

CHAPTERS 4-7 SUMMARY

Chapter 4

This magnificent section of Revelation gives us the picture of God on His throne. John is called to witness the revelation as it unfolds (Rev. 4:1). God is in a position of power and none has or will dethrone Him.

Chapter 5

In chapter five we are told about the victorious Lamb. God held a scroll in His right hand, the hand of power, that was covered in writing. Someone was needed to open it; the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

One thing worthy of note at this point is the mention of the harp in 5:8. Some have seen this as authority to use instrumental music in the worship of the church. However, there are some difficulties with this. First, this is a book of signs and symbols (Rev. 1:1). They harps are a representation of something, not to be taken literally. Second, these things take place in heaven, not on earth. Third, the Lamb is not literal, nor are the golden bowls of incense. If we take the harp as literal and, therefore, as authorized for use in our worship today, then we must also use incense.

Chapter 6

Next we see the opening of the first six seals. Each seal and the resulting actions are related to the unfolding of God's plan; from Christ conquering in the gospel to God's judgment on the persecutors of the saints.

Chapter 7

To prepare for the judgment to come, God has the faithful marked (Rev. 7:1-8). The 144,000 represent all the redeemed on earth. The numbers are symbolic of the complete "house of God," all of spiritual Israel (cf. Gal. 3:26-29; 6:16; Rom. 2:28, 29).

The victorious came out of the "great tribulation," the persecution enacted by the Romans. Their victory was possible because of the blood of the Lamb (cf. 1 Jn. 1:7-9). God will now grant them rest and peace (Rev. 7:16, 17).