Revelation 4:1-6

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 4:1-6

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 After these things I looked,

and behold,

a door standing open in heaven,

and the first voice

which I had heard,

like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me,

said, “Come up here, and

I will show you

what must take place after these things.”

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit;

and behold,

a throne was standing in heaven,

and One sitting on the throne.

3 And He who was sitting was

like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance;

and there was a rainbow around the throne,

like an emerald in appearance.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones;

and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting,

clothed in white garments,

and golden crowns on their heads.

5 Out from the throne come

flashes of lightning

and sounds

and peals of thunder.

And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne,

which are the seven Spirits of God;

6 and before the throne there was something

like a sea of glass,

like crystal;

and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes

in front and behind.

1. What are “these things” which are referenced in verse one?
2. How is “after these things” used as a transition phrase in the book of revelation? Look for other times this phrase (or similar phrases) is used and list them out.
3. What two things does John see according to verse 1?
4. Is there any connection between the open door in verse one here and the opening of the door described in 3:20?
5. Has John heard this “first voice” before? If yes, where?
6. How is the voice described?
7. What does the voice say?

* Day 2

Read Revelation 4:1-6 again.

1. What does “in the Spirit” mean? Support your answer.
2. What does John see when he is in the Spirit?
3. Who is sitting on the throne?
4. How is he described?
5. Is there significance to the description of the throne in verse 3? Compare to Revelation 21:11-20 and Ezekiel 1:26-28? How do these other passages in their context help understand the meaning of this description?
6. What is around the throne?
7. Who are these sitting on the thrones? What do we know about them? Read Matthew 19:28; Rev. 4:10, 5:8-10,14, 19:4. Consider also Rev. 2:26-27, and Luke 22:30. Justify your answer.
8. What is the significance to the attire of those sitting on these other thrones? Consider Rev. 2:10 and James 1:12. Also consider, Rev. 3:4-5 and 19:8.

* Day 3

Read Revelation 4:1-6 again.

1. What three things are described as coming out from the throne?
2. What is sitting before the throne of God according to verse 5? Where else have we seen this in the book of Revelation so far? Refresh yourself on its meaning in light of Zechariah 4:2.
3. What else is before the throne according to verse 6? Compare to Rev. 15:2.
4. There are also four creatures described in verse 6. What descriptions are given to these? What is the identity of these creatures? Compare Rev. 4:6-8, Ez. 1:4-14, Is. 6:1-3.
5. How might/should the image that John sees in John 4:1-6 of God on His throne impact the way you live? Think? Feel?
6. Why do you think this passage has been included in the Bible? What would be missing if we did not have this passage?
7. How is God’s kindness evident in His revelation of “what must take place after these things?”
8. How does Revelation 4:1-6 bring you hope? How does it humble you? How compel you to worship?
9. Summarize the main idea of this passage in 21 words or less? Justify your answer.

In preparation for Sunday, pray in awe of the glory of God. Pray for humility to walk in submission and trust in the plan of the sovereign God who sits on the throne of heaven.