How Christians can have Peace in Times of War

Robert Harkrider · Revelation 4 · Series: **Revelation**

INTRODUCTION

- What if it became against the law for us to assemble as we are this very hour?
- If you can think of that in a serious way, then perhaps you would understand even better why the book of Revelation was written in the style that was written.

1 A Battle Going On: Satan Versus God

Revelation 14:8

- At the time of Revelation, there was a battle going on. It was really Satan versus God, but it was a battle, in fact, that was affecting the church of the Lord.
- How can we bow ourselves or worship to a man who calls himself God?
- Babylon was a world empire, and it's representing the Roman Empire.
- The figurative language that is included in that style is in order to hide it from the enemy, as to reveal it to the Christian.

2 Things That Must Shortly Come to Pass

- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants, things that must shortly come to pass.
- Its original meaning had to do with things they were facing.
- What Revelation reveals is that it is God who is in charge.
- They had to make the choice, live for all this world offers, or prepare for eternity. And I make this point that we too must make that same choice.
- Though you and I do not know what tomorrow holds, we do know who holds tomorrow. And that's the main message of Revelation. God is in charge.

3 The Throne Scene: The Characteristics of God

Revelation 4:1–3; Revelation 21:11; Genesis 9

- Behold, a throne set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And I saw him, I saw he who sat there was like a jasper and a Sardius stone in appearance.
- What we do know, though, are the characteristics of God.
- If you're going to talk about the character of God, would you not describe him as clear, as pure, as holy?
- There is justice on God's part that those who have refused his love shall suffer indeed his wrath.
- So around God's throne you would say should be a message of hope.

4 Around the Throne: Elders and Living Creatures

Revelation 4:4–11; Ezekiel 10:20; Exodus 25:22

- Around the throne were 24 thrones, and on the thrones I saw 24 elders sitting, clothed in white robes, and they had crowns of gold on their heads.
- The number 12, I think, is simply representative of God's covenant people. Both Old and New Testament.
- The scripture there says, these living creatures were cherubim.
- God's highest order around his throne to carry out his will.
- Those closest to God would know what he really is like. And what they say of him is he is holy.

5 Worthy Is the Lamb Who Was Slain

Hebrews 2:9

- Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?
- Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seven seals.
- You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals. For you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood.
- Well, because of what he has done. He's redeemed us to God by his blood.
- We have forgiveness of sins, and through that you might say we have power over the devil.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Do you really believe Jesus Christ is worthy of praise and honor and glory?**

MY NOTES