

(1) What are some of the reasons you experience fear and doubt about the future of human history? What is it that makes the present and the future so frightening? Do you find yourself like John in Revelation 5 weeping in fear and anxiety that perhaps there is no one who is in control, no one who is sovereign over our circumstances, no one who can bring things to a just and holy conclusion? When you find yourself thinking like this, what do you do to get by? How do you cope? How might Revelation 4-5 serve to bring peace and confidence to our hearts?

(2) What is the significance of the “prayers of the saints” in Revelation 5:8? Are these your prayers? What purpose do they serve in God bringing his plan to fruition? How does it affect the way you pray and how often you pray and how fervently you pray to know that your prayers avail before the throne of God?

(3) What is racism? Why is it so offensive to God? Why is it a contradiction of the gospel itself? Read Revelation 5:9-10 and apply these verses to the racial tension and prejudice in America today. How do these verses influence your own heart as you think about men and women of a different ethnicity?

(4) Does it sound like a contradiction to say that Jesus Christ is both a Lion and a Lamb? If not, why not? And what specifically do you see in his life, death, resurrection, and current dominion that reflects each of these truths?

(5) What effect does it have on you and how you approach Sunday worship (or worship in a community group) to know that you were created to glorify God by enjoying him forever? What difference does this truth make in your life, in how you sing, in how you relate to others? Be specific.

(6) On several occasions I’ve asked the question: “What kind of God makes kings of his enemies?” Answer the question!