of the tribe of Judah has been found! He has triumphed, and He is worthy of opening all 7 seals (v. 5b)!

Revelation 5:6-14, The Lion is a...Lamb...and He should be adored and worshiped!

John expects to turn around and hear the roar of a Lion, but when he looks up he sees a... Lamb (v. 6a), a Lamb that looks like it had been slain, and this Lamb is standing right in the center of the throne. Striking: He did not come to slaughter, but to be slaughtered... He is also encircled by the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders, just like with God (v. 6b). He also has all the power (7 horns) and the complete presence of the Holy Spirit (7 eyes, being the 7 Spirits of God, v. 6c), just like God—no doubt, He is God too, no more, no less than God the Father and Spirit! And this Lamb, He is worthy to take the scroll from God Himself (v. 7), and therefor He deserves to be adored, and worshiped—immediately (v. 8)...by whom...by *all!*

In the image of concentric circles the 4 living creatures, and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, and started pouring out worship, and precious, precious prayers before the Lamb (v. 8; see also 6:9-11 and 8:3-5). A whole new song comes to life (v. 9) just as in Exodus 15, Isaiah 42:10, and many of the Psalms, for instance 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, and 149:1. 'n New song is necessary to worship and adore the salvation, the New Hope that is to be found in the Lion, who is also the Lamb, and Savior, and God of every tribe, and language, and people, and nation to be unto Him a kingdom and priests (vv. 9-10)!

Next the angels join in this glorious choir, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousands upon ten thousands (v. 11), and with an even louder voice the song is raised: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise" (v. 12)! The Lion/Lamb truly has all you need! Why would all of creation not want to run to Him, bow before Him, be saved, renewed, reborn in Him, worship Him...? He is God, who should and is receiving the same adoration and worship as the Father (see 4:11).

And then the peak of it all (v. 13): Now every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and...on the sea (see also Is. 45:20-24, and Romans 14:11)...and all that is in them joins in—all singing, both to God and the Lamb (and the Spirit who is completely present in both!).

"To Him who sits on the throne *and* to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"

What else is there to say, but "Amen" with the 4 living creatures, and to fall down with the elders in adoration and worship to our God: Father, Lamb, and Spirit... (v. 14)?!

Resources

There is not much that can be as encouraging as great worship music. Music that lifts up our spirits, and helps us to get down on our knees, so that we can adore Him, and worship Him, and honor Him, and glorify Him, and lay down our lives before Him... No wonder that the composer, Händel, sat down and wrote one of the most touching and amazing pieces of music ever written right after he read through Revelation 4, 5 and 19. Just listen to this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtVbJT5c>

Want to dig deeper, or just stay connected?

- Email pastor Wayne/Wynand with your questions/remarks at wynand@OnePlusGod.org.
- Call pastor Wayne/Wynand at 567-356 2007.
- Connect with us on Facebook:
 - Pastor Wayne/Wynand: <https://www.facebook.com/wynand.dewet.7>
 - One Plus God Ministries: <https://www.facebook.com/OneplusgodMinistries>

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