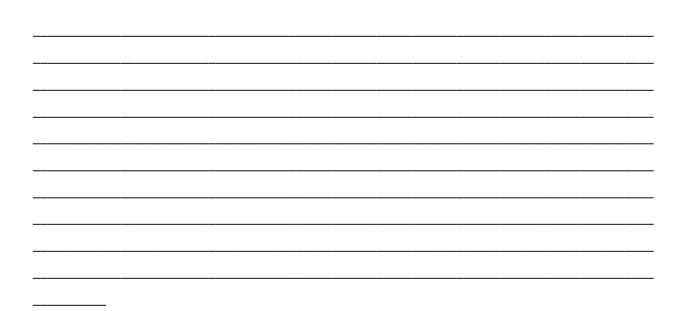
The Book of Revelation: Where Heaven, Hell & Earth Collide — Session 4: The Lamb Opens Seven Seals

Revelation 4:1 - 8:1

Instructor: Dirk Rodgers

Session Overview

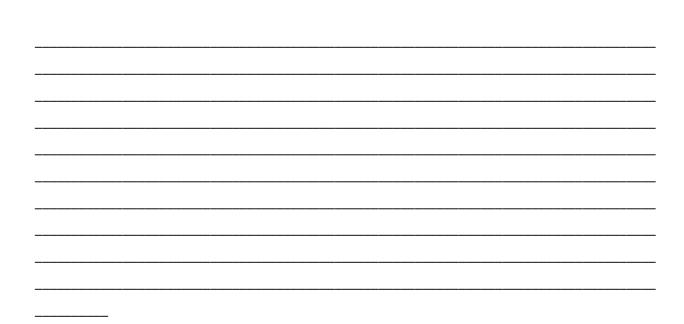
- >A Heavenly Victory(4:1-11)
- ➤ An Earthly Crisis (5:1-4)
- ➤ A Heavenly Resolution (5:5-14)
- Seven Heavenly Seals Broken Out Upon the Earth (6:1 8:1)



Transition...

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as <u>I was victorious and sat</u> <u>down with my Father on his throne</u>. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:21-22



Revelation 4:1-11

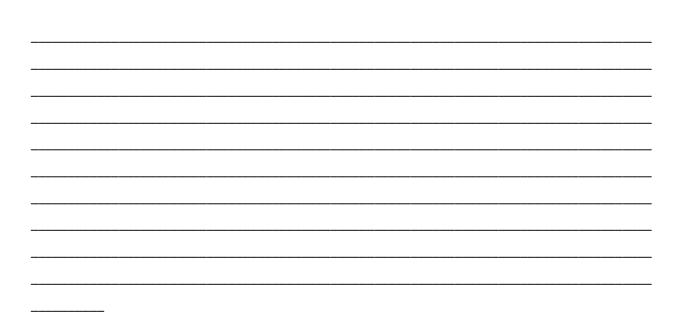
In The Room...

- ➤ God on His throne (4:1-3)
- ➤ 24 Elders on their thrones (4:4)
- ➤ Lightning, Lamps and a Sea of Glass (5-6a)
- >4 Creatures (6b 8a)
- ➤ Heavenly Worship (8b-11)

Revelation 4:1-11

This heavenly scene transcends the earthly signs of:

- > Garden of Eden
- > Tabernacle
- > Temple
- > Ezekiel's Vision



Revelation 4:1-11

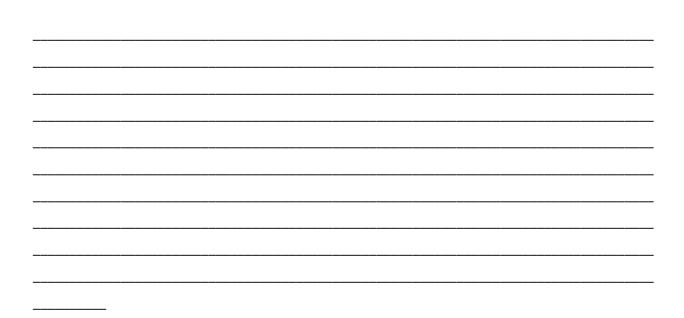
This heavenly throne transcends the earthly thrones of:

