

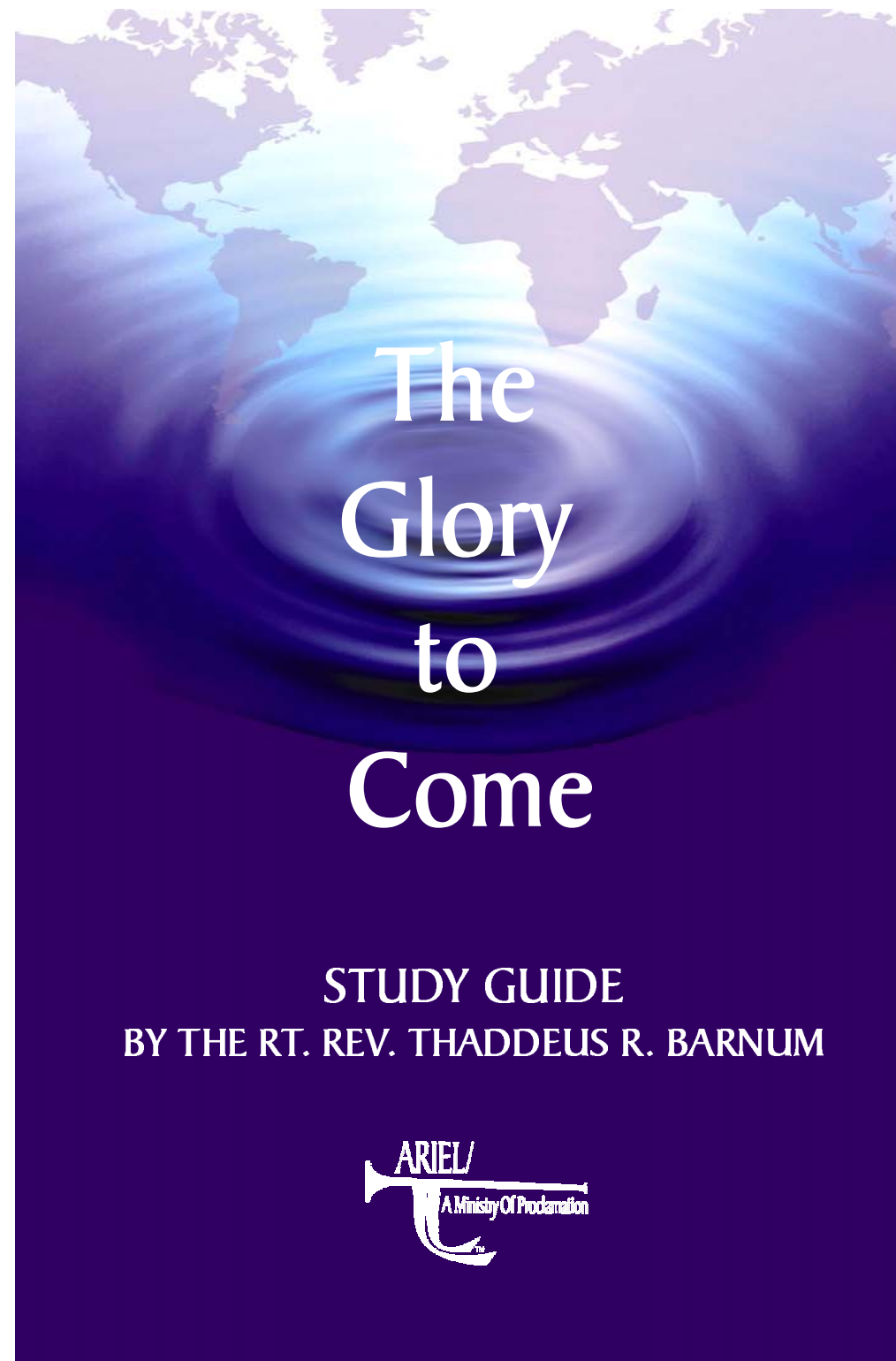
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The Crown Journal Entry

I picture him lying there, in the dust of the Damascan road, those moments after he met the Savior, Jesus Christ, after he beheld the Glory of the Risen Lord. The Light had physically blinded him. The Thunder of His Voice still echoing straight through his heart. “Who are You, Lord?” Paul had asked. “What shall I do, Lord?” he had asked again. His colleagues would lead him to town where Paul – known in those days as Saul – would stay, not eating or drinking for three days.

