

Revelation 5.11-12

Tonight lift eyes. JZ invited "come up here" to see, 4.1.

Gladiators; one issue challenge "who worthy open book/break seven seals?", v.2.. "Under Roman law, a will or other official document had to be sealed by seven witnesses", Tatford quoting Bruce. Implement/execute God's purpose for world. No man, till Lamb came; hear Jacob, JB, centurion. Know who worship, "I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God", 19.10;"I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God", 22.8-9. "Commit all judgement to Son that all honour", John 5.23. Cf 7-fold ascription of praise, "All the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen", 7.11-12. NB worth-ship God. Rabbis = use same form and ascribe 7 items of praise.

Round throne. "Set", 4.2. 17 times in chs 4-5. 39 times in Revelation. 10 times in rest of NT. Symbol/emblem supreme power/ universal rule and dominion. Stability and security. Not totter even though persecuting Domitian.

Angels round; Lamb in midst, v.6; 7.17. Contrast John 19.18 (bearing His own cross). "When He came" proves Lamb = symbol; no doubt identity, John 1.29. (cf Aslan); then trigger praise radiate, spread; 4+24 = 8-10. Angels = 11-12. Every creature, 13-14. Surge, ripple, Concentric circles. Swelling force and volume, chorus louder, great crescendo.

Slain. Wonder because deathless creatures; men fear. "worthy obtain that world neither die any more for = to angels", Luke 20.36. "See Jesus (lift eyes), made lower than angels (because suffering death crowned) that by grace God (to us) taste (experience) death", Heb.2.9. Wonder because usually praise one who slays, Ex 15; Jud 5; 1 Sam 18. "Having been slain".

Seven-fold praise. Cntr three-fold, "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created", 4.10-11. Imply greater glory redemption, v9, than great creatorial achievement; predict eclipse showed order and arrangement. Certainly greater cost, blood, v.7 cf word. NB "live for ever" - Creator who ever lives and Redeemer who once died.

Number = Dan.7.10; 404 million but innumerable, incalculable, Heb 12.22. Impossible imagine; He spoke of 12 legions (72,000); not been missed. "All"; 7.11. So angel(s) dispatch mission : field Bethlehem (enter world, herald to you born), wilderness (to Him when commence public minister), garden Gethsemane (strengthen in agony). "Seen of", 1 Tim. 3. 16.

Suggest tremendous contrasts :

Power. Political. 24 = "We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned", 11.17. "Who made me judge", Luke 12.14. 5000, "Know seize force, withdraw", John 6.15. "Now Kingdom not of world", 18.36. "Of Herod's jurisdiction", Luke 23.7. Now King of Kings.

Riches. 2 Cor.8.9 (unmerited favour); cf "as poor, yet", 6.10. Poverty in fact of incarnation; that came at all; John 17.5; Psa.113.6. Manger. 2 turtle doves/pidgeons (not able buy lamb). Other's boat, coin, ass, room, tomb. Nowhere lay head, Matt.8.20. Now what wealth! - city foundations every kind of precious stones, street gold.

Wisdom. "Preaching cross perishing foolishness ... Jews require (demand, arrogance), Greek seek (philosophical quest) wisdom ... preach Christ crucified, Jews stumbling-block, Greeks foolishness", 1 Cor.1.22-23. Absurd. Resurrection a joke, Acts 17.

Strength. "Crucified on account weakness", 2 Cor.13.4. Weakness of human nature make passion possible. He who is the Bread of life began His ministry hungering. He who offers and gives the water of life ended it thirsting. He who is our rest, was once weary. Fall face ground; what of angel strengthen Him? Simon carry cross.

Honour. Dishonour, despise. Dumb spirit, attribute miracle to collusion Beelzebul; league, Matt 12. Sneer, have a demon, John 7.20. Say gluttonous man and drunkard, Matt 11.19 (Friend of sinners - not of sin). Snigger not of fornication, John

8.31; "say not well are Samaritan", v.48. Contempt; every conceivable insult. Cloke, thorns, spittle, hail. Deride, ridicule and mock.

Glory. "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness (Greek = glory); and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows", Isa.53.2-3. No natural attractiveness - not physical. "Search see, no prophet Galilee"; "Can anything good Nazareth". "Where get .. carpenter".

Blessing. "Those of law (rely on) under curse for 'cursed everyone' ... Christ redeemed curse for us, 'on tree'", Gal 3. (Deut.27.26; 21.23). Esteem stricken, smitten, afflicted.