

SERMON NOTES

Revelation 4-5: The Throne and The Scroll

John sees a vision of Heaven, and a Scroll that contains the secrets about the last 7 year period before Jesus returns. (See the Revelation Overview diagram below)

The context comes from the book of Daniel.

Daniel 2 - Daniel's interpretation of nebuchadnezzar's dream

Daniel 7 - Daniel's vision of the 4 beasts (kingdoms) to come

Daniel 9 - Daniel's prophecy about the end times:

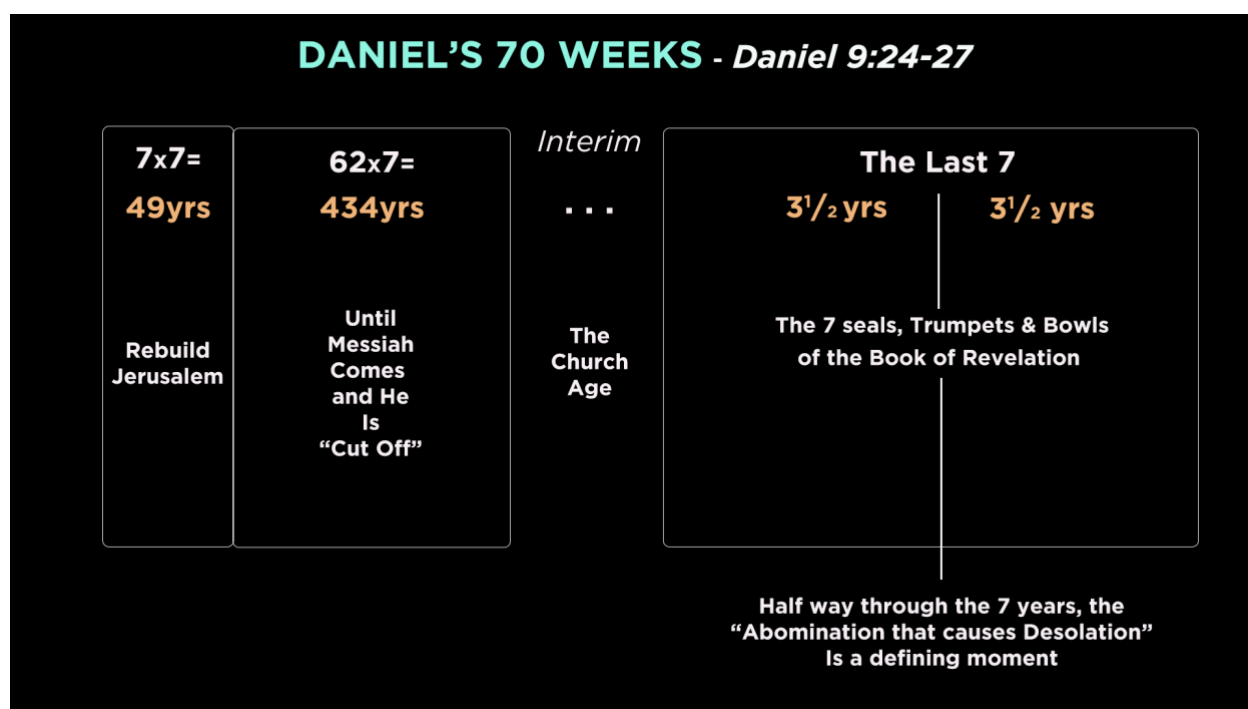
Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV) -

24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."



Daniel also spoke of the end times and the vision being "SEALED" until the end: Daniel 12:1-13, and especially Daniel 12:4, 9 (NKJV)-

4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." ...

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Jesus also spoke of the end times in Matthew 24.

<p><u>Revelation 4:1-11</u> - 1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and <u>I will show you things which must take place after this.</u>"</p> <p>2 Immediately <u>I was in the Spirit</u>; and behold... a <u>throne</u> set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.</p> <p>3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.</p> <p>4 Around the throne were <u>twenty-four thrones</u>, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.</p> <p>5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the <u>seven Spirits of God.</u></p> <p>6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.</p> <p>7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.</p> <p>8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "<u>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!</u>"</p> <p>9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,</p> <p>10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:</p> <p>11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honour and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.</p>	<p>From this point on, Revelation starts to show us what will happen at the very end, just before and after Jesus' return. Not earthly realm or visions.</p> <p>It all centres around His <u>throne</u>. Similar to visions of heaven in <u>Exo 24:10</u>, <u>Eze 1:4-28</u>.</p> <p>12 for Israel, 12 for the Church Crowns = rewards</p> <p>Seven Spirits of God - <u>Is 11:2</u> The Tabernacle and Temple are a copy of this scene (<u>Heb 8:5</u>)</p> <p>Four creatures are Cherubim (angelic beings) and they also represent all of creation.</p> <p>Holy x 3 = the trinity. Always used. His ETERNAL nature.</p> <p>We cast our crowns before His throne.</p> <p><u>Reasons for worship</u> (worth-ship) - His Glory, His nature, He's "Creator".</p>
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<p><u>Revelation 5:1-14</u> - 1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a <u>scroll</u> written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.</p> <p>2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"</p> <p>3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.</p> <p>4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.</p> <p>5 But one of the elders said to me, "<u>Do not weep</u>. Behold, the <u>Lion</u> of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."</p>	<p>Scroll - God's words / plans of the end. cf <u>Dan 9&12</u></p> <p>Sealed till the end - but we see it opened now. <u>Matt 24:36</u> "no one knows"</p> <p>No one is worthy It is so important & valuable</p> <p>Do not weep. There is hope. Jesus is worthy & able. He is the ONLY one able.</p>
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<p>6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood <u>a Lamb</u> as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.</p> <p>7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.</p> <p>8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the <u>prayers of the saints</u>.</p> <p>9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of <u>every tribe and tongue and people and nation</u>,</p> <p>10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."</p> <p>11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "<u>Worthy is the Lamb who was slain</u> To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honour and glory and blessing!"</p> <p>13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"</p> <p>14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever and ever.</p>	<p>Lion vs Lamb Jesus as He is now and always - as crucified but also LORD.</p> <p>Reasons for worship - His word for us. WE are involved in this scene. How? Eternal & Heaven Reasons for worship - He is worthy, He was slain, He has redeemed us and has a plan and future for us.</p> <p>The same worship is given to Jesus here as to God in Ch 4.</p> <p>How we worship -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every tribe. • New song • Together / corporate. • Loud voice, falling down etc • Constant and repeated. • Focused on HIM, His worth & His work.
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POINTS TO NOTE:

1. John talks of future heavenly events in the present tense. How, and why? **Ecc 3:11** - He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
2. We should know what heaven is like, live with it as a constant reality, (it is our home) and make it a reality in our lives and around us.
Lk 17:20-21 - Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with **observation**;
21 "nor will they say, '**See here!**' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."
Mat 6:10 ""your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"
3. Our Churches should be like Heaven as much as possible ...Every tribe Worshipping He decides when to open the seals and start the end times process.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship, and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.