

# The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #11: The Lamb of Heaven

March 25, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

## Study Questions: #11 - *The Throne of Heaven*

### Read Revelation 5:1-7

- Chapter 5 is another instance where God's plans arrest our thinking, and point out the emptiness and even foolishness of how our world tries to solve the problems of life. Like John we are always looking for a lion ... yet God brings forth a lamb.
  - Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Ponder again the foolishness of our world. How have we all absorbed the thought that created power is the solution to all of life's problems?
  - What is it about the Lion being a Lamb that is so powerful, and so wise?
- John is most probably a very discouraged man by the time he receives this revelation that we are reading.
  - If you were John, how would Jesus' revelation have impacted you so far? Where would you be encouraged? Discouraged? Confused? Hopeful?
  - There are many things in our world today that cause us to cry, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" As you identify these things, pray for our world - that God will intervene in situations where evil is running amuck through nations, families and individuals.
- John had lived through a period of history that had robbed both Jew and Christian of hope. The Jews had been literally wiped clean in Palestine by the Romans, and Christians were being hunted like dogs by the Emperor.
  - Take time this week to pray for the millions of Christians who, like those in John's day, are being persecuted and threatened because of their faith. Pray that they, too, will be faithful. Pray that you will not live a faithless life because of the comfort and freedom we enjoy here.
- This week is Passion Week - the week leading to Good Friday and Easter.
  - Make time each day this week for extra prayer, reading and reflection. Read the crucifixion accounts in all four Gospels. Let the truth that the Lion of God had to be the Lamb of God sink in. See the depravity of *your* sin that sent Jesus to the cross.
  - Plan to gather with all of us on Good Friday. More than any other day, Good Friday is the moment where Christians of every denomination stand commonly at the cross.
- Prepare, too, for Easter Sunday. Friday reveals the depravity of our sin ... but Sunday reveals the might of God's power in raising Jesus to life again. And it reveals the depth of His love for us. Come prepared to worship the Lamb of God ... who is the Lion of Judah.