- ➤ Babylon
- ➤ Rome
- ➤ All Earthly Powers

Revelation 4:1-11

The Point

While the earthly temple lay in ruins, the God of Israel still reigns from His heavenly temple, just as He did in the ancient days of Daniel and Ezekiel, when the first temple was destroyed.



Revelation 4:1-11

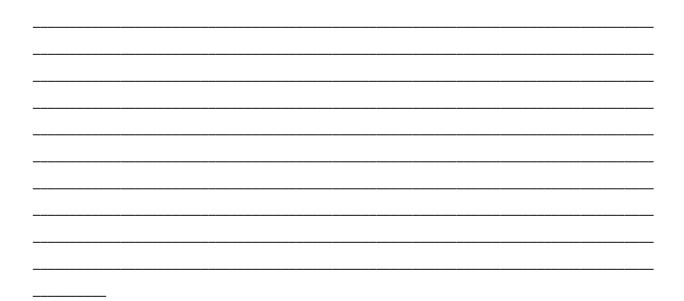
The Point

But now the people of God are expanded: the twelve tribes have now expanded exponentially into a larger congregation.



Revelation 5:1-4

➤The Scroll ➤The Cry



Revelation 5:1-4

The Scroll

"Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals."

Revelation 5:1

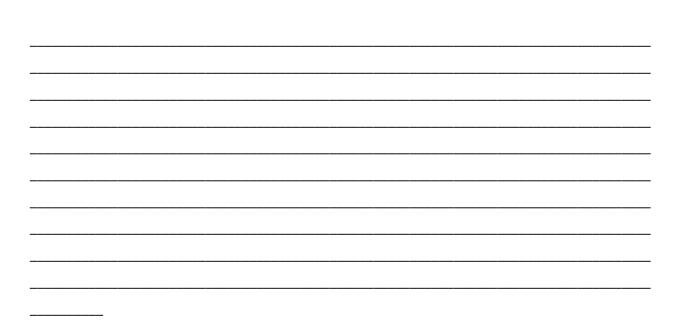
"Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe." Ezekiel 2:9-10

Revelation 5:1-4

The Scroll

"But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered...
But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end."

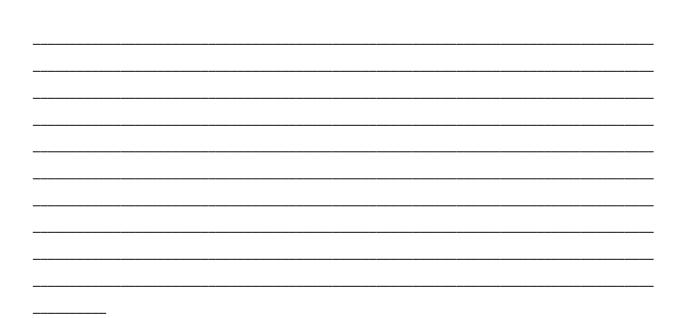
Daniel 12:1, 4



Revelation 5:1-4

The Scroll

God's eternal plan for His creation, including both His promised judgments and blessings

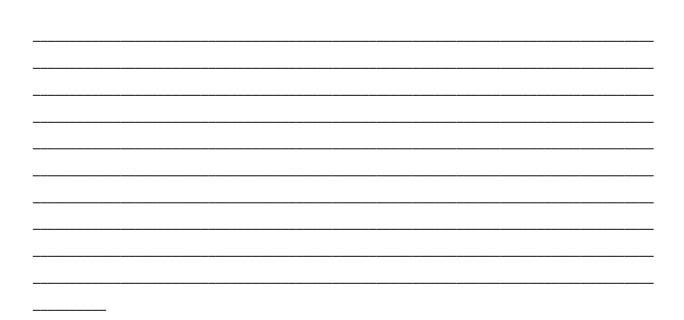


Revelation 5:1-4

The Cry

"But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside."

