

The Unfolding of History

Revelation 5-6; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-23-22

God uses unexpected and unwanted things to bring about the expected and the wanted.

God is too kind to ever be cruel, but he is so kind that he would rather be mistaken as unkind than to actually be cruel.

The Book (5:1-4)

'book' = consummation of all things (Daniel 7:9-14; 12:1-13; Malachi 3:13-17)

Jesus reigns worthily over the history of the world and will bring it to its glorious consummation: history is unfolding, not unraveling, according to the book.

The Lion-Lamb (5:5-7)

The 'Lion' image is the picture of a King who defends his people and judges his enemies. (Genesis 49:9-10)

The 'Lamb' image is the picture of a Savior who rescues his people from death and destruction through substitution. (John 1:29)

Jesus reigns as the Lion-Lamb: the perfect combination of reigning strength and sacrificial humility.

The History of Redemption (5:8-14)

'purchased for God' = the cross led to the crown and the implementation of all that is in the book

Jesus (the One who died to save the world) reigns over the history of redemption: the salvation of souls.

1st Seal: Fulfillment of the Great Commission (6:1-2)

History will be filled with the expansion of the kingdom of Christ and Anti-Christ. (Matthew 13: 24:14; Mark 13:10; Matthew 24:4, 11; Luke 21:8)

Jesus reigns over the progress of the gospel to the ends of the earth: conquering whatever stands in the way of saving his purchased people.

2nd Seal: Human Conflict (6:3-4)

History will be filled with war and conflict and murder and violent crimes. (Matthew 24:6-7a)

Jesus reigns over human conflict of all kinds, fulfilling his purposes and keeping his promises.

3rd Seal: Economic Hardship (6:5-6)

History will be filled with economic issues of various kinds. (Matthew 24:7b)

Jesus reigns over economic hardships of all kinds, fulfilling his purposes and keeping his promises.

4th Seal: Death of All Kinds (6:7-8)

History will be filled with death of all kinds. (Luke 21:10)

Jesus reigns over death: how and when and to whom it happens.

5th Seal: Persecution of the Church (6:9-11)

History will be filled with Christian martyrdom. (Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:9, 13)

Jesus reigns over the death of his saints: how and when and to whom it happens.

6th Seal: Divine Temporal Judgments (6:12-17)

History will be filled with divine temporal judgments pointing to the final judgment. (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:24-25; Luke 21:11b, 25-26)

Jesus reigns over divine judgment: both temporal judgments and the final judgments at the end of time.

The Interlude (Revelation 7)

Throughout history, God's people will be protected and victorious.

God is at work through the reign of Christ over all things to protect and save and satisfy a multitude of people for the glory of His great name.

7th Seal: Divine Warnings (Revelation 8:1-6)

History will be filled with divine warnings and greater warnings at the end.

God, in his mercy, throughout history, warns sinners of the judgment to come and calls them to repentance; he will do this in great and dramatic ways before the end of all things comes.