

Steve Whitacre

SESSION 3 | The Lion Who Is the Lamb Who Is the Lord of History

INTRODUCTION

Revelation rouses the imagination to inform Christians about ultimate reality and to strengthen Christians in worship, obedience, and hope.

1. Revelation 1: The Big Picture
2. Revelation 2–3: Dear Church...
- 3. Revelation 4–8: The Lion Who is the Lamb Who is the Lord of History**
4. Revelation 8–18: A Peek Behind the Curtain
5. Revelation 19–22: The End and Everything After

“The record of John’s experience introduces two images that dominate the rest of the book: the throne of God and the Lamb of God. The word “throne” appears 43 times from chapter 4 until the end of the book (19 time in chapters 4 and 5 alone), and the word “Lamb” (referring to Christ) 28—7x4—times. Together these images constitute the hermeneutical, or interpretive, key to the entire book. They reveal in pictures the essential theology of the book of Revelation: God the creator reigns and is worthy of our complete devotion, and Jesus the faithful, slaughtered Lamb of God reigns with God, equally worthy of our complete devotion.” Michael Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, 103.

I. CH. 4: THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

- **4:1–2 John Enters the Throne Room**

 - **4:3–6 The Scene Around the Throne**

 - **4:6b–11 The Chorus of Heavenly worship**
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II. CH. 5: THE LION WHO IS THE LAMB WHO IS THE LORD OF HISTORY

- 5:1–5 The Seven-Sealed Scroll
- 5:6–7 The Lion Who is the Lamb
- 4:6b-11 and 5:6–14 The Chorus of Heavenly Worship

“And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Revelation 4:8)

- Who?
- To whom?
- Why?

“And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”” (Revelation 4:9–11)

- Who?
- To whom?
- Why?

“And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”” (Revelation 5:8–10)

- Who?
- To whom?
- Why?

“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”” (Revelation 5:11–12)

- Who?
 - To whom?
 - Why?
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“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”” (Revelation 5:13)

- Who?
- To whom?
- Why?

III. 6:1–8:1 THE SEVEN SEALS

“We infer that God’s secret plan for history lies hidden in the sealed scroll; so when the Lamb takes the scroll from his hand and begins to break its seals, we look through John’s eyes for answers to our questions, When? and What? and How long? Instead of answering our questions, the prolonged process of preparing to unroll the scroll presents a series of portraits that answer the question, Why, if the Lion-Lamb has conquered does the world continue to be a place of evil, violence, and misery?” Dennis Johnson, *The Triumph of the Lamb*, 117.

- **Seals 1–4: God’s sovereignty over world calamities**
 - **Seal 5: The martyrs’ appeal for judgment and justice**
 - **Seal 6: Judgment and salvation**
 - **Seal 7: Silence in heaven**
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