

The Revelation 5:

Reading #432 Action in heaven

After having recognised that he was looking at the kingdom of heaven in miniature as it was when Jesus returned to heaven with His firstfruits from the grave a few years before, John's attention was directed to the Father as He sat on His throne. Because of all the pomp and ceremony of this state occasion, he knew that something big was happening. Just how important he could not have known at that point.

(Begin Quote)

Revelation 5:

¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne [the Father] a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

(End Quote)

Although the word is translated as "book", it was probably a scroll and the seals divided it into seven sections, similar to chapters in a modern book. The Spirit impressed John with its importance and he watched intently, expecting it to be unrolled at any moment. But he was to be disappointed.

(Begin Quote)

Revelation 5:

² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy [capable] to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" ³ And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth [a Jewish term meaning anywhere else], was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

⁴ And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

(End Quote)

The delay was obviously nerve-wracking and John burst into tears at the thought that the future might remain hidden, for he recognised the book as the "Book of the History of the Earth", the story of God and His love for humanity. Adam, the original sinless man, was not there, and none amongst the resurrected martyrs could open the book.

***** (Begin Quote)

Revelation 5:

⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof”.

⁶ And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts [living creatures], and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been [just] slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. [“a Lamb, slaughtered but standing tall.” (MSG)]

⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.

***** (End Quote)

Just when it seemed hopeless, one of the leading men directed John to the LAMB of God who had been quietly standing in the centre of the assembly while it became obvious to all that the only man who could unroll the scroll was the Son of God and man, He who had taken Adam’s place. “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening [life-giving] spirit”. 1 Corinthians 15:45. **For more on this try:** http://www.geocities.com/nonconformist.geo/PastQueries/holes_in_hands_oct_07.html

He has ALL power (7 horns) and ALL vision (7 eyes), both past, present and future, because He also “was, and is, and is to come”, the “I AM”, the ever-present One. Exodus 3:14. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all possess the attributes of God, for they are all One in nature.

Now was another time for the Son of God to show forth His position to the entire universe, so He came forward to open the Book and show His people the future.

The “Root of David” is explained in the Old Testament as the Root of his father, Jesse. “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious”. Isaiah 11:10.

“Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision [the Jewish branch of the church] for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers: and [also] that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, ‘For this cause I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name’. And again He said, ‘Rejoice, you Gentiles, with His people’. And again, ‘Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles; and laud Him, all you

28 And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering [of dedication] was finished.

***** (End Quote)

From our perspective, we should be able to see that after the second advent all the things that John saw will be repeated in heaven, with all the resurrected and translated saints joining in. We too will see the LAMB of God as “it had been slain” [the “burnt” offering], fresh from His victory over the beast and his image. (See Revelation 19:11-16.)

At that time we will see the scroll unrolled again as the Son of God shows us the main events (from God’s point of view) in the great controversy, from the rebellion of Lucifer to the latest act. In a vast panorama in the air, we will see His victory and praise Him for it with music and song. (To enable all of us to “read” the Book at the same time, we should think of it as a video or DVD playing.)

Lateral thought:

Singing is a great way for multitudes to join in universal speech. The songs will be along the lines of our earthly ballads, in which stories are set to music and sung over and over again. All this will take some time, but in eternity what does time matter?

It will be a great delight to the people of heaven and the universe, and after a suitable period of listening to the redeemed telling their story, the angels and other sons of God will join in in the choruses.

***** (Begin Quote)

Revelation 5:

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing”.

13 And every [other] creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth [out in space], and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be to Him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever”.

14 And the four beasts said, “Amen [We agree]”.

And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped [praised] Him that lives for ever and ever.

(End Quote)

Bye for now, Ron

Some of the comments in these readings are adapted from books in my library. No recognition is given because they are not intended as authorities, but are used because they express my understanding clearly. All the ideas expressed in these readings, right or wrong, are my own. Some of these readings are available at http://www.geocities.com/weprotest.geo/BibleReadings/books_index.html

Note 1.

(Begin Quote)

Genesis 3:

¹⁴ And the LORD God said to the serpent . . . ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; it [the enmity] shall bruise your head [destroy you], and you shall bruise His heel [slow Him down].

(End Quote)

Please note that it is the “enmity”, the “it”, which crushes the head of the serpent, not the Son of God. He does not punish, hurt or destroy, anyone, at any time, for any reason. It is “righteousness”, the “enmity” which causes Satan to self-destruct. For more see:

http://www.geocities.com/nonconformist.geo/PastQueries/does_god_kill_satan_sep_07.html

Note 2.

(Begin Quote)

Matthew 26:

²⁷ And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink you all of it; ²⁸ for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹ “But I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom”.

(End Quote)

Note 3.

(Begin Quote)

<http://www.chabad.org/library/article.asp?AID=2900>

The eternal significance of the Second Passover, says the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn (1880-1950), is that it is never too late to rectify a past failing. Even if a person has failed to fulfill a certain aspect of his or her mission in life because s/he has been "contaminated by death" (i.e., in a state of disconnection from the divine source of life) or "on a distant road" from his people and G-d, there is always a Second Passover in which s/he can make good on what s/he has missed out.

(End Quote)