Revelation 5:3-4

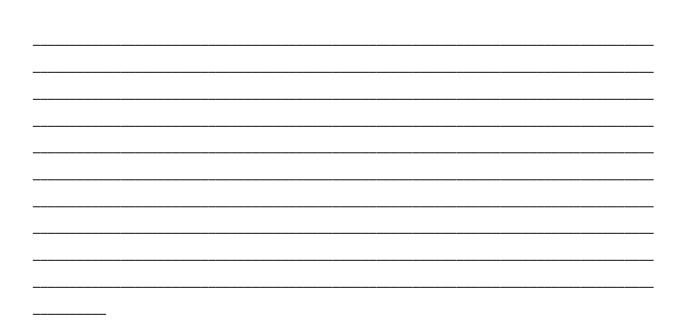


Revelation 5:1-4

The Cry

"Let the priests, who minister before the LORD weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare your people, LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?""

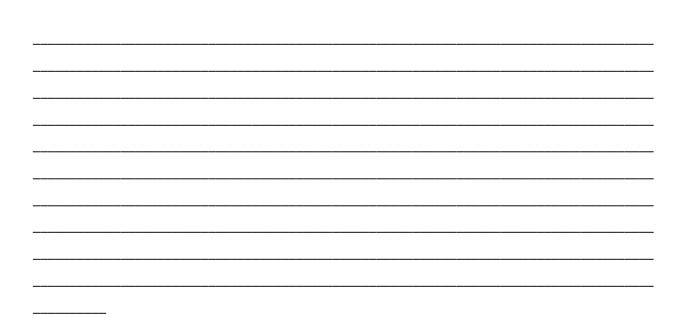
Joel 2:17



Revelation 5:1-4

The Point

How will God's plan for His creation breakthrough into history? How will He fulfill His promises of judgment & blessing?

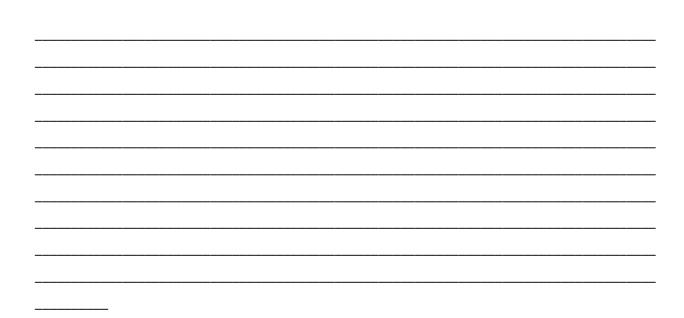


Revelation 5:5-14

The Lion is the Lamb!

"Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.'"

Revelation 5:5



Revelation 5:5-14

The Lion is the Lamb!

"You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his."

Genesis 49:9-10



Revelation 5:5-14

The Lion is the Lamb!

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people...."

Isaiah 11:1,10-11

Revelation 5:5-14

The Lion is the Lamb!

"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."

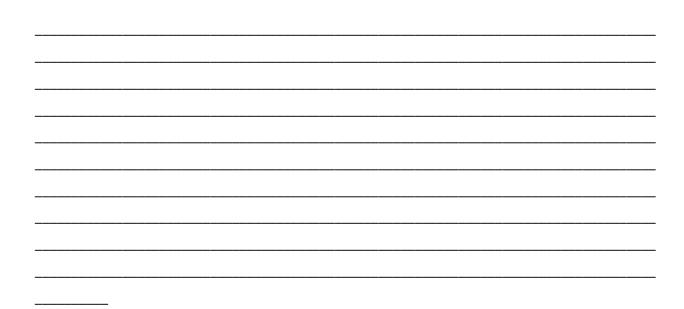
Revelation 5:6



Revelation 5:5-14
The Lion is the Lamb!