Three days.

The Lord let Paul stay in the words of His rebuke. Ananias would eventually come and lay hands on him. Paul would see again. He would be baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit. But before that happened, Paul was given three days to hear the words over and over, “Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute Me?” He would be left in the conviction of his sin against the Holy One. He would stay where few of us dare to stay – on his face, in his sin, before the Savior of the World.

I think about that dust on the road to Damascus and how much Paul left there that day of their first encounter. In the language of the Bible, Paul left what he had worked all his life to attain -- his Crown. He would call it, in his first letter to the Corinthians “a crown that will not last.” The athlete trains hard and competes hard in order to win the race and receive the great prize, the Crown of achievement. Ah, Paul said to them, but that Crown perishes. It lasts only a short time. There’s another kind of race, another kind of Crown – one that will last forever. He said it because he knew what it was like to lose the one, just as he knew the grace of receiving the other.

Even in his Damascan blindness, Paul saw the Crown of his own making cast down into the dust of utter ruin. He would later describe it in graphic terms. “Dung!” he would say to the Church at Philippi. That Crown had once meant everything. He prided himself that he was a covenant Jew, circumcised on the eighth day, a descendant from the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee trained at the feet of the finest rabbi in the Jewish world – Gamaliel! He was a zealous man for the Law and the traditions of his fathers, far exceeding his own contemporaries. He was proud of his persecution of the Church. In the Name of the God of Abraham, this young man had all the promise of greatness in his generation. That Crown! What else matters in life than this?

In all our advancements over two thousand years, little has changed. I was raised with the exact same passion. It mattered what family I came from, what schools I attended, what degrees I had earned, who I knew, who knew me, what I had achieved, where I lived – is it the right section of town? Do I belong to the right social circles? – what I own, what I wear, where I’ve traveled, and what I am yet to accomplish – ah, the dreams of the Crowns yet to be won! And the cycle repeats a thousand times over: What about the children? Where are they in school? What have they accomplished? God forbid, one of the children comes in second or chooses wrongly to rebel.

Paul said, “dung.”

He saw it laying in the dust on the Damascan road, trampled down by the Light of Glory, laying waste in a flash of time, like the twinkling of an eye – gone, gone forever. I see him picking it up, just as I have done with mine – have you done it with yours? -- and holding it with every sense alive – the sounds, the smells, the sights, the touch, the taste of the glory we so desperately long for in this life. What were we thinking? What were we giving our lives to for all those years? Why didn’t we know that these Crowns do not survive the grave? They perish with us. What a gift Paul had that glorious Day. To hold that Crown one last time. To see its demise. To stand up, to walk on, to leave it behind and to say – “dung.” It just doesn’t compare with the One he had just met.

The Glory to Come A Study of Revelation Four and Five

It's all about here and now says the world. The economy profits only if our every need is quickly satisfied. The Church, competing hard for our attention, easily falls into the same rut; preaching a consumer gospel intended to out-satisfy anything the world offers. But the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in Scripture, speaks of something greater than the here and now. There is a narrow door, and a narrow path, leading to eternal life. For just a moment, completely outside of time, John sees that door standing open in heaven. He hears the Lord Jesus call him and, suddenly, in the Holy Spirit, the apostle enters into the eternal Throne Room of the Almighty God. He experiences the worship of all creation. He also witnesses an event like no other when the Lamb of God steps forward to do what no one else in all creation could do. As praise erupts from the highest heaven to the lowest part of hell, nothing could be clearer: There is a Glory to come. We have choices to make. We can focus on satisfying our every need in the here and now. Or we can follow the Lord Jesus Christ as He leads us, and those we love, in true discipleship for the Days to come. Nothing is more critical in these sinful times.

