
Sermon Notes

March 31, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? The Lamb Upon the Throne Revelation 5:6-14

Living Hope

- ❖ Christ's triumphant victory offers hope, the promise of life after death, resurrection and the renewal of all things
- ❖ The history of the world is ultimately defined by the history of salvation
 - ***straighten up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near*** (Luke 21:28)
 - a message that Christians in every age have needed to hear and hold onto
- ❖ Though early believers had confidence in gospel promises, many were baffled and mystified that things were not happening as soon as they expected
 - worldly kingdoms and the encroachment of culture continued to push back and push away from the gospel
 - Satan insinuated his lies
- ❖ We are far away from the first century in time, but the core issues and key questions we face today are no different
- ❖ "For all the security systems we have, personally and nationally, insecurity abounds in our modern society."

Our Hope in Heaven

- ❖ God graciously peels back the curtain and gives us a "behind the scenes" tour of time and history through the eyes of the Apostle John
 - John is old, exiled, abused, mistreated, scarred and broken hearted over the sorry state of the churches he has served
 - Jerusalem, the city of God, has been destroyed and is now in the hands of pagans
 - there is no messianic throne, there is no messianic kingdom
- ❖ It is a discouraged and confused John who hears Jesus' call to ***Come up here***
 - v. 2, the first thing John sees is ***a throne in heaven***
 - "John, life hasn't gone the way you thought it would, but there is a throne ***in heaven, with one seated on the throne.***"
- ❖ Like John, we need to keep focused on the scene in heaven (Rev 5:6-14) if we are not going to be overwhelmed and swept away by the sea of trouble that surrounds us

Look to the Lamb

- ❖ Keep looking at the Lamb who was wounded
 - Jesus' humility
 - Jesus' submission
 - Jesus' obedience

- ❖ Keep looking at the Lamb who is standing!
 - alive with resurrection life and power
 - though the Lamb is alive, His visible wounds remind us of the price paid for our redemption
- ❖ Seven horns, seven eyes, seven spirits
 - in the Bible, the number seven is frequently associated with **fullness**, completeness or perfection
 - horns symbolize power and strength
 - Alistair Begg: “The eyes remind us that Christ has sent His Holy Spirit into the world, with all of his omniscience, perfect understanding, and wonderful discernment.”
 - John sees the **fullness** of the saving ministry Jesus initiates through His Holy Spirit
- ❖ A response of worship (Revelation 5:8-9)
 - because Jesus has purchased us with His blood, our lives are under “new management”
 - people of every time, place, ethnicity unite to praise the One who has bought them back from the slave market of sin
 - *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
 - do the gifts and privileges Jesus purchased for you impact your life on a daily basis?
 - the only ones excluded from this scene in heaven are **those who choose to exclude themselves** by refusing to align their lives with the sin-cleansing, life-giving blood of the Lamb who was slain

- a cosmic choir comprised of voices in heaven and on earth, under the earth and even in the sea (Rev 5:12-13)
 - worship in heaven unites with worship on earth
 - we have opportunity today and every day to join in this symphony of praise (not just during the Christmas and Easter seasons)
- ❖ There IS a throne in heaven
 - the One seated on the throne, rules the world with power and authority
 - the One seated on the throne, knows and cares about you!

<h3>Personal Reflection</h3>

1. Some members of the first century church were baffled and mystified that things Jesus promised were not happening as quickly as they expected. What things about Jesus’ promises and Jesus’ return baffle and mystify you? Where can you turn or what steps can you take to strengthen your faith as you wait on the Lord regarding these matters?
2. In the midst of John’s many heartaches and struggles, the scene he is shown in heaven provides him with strength and encouragement. John’s focus is primarily on the throne and the Lamb. How does riveting your attention on those two things help in the midst of any challenges or struggles you are facing right now?
3. Read Revelation 5:6-14 again and spend time uniting your heart in worship with the worship that is being offered around God’s throne right now.