"He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people."

Revelation 5:7-8



Revelation 5:5-14

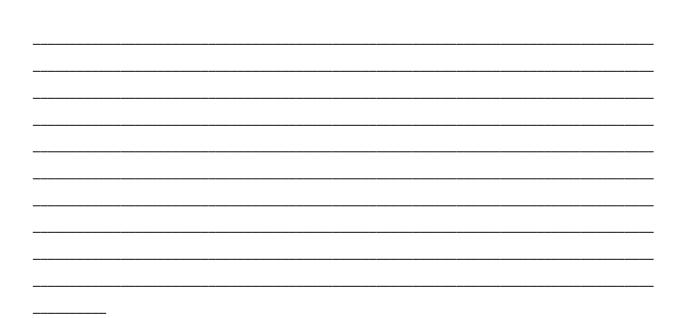
The Lion is the Lamb!

- > The Elders' Song 5:9-10
- > The Angels' Song 5:11-12
- > All Creation's Song 5:13
- > The Final Amen 5:14

Revelation 5:5-14

The Point

Christ, the Lion & Lamb of God, is the Heavenly Resolution;
He is the way in which God resolves our human problem of sin, so that His purposes are realized.

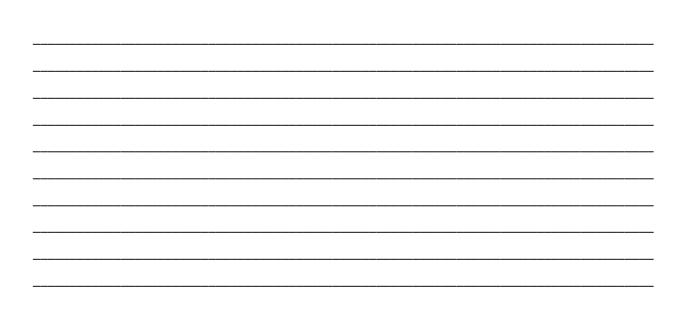


Revelation 6:1-8:1

- First Seal: A White Horse Fourth Seal: A Pale Horse
- Second Seal: A Red Horse > Fifth Seal: Souls under the Altar
- > Third Seal: A Black Horse > Sixth Seal: Cosmic Judgment

-- Interlude: 144,000 Sealed --

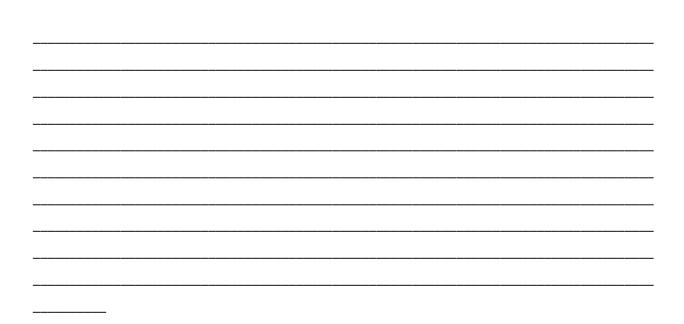
> Seventh Seal: Silence



Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Revelation 6:1-8

- > First Seal: A White Horse Conqueror
- Second Seal: A Red Horse BloodThird Seal: A Black Horse Famine
- > Fourth Seal: A Pale (Green) Horse Death



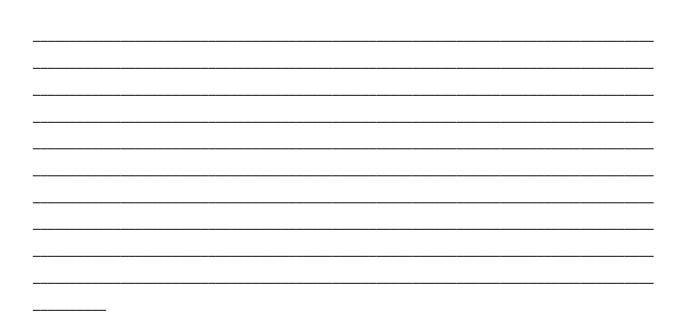
Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
Revelation 6:1-8

The destructive forces around us are not beyond God's control. Rather, they are signs of God's judgment on evil.



