

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## 4 The throne, the lion and the lamb

(Chapters 4-5)



### Introduction

*'After this...'*

- The mess and mixture which is the Church
- Yet the end of each letter tells us that there will be some within the churches who will make it – victorious conquerors.

### Who is in charge of the world?

- Various leaders and nations who have sought world dominion. Where are they now?
- The reign of Antichrist will also be short lived (Daniel 12:1; Matt 24:22; Rev 13:5)
- The word 'throne' comes 17 times in chapters 4 & 5.

### The vision of the One on the throne (4:2-8)

- 'Come up here': A higher form of inspiration (Ezekiel 1:1; Revelation 4:2)
- John does not see God as such, but speaks of 'The One who is seated on the throne' and describes him as being 'like' precious stones and a rainbow. (4:3-6)
- The seven spirits of God (sevenfold spirit) (Revelation 1:4; Isaiah 11:2; Zechariah 4:1-10) The 'menorah' – seven-branched candlestick of Judaism.
- The four creatures (6b-8) The lion, ox, human, eagle (Ezekiel 1:10) The opening chapter of the four Gospel writers:
  - ❖ Matthew – human face (genealogy of Jesus)
  - ❖ Mark – lion (in the wilderness and fast moving)
  - ❖ Luke – ox (the animal sacrificed by a priest)
  - ❖ John – eagle (can see more than any other)

### Surrounding the throne (4:4; 6b-11)

- (a) Twenty four elders (12 Patriarchs and 12 Apostles? – Matt 19:28)
- (b) Four creatures – angelic beings with six wings. Isaiah 6:2)

### The scroll with seven seals (5:1-5)

- The plan and purposes of God for the future
- Who is worthy to open the seals – to reveal the future?
- The Lion of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9; Matthew 1:1-2)
- The root of David (Psalm 110:1); Acts 2:25-36)

### **The Lamb (5:6-14)**

- Slain – in ritual sacrifice
- Seven Horns – symbols of complete authority
- The idea of the lamb in the Old Testament (Passover, Jewish sacrificial system; Isaiah 53; John 1:29)
- Conquered through weakness, death, sacrifice and love.
- The throne of God and of the Lamb (Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 5:13)

### **The hymns of heaven**

- The Sanctus (4:8)
- The Song of Creation (4:11)
- The Song of Redemption (5:9-10)
- The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) (5:12)
- Worthy is the Lamb (5:13)

### **Conclusion**

- Don't be intimidated by those who don't know the plan!
- The ultimate question – Who will you worship?
- Standing firm in the difficult times because of what you know and have seen.
- Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown .