

Apocalypse Then and Now: Reading the Book of Revelation

Presented by Brian Purfield



**A Seven Week Course
7:00-8:30pm
on Mondays
2 June - 16 July 2014**

**Course repeated
11:00am-1:00pm
on Wednesdays
4 June - 18 July 2014**

(See leaflet for details)

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**MOUNT STREET
JESUIT CENTRE**

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FARM STREET

SESSION 3

- **Review of context**
- **The Vision of God's Throne & the heavenly Court (Rev 4:1-11)**
- **The Scroll & the Lamb (Rev 5:1-14)**
- **An Aid to Prayer**

Review of Context

- **Present woes but future glory**
- **Use of symbols & visions**
- **Keep the OT in mind**
- **Faithfulness – freedom**
- **Creation & sin – order & disorder**

Vision of God's Throne & the Heavenly Court (Rev 4)

- *Who is the true Lord of this world?*
- **Dominant theological symbol: THE THRONE**
- **Dominant Christological symbol: THE LAMB**
- **Rev 4-5 answers question of Rev 2-3**

Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)

- **Symbolic representation**
- **Heaven as Roman emperor's throne room**
- ***“Lord & God”* – Emperor Domitian?**
- **A political & theological message**

Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)

- **A theophany – usual characteristics?**
- **The vision as a whole**
 - **Influence of Ezekiel 1 & 10; Isaiah 6; Exodus 19; Daniel 7**
- **A more detailed analysis**

Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)

- **4:1** *“an open door to heaven.”*
- **4:2** **Content of the vision:**
 - *“What must happen afterwards”*
- **4:3** **Description of the one seated on the throne**
 - **Precious stones (Ex 28:17-21; Ez1:26-28)**

Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)

- **4:4 The 24 Elders**
- **4:5-6a The heavenly throne – 3 sets of biblical images**
- **4:6 The sea of glass like crystal (Ez 1:22)**
 - **Creation under God's orderly control**

Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)

- **4:7 The 4 Living creatures**
 - **Lion**
 - **Ox**
 - **Human face**
 - **Eagle**
- **The eyes & wings**



Vision of God Enthroned (Rev 4:1-11)



- **4:9-11 The Worship of the 4 Living creatures & the 24 Elders**
- **Dramatic acknowledgement of God's Sovereignty**

The Scroll & the Lamb

(Rev 5:1-14)

- **5:1-5 Search for someone worthy to open the scroll with the seven seals**
- **5:6-7 The Lamb who was slain is worthy to open the scroll**
- **5:8-14 Hymns of Celebration by various groups**

The Scroll & the Lamb (Rev 5:1-14)

- **5:1 The scroll, the seals & the writing**
- **5:2 “Who is worthy to open the scroll...?”**
- **5:3 “No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth...”**
- **5:4 The seer weeps**

The Scroll & the Lamb (Rev 5:1-14)

- **5:5 One has been found worthy**
- **5:6-7 The slain & risen Christ (the Lamb) comes forward to take the scroll**
- **5:6 Description of the Lamb**
 - **Seven horns & seven eyes**

The Scroll & the Lamb (Rev 5:1-14)

- **5:9-10 The First Hymn**
 - The 4 Living creatures & 24 elders
 - A “*new song*”
- **5:11-12 The Second Hymn**
 - The angels join in
- **5:13 The Third Hymn**
 - Sung by all of creation

AN AID FOR OUR PRAYER

- **Francis of Assisi
(1181-1226)**
- *The praises to be
Said at All the
Hours*



NEXT WEEK



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- **Bending Evil to His Purposes**
- **Rev 6:1 – 8:1**