LESSON I "The Two Doors"

Observations: General Comments on Revelation 4-5 set in Context of Rev 1-3

- ♦ Final Scene at Laodicea [3:14-22] – The Lord Jesus Standing Outside Door [3:20]
- ♦ First Scene in Rev 4:1 – John Sees / Door Open in Heaven – There are Two Doors
- ♦ Two Doors of Matt 7:13-14 / Most Hated Doctrine of Exclusivity / Narrowness
- ♦ Scene After Death 7:21-23 [see Luke 13:23-30] – Terrors of the Laodicean Deception
- ♦ Distinction among “converted” / 1 Peter 4:17-18 / Thunders of His Word

Strive to Enter the Narrow Door / Walk Narrow Way

~ *Most Urgent Question: What is your relationship to that Door?*

~ *Attitude: Is it that of John or the Laodiceans?*

~ *Thunders: Is your striving here – or is it after death?*

~ *Response: Have you broken from Crowd / to follow the Way?*

I. The Lord Jesus Christ: More than a Sermon – He Modeled it

- A. He is the Door: See John 10:9 [10:1-10] / Compare to Passover Door [Ex 12:21-23] New Testament Message: Acts 4:12 – No other way of salvation but the Lord Jesus
- B. He is the Way: See John 14:6 [14:1-7] / Compare to the Rending of Veil [Matt 27:51]
- C. He demonstrated that way – obedience to the Law / to Father / Eternal Plan set for Him
- D. He broke from Crowd: After Transfiguration, He set His face to Jerusalem – Luke 9:51
- E. He chose the Father’s will in Gethsemane / At Trial / Bearing Cross against the Crowd
- F. ** THE NARROW GATE / NARROW WAY – Look at Him – No Compromises!

*Application: What Will We Do—The Lord’s Command?: Luke 14:27 / 9:23?
Christians Break From the Crowd / Find the Narrow Gate / Walk the Way
Everlasting*

See Gal 6:14 / Col 3:5 / Titus 2:11-12 / 1 John 1:6 – 2:6 – 3:6 / 1 John 2:15-17

*Early Christians called “Followers of the Way” – Acts 9:2 / 19:23 / 22:4 / 24:14
You Can See Us / More than Public Confession / Our Footsteps Are Speaking
Matt 7:15: Behold the Laodicean Serpent Dressed as Sheep – Demanding us*

- C. The Total Inability of our Condition: They Cry is Always the Same, “What Shall I Do, Lord?”
 1. Nature of the Law [Rom 3:19-20] / Nature of Grace [Eph 2:8-9] and Truth [John 3:19]
 2. We are Utterly Dependent / In Need of Rescue / Lost Without Sovereign Intervention

III. Three Miracles That Result From Acts 2:38

- A. His Gift of Repentance: Note this as a Sovereign Gift – Acts 5:31 / 11:18 / Rom 2:4 / 2 Tim 2:25
- B. His Gift of Forgiveness: This too is a Sovereign Gift only possible In Christ: Acts 13:38 / Eph 1:7
- C. His Gift of the Indwelling Holy Spirit: The Sovereign Intervention – Born Again in Jesus Christ!
 - ** The Result: Worship -- Rom 7:25: “Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
Radical Change – Rom 8:1: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation”
New Life – Rom 8:9: The Sinful Nature has lost the reins of control and power

Bridge: *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit imparts a Glimpse of Glory, this Encounter with God’s Holiness. By it, we are Convicted and either Turn Away in Eternal Rebellion or we are Forever Changed. For those Changed, at the Sound of His Name, we Fall before Him, Casting down our Crowns.*

*Almighty God and Father,
Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and Your Church.
Open our Ears to Hear Your Word
and let Faith Come by the Hearing of that Word.
Convict us by Your Spirit,
Reveal our Sins and our Total Inability to Save Ourselves.
Give us a Seeking Heart,
Forbidding us to Turn Away From You in our Rebellion.
Grant us the Sovereign Gift of Repentance,
Forgiveness of Sin, and Your Holy Spirit.
Establish the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives
that we might walk in Your ways
Make us Witnesses to Those Around us and
Prepare us for the Glory to Come.
Amen*

Lesson 6 The Crown

Observations:

- ♦ 24 Elders falling down before Him in worship [5:8 / 5:14], Casting their Crowns—4:4 / 4:10
- ♦ Falling Down in His Presence: Rev 1:17 / Lev 9:24 / I Chron 21:16 / Ezek 3:23 / Matt 17:6
- ♦ Crowns of Gold – All our lives for crowns that will not last—1 Cor 9:25/ 2 Tim 4:8 / Jas 1:12

** We Come to the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit / His Ministry to Prepare us for the Glory to Come

