

Handout to Lesson 1 for Eschatology, The Eschatos, Power of Apocalyptic, Use of "Apocalypse", OT intro to apocalypse

An Overview for Today

- I. The Importance of the End Times for followers of Christ
- II. Intro to the power of Apocalyptic to communicate the importance, and magnitude of the Communication to the church of the last things!
- III. The meaning of the *term apocalypse*, was not to conceal, but to reveal, and especially, if not exclusively, **to reveal Jesus Christ**.
- IV. The initial apocalypse, unveiling of Christ to be parceled out to the seven churches.
- V. The first apocalypse is found in the OT, in Daniel

● * * * * *

- I. The Importance of the End Times for followers of Christ
 - a. The Apostle John, in the Spirit, on the Lord's Day experiences how important the eschaton is (εἰς σωτηρίαν ἐτοίμην ἀποκαλυφθῆναι ἐν καιρῷ **ἔσχατῳ**. **ἔσχατον**, **eschatology** is the study of the last things). In the Spirit, with his heart in tune with God, he finds himself not being able to view the **apocalypse** of what is to come, John breaks down into uncontrollable sorrow
Rev. 5:1-5
It is this scroll that reveals the sequence of events that will bring this present age to its end.

- II. Intro to The power of Apocalyptic to communicate the importance, and magnitude of the Communication to the church of the last things!
 - a. In a way so much beyond regular speech.

Please notice how God emphasizes this to the churches by how He communicated this to John- apocalyptically. Who then presents this to us in words.

1: the Heavenly scene from which **the question will ring out** throughout creation Heaven, the Throne of God. 4 Living Creatures, 24 elders , it will be called out throughout **heaven**, and **earth**, and **under the earth**. Imagine the nature and power of that voice! Imagine the vastness of space it involves! **“Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”**

Rev. 5:2

2. Notice John's reaction to the terrible silence. He weeps and weeps. Not in the Spirit, we read in curiosity. What has been our paltry reaction to the subject at hand. In our flesh we are concerned with the minutia of our lives so we don't think of where all this life on earth is headed. But we are part of that, and being carried along to that, and what does it mean? Who will reveal it?

3. The Lamb, is worthy and takes the scroll from Whom? **7** He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. **Who was that? And what was the reaction of those beings closest to the throne.**

4. What was sung by the Living Creatures and the 24 elders? How great are the qualifications of the Lamb? Such that He alone is qualified? How much of earth, and earth's history is involved in what He did? Notice how symbolic images are employed to powerfully communicate, in this case to unveil the worthiness of Christ. "Lamb", "Lion", "First and the Last" (the last is **ὁ ἔσχατος**, Rev. 1:17 **Rev. 1:17** Καὶ

Handout to Lesson 1 for Eschatology, The Eschatos, Power of Apocalyptic, Use of "Apocalypse", OT intro to apocalypse

ὅτε εἶδον αὐτόν, ἔπεσα πρὸς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ ὡς νεκρός, καὶ ἔθηκεν τὴν δεξιὰν αὐτοῦ ἐπ' ἐμὲ λέγων· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ πρῶτος καὶ ὁ ἔσχατος; 22:13)

5. To this is added the singing voices of how many angels? How great is the sound of that angelic throng numbering in the millions?! **12** In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Have you ever heard a million people sing? Have you ever heard a million **angels** sing of Jesus this way?

6. From here the response grows even greater: **Rev. 5:13** Then I heard *every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing*: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

7. **14** The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and **worshiped**.

This is the magnitude of the matter of the eschaton, and the central figure of the eschaton is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God who was slain to bring people of every language, every nation to belong to God, the One who Himself is the First and the Last.

III. The meaning of the *term apocalypse*, was not to conceal, but to reveal, and especially, if not exclusively, **to reveal Jesus Christ**.

Examples in the NT (**see work sheet**) Luke 2:32; Romans 2:5; 8:19; 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:7; 14:6; 14:26; 2 Cor. 12:1,7; Gal. 1:12; 2:2; Eph. 1:17; 3:3; 2 Thes. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:7, 13; 4:13; Revelation 1:1

Initial unveiling of Christ in Revelation the Son of Man in Revelation 1:5-8; **Rev. 1:12-16**

This revealing, this unveiling is then parceled out to the seven churches. That unveiling commends them, corrects them, promises them, and promises rewards that will happen in the eschaton to those who overcome.

Christ not only relates to individuals. He relates to churches, speaks to churches and the churches broadcast the light of Christ into the dark world. And if any fail, their lampstand is removed from where Christ moves among them as churches.

How important it is to have a mindset of the importance of being an organic connected part of belonging to a church.

IV. The initial apocalypse, unveiling of Christ to be parceled out to the seven churches.

V. God **introduces** us to **Apocalyptic communication in the OT** during the time of the Exile through the prophetic statesman Daniel. And immediately we find ourselves not just among the OT people of God, (or even in the newly birthed church in the NT). We find the Scripture dealing with whole world empires in succession. History is headed in a certain direction though it might not seem that way at all in the time of Daniel or in our time.

Daniel 2:19-47