

# Youth Weekly Devotion



## **Revelation 4-6**

# ***The Heavenly Realm & Earths ending***

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024





## **'Come up here' - Revelation 4:1-6 (ERV)**

1 Then I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. It said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." <sup>2</sup> Immediately the Spirit took control of me, and there in heaven was a throne with someone sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> The one sitting there was as beautiful as precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow with clear colours like an emerald.

<sup>4</sup> In a circle around the throne were 24 other thrones with 24 elders sitting on them. The elders were dressed in white, and they had golden crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup> Lightning flashes and noises of thunder came from the throne. Before the throne there were seven lamps burning, which are the seven Spirits of God. <sup>6</sup> Also before the throne there was something that looked like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal.

### **Thoughts about the passage:**

John is shown a vision of heaven, this passage begins his seeing of what is to take place in both heaven and earth. This vision is a door way into heaven and gives us an idea of what is taking place in heaven currently.

The one sitting on the throne is God himself, he doesn't see how God fully looks as no human can look upon God in His true form and survive. (Exodus 33:20).

What He does see gives an idea of just the glory of God. The precious stones signify God appearance on earth. The Jasper can be a range of colours, but it is a semi-precious gem in - commonly reddish brown. The Carnelian (Sardion) translates to ruby and is red in colour. This suggests its a fiery jewelled like appearance, which connects with Gods appearance of fire in exodus. The rainbow is the reminder of Gods promise to creation as seen in the flood and the emerald shows the glory of heaven that it is beyond earth or what we know.

The Elders are not angels or angelic beings but representatives of human kind and show creation. They are in white to show purity and the crowns are authority and a reward.

The Lightning and thunders again is the power of God coming from the throne. It shows the almighty power of God.

The seven lamps and Spirits is the Spirit of God in completeness due to their being 7 of them. However the lamps are also seen in front of the tabernacle where Gods presence was in the Old Testament.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**



## **Worship in heaven - Revelation 4:6-11 (ERV)**

6 In front of the throne and on each side of it there were four living beings. They had eyes all over them, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup> The first living being was like a lion. The second was like a bull. The third had a face like a man. The fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> Each of these four living beings had six wings. They were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day and night they never stopped saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God All-Powerful.

He always was, he is, and he is coming.”

<sup>9</sup> These living beings were giving glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever. And every time they did this, <sup>10</sup> the 24 elders bowed down before the one who sits on the throne. They worshiped him who lives forever and ever. They put their crowns down before the throne and said,

<sup>11</sup> “Our Lord and God!

You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

You made all things.

Everything existed and was made because you wanted it.”

### **Thoughts about the passage:**

The creatures can be something hard to picture but some of their features can be explained. The eyes all over for example show us that nothing is hidden from them so they see all that is happening in earth and heaven. The faces link to Ezekiel’s vision of heaven (Ezekiel 1:10), they also represent different aspects of creation; the lion – King of wild beasts, the Ox – leader of tamed animals, the man – shows humanity and the eagle is king of the birds. The wings link to Isaiah’s vision of heaven in Isaiah 6:1-2. In this Isaiah sees Seraphim around the throne with 6 wings.

The day and night and never stopping from saying the line in verse 8, shows that they never rested from declaring this and continually worship God declaring who he is. This shows that creation is continually declaring who God is in the heavenly places.

The Elders are also constantly worshipping, but in a way of reverence and surrender. Their bowing and casting of crowns is a sign of surrender to someone in authority but also an act of worship.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**



## The Lamb & the scroll - Revelation 5:1-10 (ERV)

5 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. The scroll had writing on both sides and was kept closed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a powerful angel, who called in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” <sup>3</sup> But there was no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth who could open the scroll or look inside it. <sup>4</sup> I cried and cried because there was no one who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. <sup>5</sup> But one of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry! The Lion from the tribe of Judah has won the victory. He is David’s descendant. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb standing in the centre near the throne with the four living beings around it. The elders were also around the Lamb. The Lamb looked as if it had been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that were sent into all the world. <sup>7</sup> The Lamb came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. <sup>8</sup> After the Lamb took the scroll, the four living beings and the 24 elders bowed down before the Lamb. Each one of them had a harp. Also, they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s holy people. <sup>9</sup> And they all sang a new song to the Lamb: “You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,  
because you were killed,  
and with your blood sacrifice you bought people for God  
from every tribe, language, race of people, and nation.