** He Brings Us a Taste of Heaven / We come under Convictions / He Does His Work of Radical Change

I. Three Principles at Work in Acts 2:36-37

- A. The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost: Sovereign Act / Clothed with Power from on High. The Lord Jesus commanded us to wait for Him: 1:4/ Pentecost repeated: 4:31/10:44/ 19:6
- B. The Proclamation of God's Word: God's chosen method—"Faith Comes from Hearing" Rom 10:17. Heb 1:1-3: God at Creation / In the Law-Prophets / Finally in His Son – For Salvation
- C. The Response: They were "Cut To The Heart" – in Greek: To Pierce Through / Prick / Pain Heart. Cry of Helplessness: "What Shall We Do?" – The Holy Spirit Convicting of Sin – Jn 16:8

** Note Three Principles in Gen 3:8f: His Presence Near / His Word Spoken / Couple Behind Tree

** Note Three Principles in Acts 22:6-10: The Light / Jesus' Word / Response: What shall I do?

Bridge: Holy Spirit Convictions are the Beginning of Salvation and the Essence of Radical Discipleship

II. Three Principles of Conviction Applied from God's Word

- A. The Nature of Our Condition: Not simply a wrong ACT requiring confession, forgiveness, change
 1. Verdict: We have a Sinful NATURE – Jer 13:23 / Rom 7:18-24 / Gal 5:19-12 / Eph 2:1-3
 2. Work of the Holy Spirit: Get Behind the Outward Symptoms / Expose the Inward Cause
- B. The Consequence of Our Condition: What happens to us in this state of sin without a Savior?
 1. Acts 9:9: Paul spends three days in the conviction of his sin before baptism / healing
 2. Rom 7:24: Paul confesses ["wretched man"] / He knows consequence ["body of death"]

Bridge: Two Choices when someone is awakened by the Spirit to know their sins and their consequences. They either HARDEN and Turn Away / or they Turn Toward the Lord with a SEFKING heart.

II. The Sound of Knocking -- Principle in the Day of Judgment / Hard to Hear Him Calling

- A. Evangelist Noah: Days like ours [Luke 17:26] Narrow Door / Only Eight Saved
- B. Evangelist Lot: Days like ours [Luke 17:28] Narrow Gate Out / Remember Lot's Wife. No Contraband through Gate / No turning back to Sodom – Luke 9:62
- C. Evangelist Rahab: Broke from Crowd / Scarlet Cord / Must Come in before Trumpets
- D. Evangelists Moses / Joshua-Caleb / Mordecai / Prophets / Daniel / 3 Friends of Daniel
- E. ** Break From Crowd: Stand Out / Be Different / Be Talk of Others / Be Rejected
- F. ** Hear the Sound of Knocking: The Lord Jesus at Narrow Door saying FOLLOW ME

III. The Act of Seeing – By an act of Revelation / God opening his eyes / Apocalypse – the unveiling

- A. 2 Cor 4:4: This is the devil's work. He blinds the minds / not to see light of the gospel
- B. 2 Cor 4:5: This is God's work. The proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord
- C. 2 Cor 4:6: This act of Revelation. God shining in the heart – opening the eyes of heart

Application: There is a Narrow Door on Earth foreshadowing the Open Door in Heaven

1. Narrow the Entrance / Narrow the Disciple's Walk Bearing the Savior's Cross
2. Attitude: What is your relationship to that door? Can you see? Can you hear?
3. Thunders: Are you striving to enter the Narrow Door / to walk that Narrow way?
4. Response: Have you Broken from Crowd / Renounced your Sin / Said YES! Are you saved? Are you known for the being a Follower of the Way?

NEXT WEEK: "The Throne" – READ REVELATION 4
Read Those Passages in Scripture When
Heaven's Doors Open Wide

LESSON 2 *The Throne Room*

Observations:

- ♦ The Unveiling / Apocalypse: John sees the Eternal Door standing open in heaven
- ♦ The Bible Takes Us There a Thousand Times [Eden, Holy of Holies, Isa 6, Dan 7, Mt 17]
- ♦ The Promise That Every Eye Will See – Rev 1:7 / Luke 16:23 – From Heaven or Hell

I. THE SAVING EVENT: Miraculous Power and Grace of God Snatching us from the Outer Court

- A. Word of God: “Come up Here” -- Voice like a Trumpet [Rev 1:10] – Act of Proclamation
- B. Action of Holy Spirit [vs 2]: His essential role in our salvation – John 20:22 / Eph 1:13
- C. Presentation to Father: See Jn 14:6 / Trinity Acting on our behalf: Eph 1:3-14 Rev 1:4-6

