

A Peek Between the Covers of Revelation

Part 3

Coronation

Recap:

- The book is about Jesus. That means it's about grace.
- There's a war on. Sin began with the angel closest to God. Satan believes that he should be worshiped. He slanders God in order to win our worship.
- The only way to sterilize the universe from sin is to allow Satan an opportunity to prove his case. At the end of that demonstration, every being will be convicted of the righteousness of God. Then the wicked can be destroyed, and the righteous will love God with no possibility that they will ever rebel.
- God must deal with sin in an orderly way to defeat Satan's charges of corruption. This orderly framework is called the covenant. It was delivered in written form at Sinai, and is described in the messages to the churches.

The Scene:

- Rev 4:1 – This scene begins with a **VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET**.
- Exod 19:16 – God called Israel to receive the covenant with a **VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET**.

The Center:

- Rev 4:2 – **THE FATHER** is in the center of the scene.
- Exod 19:11 – **GOD** is in the center of the scene at Sinai.

The Inner Ring:

- Rev 4:4 – Nearest the throne are the **24 ELDERS**.
- Rev 5:8, 1 Chron 24:1-18 – The elders are **PRIESTS**.
- Exod 29:44 – The common priests ministered before the Lord in the **FIRST APARTMENT**.
- Exod 19:22, 24:1-2 – The elders and priests were able to come before the Lord **ON THE SIDES OF THE MOUNTAIN**.

The Second Ring:

- Rev 4:6a, 1 Kings 7:23-26 – Outside of the circle of elders is the **SEA OF GLASS**, which is the **LAVEN** in the **COURTYARD** of the temple.

The Third Ring:

- Rev 4:6b-7 – Centered around the throne are **FOUR LIVING CREATURES**.
- Rev 4:7 – The four living creatures have faces of a **LION, CALF, MAN**, and a **EAGLE**.
- Num 2:3, 10, 18, 25, Gen 49:3, 9, 17, Deut 33:17 – The tribes closest to the sanctuary were **JUDAH, REUBEN, EPHRAIM**, and **DAN**. Their flags were **LION, OX, MAN**, and **EAGLE**.
- Exodus 19:12 – The people were to stay **AWAY FROM** the mountain.
- The elders and living creatures are symbolic representations of **ISRAEL**.

The Event:

- Rev 5:1 – The focus of the scene is the **SCROLL** at the Father's right hand.
- Rev 5:2-5 – Who is worthy to open the book? **JESUS**.
- Rev 5:9 – Why is he worthy? **HE DIED ON THE CROSS**.
- Is the Father worthy to open the book? **NO**.

The Parallel:

- Deut 17:14-15, 18-20 – The new king of Israel is required to **WRITE THE WORDS** of the scroll of the covenant in the presence of the priests.
- Exod 20:1, Deut 1:3 – Jesus wrote the covenant **AT SINAI**.
- 2 Kings 11:12 – The scroll of the covenant was presented to the new king at his **CORONATION**.
- 2 Kings 11:12, Rev 5:8-14 – When the king takes the scroll, the result is **ACCLAMATION**.

Discussion:

What is the significance of Jesus' "worthiness?" (Remember, the Father is *not* worthy to open the scroll.)