<sup>10</sup> You made them to be a kingdom and to be priests for our God.  
And they will rule on the earth.”

### Thoughts about the passage:

The scroll is about what will happen or be unleashed on the earth at the end of it. The seven seals are significant as they represent 7 different things that will happen but also signify that the scroll is completely sealed. In roman times witnesses would put a seal / tie around a scroll to show it had been witnessed to be created and only certain people could open it.

John is weeping because from his understanding no one can open it. He is overcome by the grief because it means that the earth won’t know what is to come, they will be unaware of the sorrow to come. But also God’s of the world is then still kept secret and human kind would be in ignorance from what is to come.

The lamb himself that steps forward is Jesus. He is seen as the lamb because of his sacrifice as signified in the verses. God brought in the sacrifice of a spotless lamb in the old testament as redemption for sins. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and so is the lamb at the throne.

The seven horns are a resemblance of power and is an indication of hoped for salvation as mentioned in Luke 1:69. So it shows that he is all powerful and all seeing or knowing. This is because of the seven eyes, as he is able to see all that is happening in the earth similar to that of the creatures.

The mention of every tribe, language, race of people and nation, shows that he has bought salvation to all breaking down barriers and bringing people into Gods kingdom. Meaning that they are submissive to God living in his reign.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**

**Thursday**  
16 May 2024



## **The Elders and voices-** Revelation 5:11-14 (ERV)

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels. The angels were around the throne, the four living beings, and the elders. There were thousands and thousands of angels—10,000 times 10,000. <sup>12</sup> The angels said in a loud voice, “All power, wealth, wisdom, and strength belong to the Lamb who was killed.

He is worthy to receive honor, glory, and praise!”

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every created being that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in all these places, saying,

“All praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever to the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”

<sup>14</sup> The four living beings said, “Amen!” And the elders bowed down and worshiped.

**Thoughts about the passage:**

This part of the vision is fairly self-explanatory. All of heaven is breaking out in worship to Jesus as the lamb. The act he has just done is to take the scroll which details Gods plan and purpose for the earth. In some translations John uses the words “numbering myraids and myraids” which means there was so great a number he couldn’t count them. They worship both God and Jesus as seen from the words in verse 13 of the one on the throne and the lamb.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**



## The Four Horsemen- Revelation 6:1-8 (ERV)

**6** Then I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living beings speak with a voice like thunder. It said, “Come!” <sup>2</sup> I looked, and there before me was a white horse. The rider on the horse held a bow and was given a crown. He rode out to defeat the enemy and win the victory.

<sup>3</sup> The Lamb opened the second seal. Then I heard the second living being say, “Come!” <sup>4</sup> Then another horse came out, a red one. The rider on the horse was given power to take away peace from the earth so that people would kill each other. He was given a big sword.

<sup>5</sup> The Lamb opened the third seal. Then I heard the third living being say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse. The rider on the horse held a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> Then I heard something that sounded like a voice. The voice came from where the four living beings were. It said, “A quart<sup>[a]</sup> of wheat or three quarts of barley will cost a full day’s pay. But don’t harm the supply of olive oil and wine!”

<sup>7</sup> The Lamb opened the fourth seal. Then I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, “Come!” <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there before me was a pale-colored horse. The rider on the horse was death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth—power to kill people with the sword, by starving, by disease, and with the wild animals of the earth.