The Fifth Seal: Souls below the Altar
Revelation 6:9

"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained."



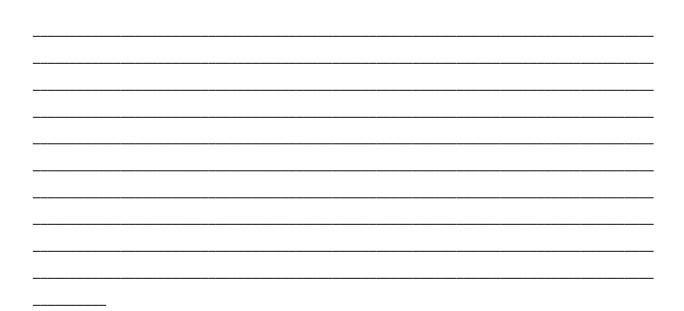
The Fifth Seal: Souls below the Altar
Revelation 6:10

"They called out in a loud voice, '<u>How long</u>, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?'"



The Fifth Seal: Souls below the Altar
Revelation 6:11

"Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to <u>wait a little longer</u>, <u>until the</u> <u>full number of their fellow servants, their</u> <u>brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had</u> <u>been</u>."



The Sixth Seal: Cosmic Judgement

Revelation 6:12-17

The Heavens Shake

- Earthquake
- Sun, Moon, Stars
- The Heavens
- Mountain, Islands

Earthly Response

- Hiding in Mountains & Rocks
- Praying for protection
- Fearing "great day" of wrath

Interlude: 144,000 Sealed
Revelation 7:1-17

- A Judgment Suspended
- A People Sealed
- A People Join Heavenly Worship
- A People Enjoy Eternal Blessing

Interlude: 144,000 Sealed

"Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, 'Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.'"

Ezekiel 9:3-4



Interlude: 144,000 Sealed - Four Views

- > Literal number of a remnant of ethnic Israel
- > Figurative reference to "all Israel" (Romans 11:26)
- > Christian remnant of 1st century ethnic Israel
- ➤ Figurative reference to all God's people, Christians joining redeemed ethnic Israel; 12 apostles X 12 tribes X 1000 = 144,000



Interlude: 144,000 Sealed

"And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the <u>great tribulation</u>; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'"

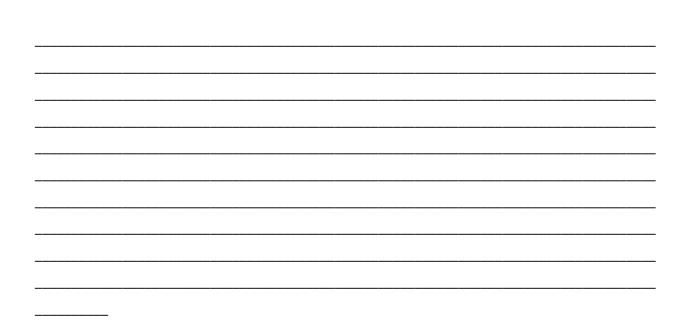
Revelation 7:14; compare Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21



The Seventh Seal: Silence

"When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."

Revelation 8:1



The Point

Our current tribulations signal God's final judgment, a judgment that the faithful will ultimately survive, until a full complement of God's people are gathered for eternal worship of the triune God.



The Point

All of this is accomplished through the redeeming work of Christ, the Lamb of God!