II. THERE IS A PLACE -- Revelation 4:1-8b Context: The Altar / Tent of Meeting / Tabernacle / Mt. Zion / Temple – Standing in Outer Court

- A. THRONES: Ark/ Mercy Seat/ Cherubim – “enthroned between the cheruim” [Ps 99].
 - vs 3: Jasper [“clear as crystal” - holiness] / Carnelian – [blood red – fire – judgment] . 1 Tim 6:16 / Isa 6 “high and exalted” / Ancient of Days / Sovereignty
 - vs 3: Emerald Rainbow: Covenant God – w/Creation / [4th stone – color in glory]
- B. 24 ELDERS: not High Priest with no seat / 12 Tribes – 12 Apostles / Representative of All God’s People
 - vs 4: Dressed in white – levitical priests / Crowns of Gold – as kings [5:10]
 - vs 5: MOUNT SINAI – Thunder / Lightning [smoke, earthquake, trumpet, trembling] . Only Moses – until Ex 24:9f: Moses and 70 Elders [saw God / ate and drank]
- C. LAMPSTAND:
 - vs 5: Defined as the Holy Spirit [Rev 1:4; Zech 4] / Defined as Church [1:20]
- D. SEA OF GLASS:
 - vs 6: Picture of Ceremonial Cleansing / Note: Sea is gone in Rev 21:1
- E. CHERUBIM: vs-6-8 – Guarding Throne Ex 25:22 / Representing Creation / Heb 4:13 eyes

Application: *There is a place. Throne Room of the Universe. Absolute Sovereign Majesty. We are not in Control. It’s not about us. We are not the center of the universe.*

NOTE:

Lot: tormented but he was unable to act / to rescue-persuade-lead / to leave in his own power. Heart can feel torment-rending but when the coldness of toleration sets in over time--powerless

Sodom: gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion [Jude 7]—serve as an example

Sodom: arrogant / overfed / unconcerned / haughty / did not help poor - needy [Ezek 16:49]

Sodom: Is it here? Has wickedness increased? Are we numb? Have we grown immune to sin? *Do we know something about torment? Have we got the ability to act – to leave?*

Bridge: The Lord Jesus did not tolerate sin. He entered into its full torment on Calvary – on our behalf. John Wesley is quoted “while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.” [Aldersgate, May 1738]

III. TEMPTATION – The Devil’s Power to Keep Us Cold in Heart – See

Gen 19:26: “*But Lot’s wife...*”

- A. Gen 19:16f: The Lord’s Mercy / Angels Grabbed Them / Commanded: “Flee for your lives!” . Don’t Look Back” / The Act of Lot’s Wife in Turning Back / Leave yet Not Leave
- B. Luke 17:28f: Days of Lot SAME as Days of Son of Man. Luke 17:32: “Remember Lot’s wife!”
- C. Luke 9:62: Jesus said, “No one who...looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

NOTE: Caught between two kingdoms. You cannot serve both. He has done His part. Matter of the heart! In front—the Glory of God. Behind—the Corruption of World and its final judgment. Eternal Fire.

** The Devil’s Temptation of Adam in Eden / of the Lord Jesus / of us – see 1 John 2:15-17

** Jer 17:9: We need a Savior / Change our Heart / Deliver us from the eternal flames of hell

Application:

1. *Are we TOLERATING sin? Is it possible our hearts are cold-immune-insensitive to sin?*
2. *Are we TORMENTED when we sin / when we are in the midst of sin? Is our heart rent? Do we weep with what hurts the heart of God? Do we have the power to stop?*
3. *Are we TEMPTED in going back? Do we know the eternal fires raining on Sodom?*

** *Examine our Cold Hearts. Prepare for the Coming Day. Flee to the Lord Jesus Christ!*

J. Edwards: “*I think it is a reasonable thing to endeavor to fright persons from hell. They stand on its brink and are just ready to fall into it, and are senseless of their danger.*”

NEXT WEEK: “The Crown” – READ REVELATION 4 and 5

Read Rev 1:12-18 / Acts 22:6-11 / Luke 3:7-18

Lesson 5 The Fire

Observations:

- ◆ Twice in Rev 5 [vs 3, 13] we are introduced to those in torment -- “under the earth” [see Phil 2:10]
- ◆ Far from the Absence of God, they behold the Glory of God from across the Chasm [Luke 16:19f]
- ◆ This Real Place of Eternal Punishment: Mark 9:42f / Matt 13:41f / Matt 25:41, 46 / Rev 20:10-15. J. Edwards: “Almost every natural man that hears of hell, flatters himself that he shall escape it”

Premise: We live in a time of greatest danger. The Lord Jesus Christ said that “because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.” [Matt 24:12] Have we become cold to this Judgment Day?

