

# Revelation – The Big Picture

Week four – an invitation to come and see...

The angel reveals the Big Picture to encourage a suffering church...

## **1. The invitation is given 4: 1**

- A door standing open
- ‘Come up here – I will show you what must take place...’
- History from God’s perspective – vital truth for living in a broken world.

## **2. John is shown the throne room from which God rules 4: 2 - 6**

- A dramatic scene – lightning and thunder, 7 blazing lamps
- A rainbow – God’s covenant promise circles the throne
- 24 Elders dressed in white, crowns of Gold
- A sea of glass, clear as crystal

## **3. John looks to the centre 4: 6 – 11**

- Four living creatures – representing the whole of creation
- Creation reveals God’s nature
  - i. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!
  - ii. Eternal: ‘Who was and is and is to come’
- Creation praises God and the 24 elders join in
  - i. You are worthy!
  - ii. Our being and purpose is found in God, nothing else
- Truth to encourage and help a church facing persecution for all who refused to worship the Roman Emperor.

## **4. John sees a scroll 5: 1 – 5**

- The history and purpose of the world sealed with 7 seals!
- The scroll holds the answers to the world’s great mysteries
- John weeps – no-one can open the scroll
- One of the elders points to the Lion of the tribe of Judah!

## **5. John sees a lamb 5: 6 – 11**

- Looking as if it had been killed. At the centre of the throne
- You are worthy! Jesus reveals the meaning and purpose of life and it is him!
- The scene closes in verse 12 – 14 with the whole of creation acknowledging and worshipping Jesus.

## **6. Come and See!**

- Revelation is given to help and encourage a suffering church
  - i. When it is persecuted
  - ii. When it feels weak and ineffective
  - iii. When it is tempted to compromise
  - iv. When it is tempted to indifference
  - v. When tempted by pride and self-reliance
- Revelation is given to help individuals who make up the family of Jesus
- Revelation 1:17, 18 'Then I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.'

## Digging Deeper

We meet to pray together this week.

Read Revelation 4 – 5

1. Reflect on a time when someone showed you a situation from a different perspective. What difference did that make to how you felt and acted?
2. John and we are invited to 'Come and See' In Revelation 4:1 – 11 what features come through most strongly in John's description?
3. How does the scene here compare with what is commonly regarded as worship? What might the reason for the differences be?
4. Revelation 5: 1 – 5 Why did the scroll cause grief for John? What does he then see in verses 6 – 14?
5. What is the central reality of the Universe according to the vision John was given?
6. How should we respond to knowing this?
  - A. Where have you seen God work his power through weakness?
  - B. What difference does this make when we face suffering, ridicule or persecution?
  - C. What does it mean to you that the Lamb still appears wounded even on the throne?
  - D. What does the suffering of the Lamb say about his love for you? What impact does this have on you?