



Class 4 Judgment Day, Worship Day

Scope

In this class we will journey into the thick of the imagery with John as he witnesses God on the throne administering justice to the world. Just try to imagine the ultimate *Judge Judy*. At least that is what I think this is about. Not really an Arnold Schwartengger/Terminator2/Judgement Day thing.

In the previous class we read the letters that called for repentance and gave a challenge and talked about the consequences. But they also gave a promise. Let's see how this works out.

Reading

Revelation 4 and 5

Introduction

Last class we talked about the seven letters that were partly like St. Paul's letters and partly like apocalyptic literature. It was really about the presence of the Holy Spirit working in this world through the churches, through the church. This week, we uncover the other two persons of the trinity. First, the One who sits on the throne. And then the One who can open the scroll.

Sitting on the Throne: The Ultimate Power

Read Revelation 4:1 to 6a

Let's talk about the description of this vision of the throne. The throne is partly borrowed from other cultures – not your ordinary Ezekiel 40+ temple.

Metaphor (Image)	Meaning
Set in heaven	Of God
One seated on it	"age-after-age" living One
Gems and flame	Jasper – diamond bright – righteousness and purity
	Sardinian – blood red – justice and wrath
	Emerald – restful green – compassion and mercy
Circled by 24 thrones	Not just 12+12, but every hour of the day (i.e. not ceasing)
24 elders w/ white robes and gold crowns	Worshipped the One; threw crowns crowned elders means martyrs who've obtained the crown of life not just passive thrones, but active elders
Lightning and thunder	Serious!
7 blazing torches	7-fold Spirit (see previous class)
Clear crystal sea	"waters" – above the firmament (Gen. 1:7) (rest of the universe, calm)