I. TOLERATE – The Process of Becoming Cold – See Rev 2:20: “You tolerate that woman Jezebel”. Tolerate means, in positive: To allow / permit. In negative: To not forbid / prevent / stop / restrain. Note the process in Lot’s life and his reaction to Sodom and Gomorrah / Compare to our Day

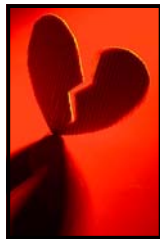
- A. Gen 13:6-7: Lot/Abram – quarreling herdsmen. Part company. Lot “pitched his tent NEAR Sodom.”
- B. Gen 14:11-12: War against Sodom. Lot and possessions carried off, “since he was living IN Sodom”
- C. Gen 19:1: Angels arrive in Sodom. “Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom” – place of LEADERSHIP

** No understanding that coldness is a slow imperceptible process of toleration / It is a choice each time

II. TORMENT – The Grace Offered in Times of Coldness – See 2 Pet 2:4-10: “Lot...tormented”. Note: We see Lot distressed and tormented by filthy lives of lawless men / lawless deeds. He responded to Angels / Knew wickedness in Sodom / Believed God’s Word / Obeyed.

- A. Distressed: To be oppressed / to tire and exhaust with labor – labor down
- B. Tormented: Used to describe Hell / place of torment – Luke 16: 23, 28 / 20:10 “tormented...forever”

** Old Testament: Picture of Rending Garment / Described in Joel 2:13 as the Rending of the Heart



III. THERE IS AN EXPERIENCE OF DIVINE WORSHIP - Rev 4:8c-11

Context: “Day and Night” – this scene is out of chronological time/ yet in a time between Advents

- A. NEVER STOP: Unceasing worship – picture of Mt. Zion under King David [1 Chron 25]
- B. WORSHIP: [vs 9: “give glory, honor and thanks”] / The Psalms – specifically Psalms 96-100
 1. HOLINESS: Isa 6/ Three times / Meaning Separated– Standing Apart – Absolute Purity
 2. ALMIGHTY: He who has all power –omnipotent / Found 12 times NT – 9 in Revelation
 3. ETERNAL: He who is everlasting / Ex 3:14 “I AM” / Rev 1:4, 8: Who was-is-is to come
- C. FALLING DOWN / CASTING CROWN: Elders worship -- “glory and honor and power”
 1. WORTHY: Comparative – none like Him -- Ex 15:11 / Isa 40:25 – Worthship
 2. OUR LORD: Smallest word “our” – but it is a covenant word of longing
 3. CREATOR: Praise because it’s Him – Power – “It is He who made us” Ps 100.3 Choice: You created all things – BY YOUR WILL – Acts 17:28

Application: There is a Place. There is an Event. There is One seated on the Everlasting Throne. Not about us. Not about–Gen 3 problem. Not about personal problems/ anxieties. Worship and Adore Him / Seek Him 1st / Love Him as 1st Command / Ps 121:1.

IV. THERE IS A DAY COMING -- Revelation 4:1-2a

- A. ALL MEN ARE LIKE GRASS [Isa 40:6]: Appointment set: We don’t know when / how
- B. EVERY EYE [1:7; 2 Cor 5:10; Mt 25:32; Luke 16:23]: We will all stand before the throne
- C. IN HEAVEN/ ON EARTH/ UNDER EARTH [5:13/ Phil 2:10]: **Where will you be?**

Application: Nothing takes precedence/ Clarity of sinful nature/ Depth of call: SEEK HIM.

1. There is a Door that God Opens – John 10:9 -- it is called THE WAY [Acts 9:2]
2. There is a Voice that Calls – none other than the Lord Jesus Christ [trumpet 1:10f].
3. There is a Helper that makes it happen – the Holy Spirit [4:2] – means of salvation.
4. Then we COME UP HERE – All things are Possible. Perspective is given. Peace in Jesus ours.

