

Sunday, April 14, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: A Divine Invitation

Series: Revelation ... 8

Text: Revelation 4:1 - 11

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation that BELIEVERS have received a Divine invitation to enter into a level of SPIRITUAL WORSHIP that fills us with confidence in the God of all creation and the Lord of redemption.

Introduction:

The devotional last Sunday dealt with the last of the seven letters to the seven churches, the church at Laodicea; we also did a recap of the seven churches.

~ We made special note of the fact that both Sardis and Laodicea have NO commendation and Smyrna and Philadelphia have NO rebuke.

~ We did a brief comparison of the seven letters by Jesus with the letters to seven churches that Paul wrote to in his epistles.

~ We considered applications to our own time and life.

~ Revelation 1:19, “Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.”

~ John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”

1. Come Up Here:

~ 4:1 – 2, “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” (2) At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.”

~ The word “throne” appears 46 times in the book of Revelation; it is an overriding theme given to the church of Jesus Christ. “Throne” is used 14 times in this chapter; emphasizing the sovereignty and the glory of the Lord God Almighty!

~ I, personally, hold to the view held by many Bible students that these two verses are illustrative of the rapture of believers in Christ Jesus before the wrath of God is administered.

2. Come Into the Throne Room:

~ 4:3, “And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.”

~ Compare with Isaiah 6:1 – 5 and Daniel 7:9 – 10

~ 4:4, “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garment, with golden crowns on their heads.”

~ Personal perspective: not angels as they are not numbered nor shown with crowns; could be representative of Israel and Gentiles (12 each) who have received Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, that is the two covenant peoples – 12 each representing a full complete number of each.

~ 4:5 – 6 is a description around the throne

3. Come and See the Four Living Creatures:

~ 4:6 – 9 the description of the four living creatures.

~ There is no divine declaration of what they represent. Three views have been suggested:

~ Genesis 9:8 – 17 God’s covenant with Noah: Noah the face of man, fowl the face of the eagle, cattle the face of the ox, and living creatures the face of the lion

~ Parallel to the camp of Israel: Judah the lion, Rueben the man, Ephraim the ox and Dan the eagle (see slide)

~ Parallel to the Gospels: Matthew the lion, Mark the ox, Luke the man and John the eagle (see slide)

~ These three together could represent all of creation (Romans 8), the covenant with Israel and the covenant with gentiles (Romans 1:16 – 17)

4. Come and Worship:

~ 4:9 – 11, “And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Conclusion:

Romans 12:1 – 2, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”