week 25

Studying

 THE CHURCHAAA

Together

 [a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading – REVELATION 5:1-10

Keep in Mind

In chapter 4, John was taken up into heaven and saw the glorious throne of God surrounded by four living beings and twenty-four elders. God was worshiped as Creator. Here in chapter 5, another enters the scene who joins God on the throne.

Did You Notice?

1. What details about the Lamb’s appearance does John give? (5:6)

2. Who sang “a new song” when the Lamb took the scroll from God’s hand? (5:8-9)

3. What do the incense in golden bowls represent (5:8)?

4. What kind of people did the Lamb purchase for God with His blood? (5:9)

5. What has the Lamb made these people to be, and what will they do on the earth? (5:10)

What Do You Think?

What does it mean about our prayers that we are a kingdom, we are priests, and that we are destined to reign on earth with Christ?

Day 2

Reading – REVELATION 6:1-17

Keep in Mind

As the Lamb opens the seals on the scroll, the judgments of God are unleashed. Our focus will be on the fifth seal (6:9-11), for here we see certain servants of Christ portrayed in a unique way, including a precious interaction between them and God.

Did You Notice?

1. Where did John see the souls of the slain martyrs of Christ? (6:9)

2. What did these martyred ones wish to learn from God? (6:10)

3. What were these souls given (6:11)?

4. What did God tell these souls had to happen before He avenges their blood? (6:11)

What Do You Think?

What does this scene of souls indicate about the place of the Church in this fallen world?

Why do you suppose this scene of slain servants of Jesus appears amidst the other scenes of God’s wrath being unleashed on the world?

Day 3

Reading – REVELATION 7:9-17

Keep in Mind

The beginning of Revelation 7 is about the controversial 144,000 sealed people of Israel. Our focus will be on the description that follows this in the second part of Revelation 7 – the innumerable “great multitude”.

Did You Notice?

1. How did John describe the people of the “great multitude”? (7:9)

2. According to the elder who spoke to John, who were these people of the multitude, and what did their white robes signify? (7:14)

3. What will the One on the throne and the Lamb do for these people? (7:15,17)

4. What will these people never have to experience again? (7:16)

What Do You Think?

Is a mortal life of suffering and “tribulation” worth the promise of what awaits Jesus’ faithful disciples in this passage? What does it mean to wash one’s robes and make them white in the Lamb’s blood?

Day 4

Reading – REVELATION 12:1-17

Keep in Mind

Much of the vision of John has focused on God’s wrath on the wicked world and the world’s rebellion against God and His people. Here John sees a vision that exposes the spiritual roots of this rebellion.

Did You Notice?

1. Whom did the red dragon first try to devour? (12:4-5)

2. Failing to devour that person, whom did the dragon and his angels attack next? (12:7-8)

3. How did the faithful disciples of Jesus triumph over the devil who accuses them? (12:11)

4. Those who triumphed over the devil did not love their \_\_\_\_\_\_ so much as to shrink from \_\_\_\_\_\_ . (12:11)

5. After failing to overcome the woman, against whom did the dragon wage war? (12:17)

What Do You Think?

Satan is clearly portrayed in this passage as waging war against Christ’s people. What does this war between the devil and the Church look like in the world today? How well are we fighting?

Day 5

Reading – REVELATION 14:1-13

Keep in Mind

In this passage we see a clear contrast between those who have been marked by the Lamb and those who have been marked by the Beast. While those who don’t bear the mark of the Beast suffer in this world, there is a grave consequence who don’t bear the mark of the Lamb as well.

Did You Notice?

1. Whose names marked the foreheads of the 144,000? (14:1)

2. What set the 144,000 apart from others besides the mark of names? (14:3-5)

3. What do the “people of God” do in contrast to those of the beast? (14:12)

4. While those who belong to the beast would know no rest, what was promised to those who “die in the Lord from now on”? (14:13)

What Do You Think?

How should disciples of Jesus today demonstrate that they are marked by God and the Lamb rather than the world’s (or Beast’s) ways and values?