### Thoughts about the passage:

This passage gives the indication of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, which you may have heard from films or tv but each horse has a significance.

The first horseman is thought to either represent the unleashing of war or the captivation of peoples hearts and minds via Pegan religion. But because of the reference to the crown and defeating of the enemy it would seem it is going to war and taking Gods sovereignty with it.

The second horseman shows that war will be unleashed and blood shed will happen due to it being red. It will bring war with it and take away the peace in the earth.

The third horseman is thought to be one that will bring famine to the land. The voice saying about the wheat and barley is saying to be getting rid of the essential foods or sustenance for the earth. But keeping the olive oil and

wine were seen to be a sign of things being rebuilt late or wealth being preserved. So the famine isn't to fully destroy everything but so a season to take away the sustenance of peoples reliability on the land.

The fourth horseman is fairly easy to identify as death. This horse is either the result of the previous ones coming together meaning that people will die due to war, famine and false religions. But it could also be a plague being sent out among the earth. We have to also take note that a limitation is set that ¼ of the earth will have this happen not the whole of it.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**

**Saturday**

18 May 2024



### **The Martyrs- Revelation 6:9-11 (ERV)**

<sup>9</sup>The Lamb opened the fifth seal. Then I saw some souls under the altar. They were the souls of those who had been killed because they were faithful to God's message and to the truth they had received. <sup>10</sup>These souls shouted in a loud voice, "Holy and true Lord, how long until you judge the people of the earth and punish them for killing us?" <sup>11</sup>Then each one of them was given a white robe. They were told to wait a short time longer. There were still some of their brothers and sisters in the service of Christ who must be killed as they were. These souls were told to wait until all the killing was finished.

#### **Thoughts about the passage:**

This seal is the revealing of the Martyrs. These are those that due to their faith or in moments they were given the choice of denying Christ or death they chose to die. They call for justice to be served by God, which can appear to be harsh to us today but if God is a just God, then justice will be served for their deaths. There is indication that this will happen but not just yet. Instead those already dead are given the symbol of holiness and told to rest in Gods presence. It shows that as things begin to unravel in the earth more people will be martyred. When this will exactly happen is not fully clear and it could be that it is speaking of those that have already been martyred in history previously.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**



## The shaking on the earth - Revelation 6:12-17 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>Then I watched while the Lamb opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake, and the sun became as black as sackcloth. The full moon became red like blood. <sup>13</sup>The stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its figs when the wind blows. <sup>14</sup>The sky was split in the middle and both sides rolled up like a scroll. And every mountain and island was moved from its place.

<sup>15</sup>Then all the people—the kings of the world, the rulers, the army commanders, the rich people, the powerful people, every slave, and every free person—hid themselves in caves and behind the rocks on the mountains. <sup>16</sup>They said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us. Hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne. Hide us from the anger of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup>The great day for their anger has come. No one can stand against it.”

### Thoughts on the passage:

The beginning description of what is happening in the earth, is often linked with the judgement of God and repentance is linked to sackcloth. In the Old Testament people would often in moments of repentance put on a sackcloth and ash to show their deep sorrow and repentance. This then gives us an idea that when the sixth seal is opened the world will be put into a place of repentance. The sky splitting and the stars falling give an idea that heaven and earth will no longer be separate but will be able to be seen by one another and as a result Gods presence and judgement will be seen more than before. The mountains being moved also show that Gods power will not be overcome by the things in this earth but that even the biggest things to us are small in comparison to His power.

The list of the different types or categories of people show that no one will be hidden from Gods judgement in the end times. But it also indicates that in them wanting to be hidden by the rocks that in the light of Gods judgment people will feel guilty or unworthy and fear God. This is where we must be confident that when it does come to Gods judgement, we know we are secure in Him and because of how we have lived we can face this judgement.

We see Gods judgement often as something unloving or ungodly, but His judgement must come because He is a just God and would not be a just God if He did not show judgment.

**What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?**