NEXT WEEK: “The Scroll” – READ REVELATION 5:1-7
Read Hebrews 10:5-10 / Gospel Accounts of Gethsemane / Daniel 7:9-14

Lesson 3 The Scroll

Observations:

- ♦ Context: In Eternal Throne Room / Worship of God / Then – This Event Happens in Chapter 5 Drama: Unrestrained Weeping to Unrestrained Praise / The Taking of the Scroll
- ♦ Two Essential Questions:
 - What is this Scroll and When in Time does this Event Take Place?
- ** Remember:
 - a- We are in Eternity yet before the end of the age when the Lord Jesus returns
 - b- Nothing more central than **THE CROSS**: I Cor 2:2 / 1 Cor 1:18 / Gal 6:14
 - c- Cross is Timeless: 1 P 1:17-21 / Isa 53: 6-9 / He died then for my sins now
 - d- Biblical word *Remember* / Anamnesis / Past as if it's dynamically present
- ** In every generation, in countless ages of glory: Single Event of All Time – *Lift High the Cross*
- ** Key: **The judgment to come is nothing more than the administration of the judgment that has been**

- I. **The Crisis in Heaven – 5:1-4:** The Scroll / The Question / The Search
- A. **The Scroll:** Confusion over Scroll: Book of Future, Eschatological Events / God's Eternal Plan for World's Destiny / Lamb's Book of Life / Inheritance of Saints / Rev 6:1 - 22:6
Key: *Scroll with writing on both sides* – Where have we seen that before in Holy Scripture? See Ex 32:15 / Ezek 2:7, 10 / Matt 5:17 / Luke 24:44 / Heb 10:5 -10 – see Psalm 40:6-8
Note: God's Word / Summation of Law and Prophets which Messiah came to fulfill. Just Requirements of the Law must be met for sinful man to approach Holy God. We cannot do it. We have sinned: Rom 3:9-12 / 3:19-20/ 3:23 / Ps 14 / Isa 53:6. Need for Arbiter: Job 9:33 / 1 Tim 2:5 / Heb 9:15 / 1 Cor 15:55-57 / Col 1:19
- B. **The Question: WHO IS WORTHY TO BREAK THE SEALS AND OPEN THE SCROLL?™** Worthy™ -- Having weight of something of like value / Comparative term / Just / Equal. Set on the scales / Balance / Matt 6:26 / 10:31– worth more than sparrows/ more valuable.
- ** Who is worthy as one of us / to go for all of us / to do the work / to meet the demands?
- C. **The Search:** John in eternity: The Search throughout all time – heaven, earth, under earth – **NO ONE:** 2x [vs 3, 4] – Experience Search / Experience verdict: NO ONE / Unrestrained weeping. John knows the SCROLL / Understands QUESTION / Feels impact of SEARCH. **NO ONE WAS FOUND WHO WAS WORTHY** – What if there was no Savior?
- ** Where is the weeping today in a quick-fix, morphine induced culture of instant relief?

II. The Heart of the Lamb

- A. **He Emptied Himself:** We step down from our exalted positions by coming to that Scroll
1. The Purpose of the Law: Rom 7:7, 21-25 / 3:20 – we become conscious of sin
 2. The Spirit of the Law: Read Sermon on the Mount – Matt 5-7 – A Matter of the Heart! Who is it that can meet the just requirements of the Law and enter into Heaven?
 3. The Judgment of the Law: James 2:10 – keep it all, stumble at one point, declared guilty!
** Rom 3:10-18, 23: We have all fallen short / That Scroll – None of us are worthy to take it
** **Result:** We are Incapable / We are in a Deplorable State / We need a Sovereign Intervention
- B. **He Humbled Himself:** We stay down in humility – the Church serving not as lion but Lamb
1. John the Baptist: Mark 1:7 – I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal thongs. Before the Lamb, John saw himself in humility unable to do most menial task
 2. The Centurion: Matt 8:8 – Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof
 3. The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:19, 21 – Father, I am no longer worthy to be called your son
** Contrast the American Attitude: Presumption / Arrogance / Pride / Exaltation of Self
** Presence of Attitude in Churches / Pulpits / Leaders / Christians – Where is the Humility?
 - a. God is obliged to save us / We have the right to decide to accept or reject Him
 - b. We deserve to receive His blessings / We expect Him to meet all our demands
 - c. Being a Christian promotes power – prosperity – success – happiness – long life
- Bridge: The Lord Jesus became Lamb – Emptying and Humbling Himself as a bond-servant in obedience. It remains the call for Leaders / Christians / Church today: Lk 1:38 / Rom 1:1 / Jas 1:1 / 2 Pet 1:1
- Application:**
1. *Enter into His worship as the Lamb [see Phil 2:10-11 / Rev 5] and be changed by it*
 2. *Examine our hearts: Have we this presumption before God or this attitude found in Christ*
 3. *Apply this role as bond-servant by living in obedience to the Father – no matter the cost*
 4. *To pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to know this humility in Christ as our witness*

