

17. In worship do you have a sense that you are joining in the worship of heaven and the myriad of angels?

18. Can you think of songs and hymns that pick up the words of 4.8, 4.11 or 5.9-10 & 5.13? (If you are adventurous you could sing one to conclude, or get someone to read one as a lead in to prayer.)

Pray

No-one was worthy to open the scroll, a reminder of our sinfulness before God. Therefore pray a prayer of confession and ask for God's forgiveness.

Christ, the Lamb who was slain, was worthy to open the scroll. Praise Him for His holiness and His death for us.

Pray for the following part of our Church vision:

"To win people for Christ ... having regular evangelistic activities; showing compassion to the community around us; publicising both the message of the gospel and the work of the Church."

Pray for those who are struggling with troubles, that they find assurance for the fact that God reigns over all.

Please pray for the PCC as it meets at the end of September to think about the future work of St James and matters relating to the building.

David Phillips
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The Apocalypse

Week 2 - the scroll and the Lamb



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
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*If possible in preparation read all of **Revelation chapters 4 and 5**; you won't have time to read it all, or look at it all, in the group.*

God on the Throne

Read Revelation 4.1-8

1. What according to verse 1 is this vision meant to show us?
2. In John's vision of the throne room, what things speak of the glory and wonder of God?
3. How does this compare with Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6.1-4)?
4. If John and the seven churches were languishing under persecution (1.9) how do you think this vision of heaven would help them?
5. If there are struggles you are having, can this vision of God help you in the same way? Have you experienced times when worship of God lifts you out of your present troubles?

The Scroll

Read Revelation 5.1-4

The “book” of Rev 1.11 and “scroll” of Rev 5.1 are the same word in Greek, meaning some sort of written document. The thing described in chapter 5 does sound more like a scroll.

6. Why do you think John wept?

7. What do you think is meant by “worthy” and why was there no-one worthy? What does this tell us about ourselves, and indeed about the heavenly host?

The Lion who is a Lamb

Read Revelation 5.5-10

8. What do the titles in verse 5 tell us about Christ?

9. Why is He worthy to open the scroll?

We will skip over lots of the images used in Revelation. It is helpful to stop and think about some, but don't get bogged down, people don't always agree on the details.

10. What is the significance of the twenty four elders? Who do they represent?

11. The lamb John sees is unusual, it has seven horns and seven eyes. Seven, eyes and horns feature elsewhere in Revelation. What do you think this is about?

12. The golden bowls are full of the prayers of the saints (ie all Christians, not some special people). Do you think these are prayers for particular things? Are they the sort of prayer we pray and if not should we pray them?

Worship

13. What do these chapters teach us about how and why we worship God and the Lamb?

14. Worship and worthy in English are related words. How do these two ideas relate in these chapters?

15. Some, particularly those of other faiths, would say it is blasphemous to worship Jesus. What does chapter 5 in particular show us about this, and therefore who Jesus is?

16. What is it about singing that makes it particularly appropriate in the worship of God?