**Apocalyptic Literature and the Book of Revelation**

Rev 1:12-18 Q: Is this the picture one gets of Jesus in the gospels? Definitely not!!!

The principle picture of Jesus in Revelation (although there are other pictures) is of mind-blowing power.

A voice “like a trumpet” v 10 (a loud and clear message)

Blazing eyes see everything very clearly. Nothing escapes his notice!

White hair, etc. purity

Bronze feet = strength

Double-edged sword coming from his mouth Literal? NO! = his absolute authority and power to judge by what he speaks (John 12:48 the very words I spoke will judge at the last day)

To sum up the image: Jesus is authoritative, holy, majestic, omniscient, powerful. He stands among the churches, he holds their fate in his hands. This should have been very reassuring.

Why? Because God’s purpose is to reassure the saints that God is in control.

Q: (in view of our typical picture of Jesus) How does this picture make you feel?

**Revelation Ch 4**

4:1 John looks into heaven and the movie begins. “a door standing open in

 heaven.”

4:2 a throne in heaven. Throne 38 times in the book. Do you get the idea?

Jasper (white) holiness of God

Carnelian (red) justice, righteousness

Rainbow. God’s promise/covenant Genesis 9:12-17 “like an emerald” Green the dominant color in this rainbow (life, living hope?)

Rev 4:4 24 elders on 24 thrones = 12 apostles + 12 patriarchs of Israel? (= the priesthood of all God’s people?)

Dressed in white with golden crowns. (purity, ruling with God)

These 24 elders represent, in a sense, us!

This is a picture of the heavenly tabernacle, with close resemblance to the Jewish tabernacle. Four creatures = four cherubim in the Holy of Holies over which God rested. Seven lamps = the seven lamps in the Holy Place. The 24 elders represent the 24 courses of the priests who served in the temple/tabernacle.

The picture is of power and authority and suggests security for those loved by God.

4:5 Now the judging power of God is presented as well. “lightning, and rumblings of thunder” The Jews would be made to think of Exodus 19:16. Notice that they trembled.

4:5b seven lamps/seven spirits The Holy Spirit shedding light and revelation.

4:6 Around the throne a sea of crystal. Representing the perfection of God because of which we cannot approach the throne. It represents separation from God. Note that this sea has been removed in heaven Revelation 21:1 “there was no longer any [crystal] sea. (note: even John was separated from the church he oversaw by the sea while on Patmos)

4:6b-8 Four living creatures around the throne, covered with eyes on every side.

These are the four who defend God’s holiness. Eyes all over ever watchful to worship God.

Might they be the four seraphim of Isaiah 6:2? Similar to the four creatures in Ezek 1:5-14 which includes the lion, ox, man and eagle. Four Cherubim. (four instead of six wings) Also Ezekiel 10

These are the four who kept Adam and Eve from the garden. They were stitched into the curtain in the temple to keep people out of the Holy of Holy.

Q: What impression are you given of God in Rev 4:8-11?

**Revelation Chapter 5**

Enter: Jesus Christ, the lion and the lamb!

A scroll with seven (perfect) seals. These perfect seals require someone perfect to open them.

5:2-3 No one was worthy

No one can open up the scroll. The view of heaven is, in a sense, closed.

5:5-6 Enter Jesus

Jesus is a lion (a powerful ruler) the lion of Judah-of God’s people

Jesus is the Root of David (Messiah)

Jesus is triumphant

Jesus is a Lamb

Q: In what sense is Jesus a lion?

Q: In what sense is Jesus a lamb?

Q: what would a lamb “as it were slain” look like?

Note: The view of Jesus is quite different from Rev 1:12-17 because his sacrifice is in view.

A lamb with seven horns and seven eyes. Bizarre. Not literal.

7 horns = perfect in his power

7 eyes = perfect in his knowledge (by the Holy Spirit)

Where is Jesus? Right in the center of the throne (v. 6).

Then the most amazing worship service in history broke out!!!

Jesus is God! He is a lamb, a lion, the triumphant one. Jesus is worshipped

Rev 5:8 The four creatures (cherubim) and the 24 elders (the saved) begin to worship. Harp = singing bowl of incense = prayer

(Note: Angels never have harps in the Bible, but the elder (representing us) do.

We are praying and singing glory to the Lamb!!!

Rev 5:9-14 A New Song

What are we singing? You are worthy Why is Jesus worthy?

Because he gave his life to purchase (redeem) every tribe, language, people and nation in order to make them a kingdom of priests. Finally, Exodus 19:6 is being fulfilled. Finally there is a kingdom of people with an intimate relationship with God.

v. 11 Not only us, but hundreds of millions of angels

v. 13 In fact, all creation is worshipping God, as it should be.

Along with cherubim. What a glorious picture!!!!

Rev 7:10-17 A second worship service, like Rev 5. (read v. 10-12)

v. 15 God spreads his tabernacle over them. They are in his tent. He will dwell with them.

Rev 11:15-19 Another worship—a fourth one—breaks out in heaven. (4:8-11, 5:9-14, 7:10-17 and 11:15-18).

11:19 A different view of the throne room. The ark, with God over the ark, and flashes of lightning, thunder, earthquake and hailstorm. God has not forgotten his covenant.

Ark contained the Ten Commandments, which represented the Law and our need to observe the law.

But the atonement cover was on top of the Ten Commandments, and it has been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus. This is the Mercy Seat.

Mercy Seat, God on his throne, and the cherubim protecting his holiness.

15:2 The sea of glass is still there, reflecting red from the judgments of God on the beast. Those who have overcome—who were martyred are standing on the glass. They are coming close to the throne of God, and are singing and playing harps—they are worshipping.

15:2-4 Worship breaks out again!!! A fifth worship.

Rev 19:1-16 Final worship in Revelation

Hallelujah!!!! v. 6 Because God Almighty reigns

v. 7 Because the wedding of the Lamb has come. He has brought his bride before God. Us! The Church! We are dressed in clean linen.

19:11-16 Final view of Jesus Christ. A vision of unimaginable power.