

The Revelation to John

Αποκάλυψις Ιωάννης

Chapters 4-5

Notes from the Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre

Heaven (Greek - ούρανω) – used 3 ways in scripture (and in *Revelation*)

1. **Sky** (*cf.* Matthew 8.20)
2. **Spiritual Realm in general** (*cf.* Ephesians 6.12)—containing both angels and demons
3. **Spiritual Realm of God and those aligned with him**—*i.e.* the “third heaven” (2 Cor 12.2; *cf.* Ephesians 1.20)

The Earthly **Temple** as “a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” (Hebrews 8.5)

Earthly Temple	Heavenly Sanctuary
Holy of Holies (Exod. 26)	God’s Throne (Rev. 4.2)
Seven-branched lampstand (Exod. 25)	Seven torches of fire before the Throne (4.5)
Bronze basin (Exod. 30; 1 Kings 7)	Sea of glass (4.6)
Cherubim over the Mercy Seat (Exod. 25)	Four Living Creatures around the Throne (4.6-7)
Priests (Exod. 29)	Elders (kings and priests) (4.4, 10)
Altar of burnt offering (Exod. 27)	Altar (6.9-11)
Incense altar (Exod. 30)	Incense altar (8.3-5)
Ark of the covenant (Exod. 25)	Ark of the covenant (11.19)

Adapted in part from W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious*, p. 53.

The **Five Hymns** of Revelation 4-5 – a crescendo of praise

#	verses	Sung to	Sung by	Symbolizing
1.	4.8	God the Father	4 creatures	Creative order
2.	4.11	God the Father	24 elders	People of God
3.	5.9-10	Jesus (Lion/Lamb)	creatures + elders	
4.	5.11-12	Jesus (Lion/Lamb)	” + angels	Swelling choir
5.	5.13	Father & Son	All creation	”

Two views of **Scrolls**:

1. The future of world history
2. The Lamb’s last will and testament (*cf.* 3.5; 13.8; 17.8; 20.12,15; 21.27)—
‘who the heirs are and what they inherit’

Worship

“Why do we people in churches seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute? ...On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offence, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.”²

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**³

² Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, p. 58; Quoted in *Catch the Fire*, Guy Chevreau, (Canada: Harper Perennial, 1995), p. 2.

³ *Book of Common Prayer 2019* – Eucharistic Liturgy (*cf.* Isaiah 6.1-4)