

The Book of Revelation

Session 4: The Heavenly Court, the Seven Seals, and the Seven Trumpets (Part 1)

1. The heavenly court (Revelation 4)

a. How does this vision echo images from Ezekiel 1:4-13, 26-28?

b. The twenty-four elders

i. Compare with 1 Chronicles 24:1-19.

ii. Whom do the twenty-four elders represent?

c. The four living creatures

i. Compare with Ezekiel 1:4-13 and Isaiah 6:2-3.

ii. Where have we heard Revelation 4:8 before?

iii. Second-century tradition identifying the creatures with the four evangelists: Matthew as the man, Mark as the lion, Luke as the ox, and John as the eagle

2. The Lamb and the Scroll with Seven Seals (Revelation 5)

a. What does the symbolic description of the Lamb indicate about Christ?

- b. What do the songs of praise indicate about the relationship between God on the throne (Revelation 4) and the Lamb (Revelation 5)?

3. The first six seals (Revelation 6)

- a. The first four seals (the four horsemen) (Revelation 6:2-8): Compare with Zechariah 1:7-17, 6:1-8.
 - i. White horse: Conquest
 - ii. Red horse: War
 - iii. Black horse: Famine
 - iv. Pale green horse: Death
- b. The fifth seal (the souls of the martyrs beneath the altar) (Revelation 6:9-11): What does this passage say about martyrdom and intercessory prayer?
- c. The sixth seal (Revelation 6:12-17): Does God feel emotions like "wrath" (Revelation 6:17)?

4. God's people (Revelation 7:1-17)

- a. Compare to Ezekiel 9:1-7.

- b. Who are the 144,000 sealed people, and who are the multitude no one can count?
 - c. When will the “time of great distress” (Revelation 7:14) take place?
5. The seventh seal and the first four trumpets (Revelation 8:1-12)
 - a. What does Revelation 8:1-5 suggest about liturgical prayer?
 - b. Compare the passage about the first four trumpets to Joshua 6:1-20 and Exodus 7-12.
6. The fifth trumpet (Revelation 9:1-12)
 - a. Who is the target of this chastisement? What are its limits?
 - b. Who rules the locusts?
7. The sixth trumpet (Revelation 9:13-21)
 - a. What is the nature of the weapons in Revelation 9:18-19?
 - b. Why don't the survivors repent?
8. What patterns do you see emerging in the visions we've studied so far?