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King of the Mountain

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

bimonthly (interim) schedule

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

1ST WEDNESDAY: 4TH OF DECEMBER

3RD WEDNESDAY: 18TH OF DECEMBER

12 NOON IN 318 CLOB (& ZOOM)

☞ LUNCH PROVIDED FOR THOSE ATTENDING ☜

With so many telecommuting on Tuesdays, the Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Studies are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. We will resume meeting on Tuesdays when the legislative session begins. The *bimonthly Bible studies* are *nonpartisan* and *non-denominational*, in addition to being *open-to-all* (i.e. the entire Capitol community). For the month of December, we begin a new exposition of Scripture with the New Testament book of Revelation. Having already studied the opening chapters in 2019, we will begin with the fourth chapter.

We have an in-person Bible study in 318 CLOB (Senate Committee Room) *and* also use Zoom. Scripture is taught so that everyone has the opportunity to comment or ask a question.

If you would like to learn more regarding the ministry of Capitol Commission, please visit <http://www.capitolcom.org>. **Capitol Commission's prayer is that this study will be edifying to you.** The sole intent of this ministry is to serve you, as a resource for pastoral attention, counsel, and prayer. **The present Bible study is just one aspect of that desire.**

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study

is

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Revelation 4—5 — “King of the Mountain”

“King of the hill” is a simple yet challenging game where kids find some form of elevation to claim. The goal is to stay alone on top of that prominence while others attempt to dethrone the “king” either by pushing or pulling. Typically, one is able to reign only briefly as king of the hill.

The book of Revelation presents what is eternal as opposed to what may be for the moment. The only true King of the Mountain sits upon an everlasting throne. His throne will never be abdicated. As the Lord God sits upon his throne, He is surrounded by creatures who bring Him perpetual “glory and honor and thanks.” Revelation 4—5 present the heavenly throne room, allowing the reader to experience worship of the Lord God Almighty. There is the recognition of his authority and power, in addition to his prerogative to discharge the judgments described in the book of Revelation.

SEEN IN HEAVEN

Bible prophecies are susceptible to excess; some are obsessed with the intricacies and others ignore those texts as being irrelevant to life. Both responses are wrong. The proper response to prophetic details is to recognize their importance because “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17). Nothing in Scripture should be neglected. Jesus himself said, “Behold, I have told you in advance” (Matt 24:25).

Certain individuals were commended for their prophetic expectation. Joseph of Arimathea “was waiting for the kingdom of God” (Mark 15:43). Simeon “was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). Living with expectation of the Lord’s coming will certainly impact what is considered important in life (cf. Matt 19:28-29).

(Rev 4:1-11) The first two words of Revelation 4 in the (original) Greek text are *meta tauta*. A comparison with the instructions given to John in Revelation 1:19 indicate that the fourth chapter begins the third section of the book. John was told to write concerning “the things which you have seen,” which is the vision of chapter one. He was then to write regarding “the things which are,” which focused upon seven churches in Revelation 2—3. John was then to record “the things which shall take place after these things.” The last three words in the English text, “after these things,” are two Greek words, *meta tauta*.

The first thing John observed was an open door in heaven. He heard a voice similar to the one calling to him in his first vision (cf. 1:10). John noted that he was in a state of spiritual sensitivity to receive divine revelation (4:1-2). He was under the Lord’s control by means of the Holy Spirit. John was not only impressed by the throne he saw, but also by the One sitting on it (v. 3). “Around the throne *were* twenty-four elders” (v. 4), who appear to be a representative group of believers (cf. 1 Chron 24:7-19). John witnessed overwhelming sights and sounds (Rev 4:5).



The most unusual feature of the heavenly throne room is the reference to “four living creatures,” who are continually involved in the worship of God, ascribing eternity, glory, holiness, honor, and sovereignty to Him (vv. 6-9). The final scene in the fourth chapter is the twenty-four elders joining the four living creatures in worship to the One seated on the throne (vv. 10-11).

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PROPHETIC EXPECTATION.**

One component of the worship is casting “crowns before the throne” (v. 10). If the crowns are rewards for faithful service bestowed to believers (cf. 2 Cor 5:10), it is appropriate they are laid before the Lord in worship. Service is never performed for the benefit of the individual, but so that the Lord is glorified (cf. 1 Pet 4:10-11). The song of praise rightly acknowledges God as the Creator of all things. All authority rightfully belongs to Him, and thus God has the right to judge and does not need to submit to any other. He also has the prerogative to assign authority to whomever He please, which is precisely what occurs in the next chapter when the Lamb comes to the One seated on his throne to receive a seven-sealed scroll from Him.

WORSHIP IN HEAVEN

(*Rev 5:1-14*) The vision of the heavenly throne room continued as John 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” (v. 1). The item was not a typical book because it was really a rolled scroll. The fact that the scroll had writing on both sides emphasizes the completeness of the message. The seven seals indicate that one scroll was written and then sealed, then another composed and sealed in the same manner, for a total of seven times.

**...THE LAMB...ALREADY TOOK JUDGMENT UPON HIMSELF
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CONSEQUENCES OF SIN....**

The presence of the scroll in the hand of the throne sitter led to a statement (v. 2). A “strong” (powerful) angel asked, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” The one who could open the scroll must have authority to possess it. The scroll was in the hands of the Creator (cf. 4:11); therefore, whoever opened the scroll would have to be equal in authority. John began to weep, thinking no one might be worthy (5:4).

One of the elders told John not to weep any longer because “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” (v. 5). Both titles emphasize royalty. The tribe of Judah, a lion’s whelp, had the right to rule (Gen 49:9-10). A shoot would “spring from the

stem of Jesse [David’s father], and a branch from his roots will bear fruit” (Isa 11:1).

Based upon the elder’s declaration to behold “the Lion,” John must have been surprised to see “a Lamb standing, as if slain” (Rev 5:6). The Lamb was alive since it was “standing,” yet bore evidence of a prior sacrifice (“as if slain”). The Lamb will be the One to break the seven seals (v. 7; 6:1-17; 8:1). The future events resulting from the breaking of the seals is administrated and controlled by the Lamb who already took judgment upon himself and thereby offers exemption from the terrible consequences of sin (cf. 5:8-10). Christ was subjected to wrath so that the ones whose sins He bore by the offering of himself now “eagerly await” for Him to “appear a second time for salvation, without *reference* to sin” (Heb 9:28).

Countless angels exalt the Lamb by declaring his worthiness because of the salvation He accomplished when slain (Rev 5:11-12). The angels recognize the magnitude of God’s redemptive work of fallen sinners, and thus declare “power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” to “the Lamb that was slain” (v. 12). He is the One who “purchased for God” (with his blood) those redeemed “from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (v. 9). “Every created thing” praised the Almighty and the Lamb (vv. 13-14).

The combined worship is testimony to the deity of Jesus. The Lamb is worshipped with God as true God. The Holy Spirit already appeared as a blazing lamp (4:5) in relation to the Almighty (God the Father) on his throne. He then appears in relation to the “slain” Lamb (God the Son) (5:6). He evidently proceeds from both Father and Son (cf. Acts 1:8; 2:4; 10:44).

*Thank you for the privilege in providing you with the
Capitol Commission Bible study. If we can serve you in any manner,
please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.*

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission exists to minister gospel hope and spiritual strength to legislators, staff, lobbyists (i.e. the entire Capitol community). The focus of our ministry is people as opposed to politics, and thus to be a spiritual resource to the legislature. Our ministry strategy is expressed by pastoral *presence*, the *proclamation* of the Bible, and fervent *prayer* for every legislator.

The Hebrew word *shalom* (“peace”) testifies to the Lord God’s desire for society. When peace describes civilization, it refers to a prosperous and wholesome society. God has an elevated standard for governing authorities, referring to them as his ministers (Rom 13:4). He desires their salvation and for them to have knowledge of his truth (1 Tim 2:1-2). Our passion is the same as the Lord God, which is why Capitol Commission provides hope “behind the scenes” through a ministry of presence.

The gospel “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). The Bible provides equipping “for every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17). Capitol Commission state ministers value prayer because we exist as a ministry to people. God hears and answers prayer! “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (Jas 5:16b).

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