Lesson 4 The Lamb

Observations:

- ♦ Dominant Picture the Lord Jesus in Rev: The Lamb [1st time -5:6 / 30 times in all]. Contrast with 1:12-16: Why not appear in Rev as The Victorious Conquering Lion?
- ♦ Centrality of Cross: 1 Cor 1:18/ 2:2 /Gal 6:14 the Key of Scripture: Sacrifice!
** He stands in Glory today as the Risen Lamb. What does this say about us – and about His Church?

I. The Picture of the Lamb and its Fulfillment

A. Four Pictures of the OT

1. Genesis 22:7-8: Isaac knew in worship before God Almighty there must be a sacrifice
2. Ex 29:38-46: Each day and night, the priests offered a lamb in obedience to the Lord
3. Ex 12:3-13: The Passover Lamb, the blood on the doorposts, the Destroyer passes over
4. Isa 53:7: The Suffering Servant, taking up our infirmities, is led like lamb to slaughter

B. Four Pictures of the NT

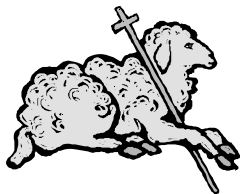
1. John 1:29, 36: When John saw the Lord Jesus, He knew Him as the Lamb of God
2. Acts 8:34: The Ethiopian asks, Who is this in Isa 53:7-8? Philip tells him of Jesus
3. 1 Cor 5:7: The Celebration of Glory: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us!
4. 1 Peter 1:18-20: Jesus the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world -- Rev 13:8

Bridge: Centrality of the Cross / Fulfillment of Law and Prophets / Lamb on His Throne Reigning in Glory

Key Application: Phil 2:5-11. He Emptied Himself. He Humbled Himself. We are to do the same

** Today He continues to model the Lamb, even as He is mocked and ridiculed in the World

** He sees us just the same – sending His Church out as “sheep among wolves” – Matt 10:16



II. The Praise in Heaven – 5:5-13: One of the Elders / Saying: One has come from us

- A. vs 5: Lion of Judah: Gen 49:8-12 / Root of King David: Isa 9:6-7 / 11:1
- B. vs 6: The Passover Lamb: John 1:29 / Acts 8:32 – Isa 53:7 / 1 Cor 5:7 / 1 Peter 1:19. Dead yet alive – Rev 1:18 / Horns of Authority / Eyes of Spirit—Rev 1:14, 2:18
- C. vs 7: The Act! The Event of All Time! The Mighty Verse Seven— He takes the Scroll! Suddenly: Unrestrained Weeping to Unrestrained Praise Cherubim / Elders [vs 9-10] / Angels [vs 11-12], Every Creature [vs 13]

THERE WAS A DAY: In our History / Earth-perspective / Lamb approached Throne of Father

THERE WAS A CHOICE: *Take this cup from Me – Yet not what I will, but what You will*

THERE WAS AN ACT: *I lay down My life...of My own accord – [Mk 14:36 / Jn 10:17-18]*

** Garden of Gethsemane– In time / Out of time / For all time– The Cross of Jesus Christ

** Biblical word: Anamnesis– 1 Cor 11:26 / Gal 6:14 / 1 Cor 2:2– Core Message of Bible

Application:

1. *Have you considered that nature of the Scroll in the Father's Hand?*
2. *Do you know something about the weeping– our inability/ our wretchedness?– Rom 7:24*
3. *Have you considered the Lord Jesus Christ? Who He is? What He has done for us all? Have you fled to Him and Him alone – and to that Cross? – 1 Cor 15:55-57 Have you joined the choruses of heaven in celebration of the Risen Lord Jesus?*

NEXT WEEK: “The Lamb” – READ REVELATION 5:6

Read : John 1:29 / Acts 8:32 – Isa 53:7

1 Cor 5:7 – Ex 12: 1-13 / 1 Peter 1:19

