

# Revelation

.....



## **Notes From the Podium**

*By Fr. Matthew Kauth*

***These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture.***

### **Revelation 4:1-11**

- I. “...an open door.” *Rev. 4:1*
  - A. Letter to Philadelphia – the door of the New Church/ the New Jerusalem
  - B. John is invited in.
    - 1. “Sursum Corda”, “Come up”, “Lift up your hearts”
    - 2. Another World
  - C. The Divine Perspective
    - 1. Creation (chapter 4)
    - 2. Redemption (chapter 5)
- II. Image of Church – traditionally in the form of a corpus.
  - A. Portal – massive
    - 1. Tympanum – semi-circular area above the door
    - 2. Image of Christ seated in glory, lamb slain, 24 elders, signs of evangelists
    - 3. Entry into the mystical body of the Church.
      - a. Heavenly liturgy taking place.
      - b. Both symbolic and living, like body and soul. For example, gothic churches - “on the move”
      - c. Another World
  - B. Baptistery
    - 1. The entryway into the mystical body of Christ is Baptism.
    - 2. The doorway to the New Jerusalem
  - C. Nave – central longitudinal space in the church, usually very long
  - D. Floor – stones and inlay
  - E. Pillars – Saints
  - F. Windows
    - 1. stained glass vs. natural light
    - 2. Scenes of rosary, saints, etc.
    - 3. Saints shed the light onto the long nave.
  - G. Triumphal arch or dome
    - 1. signifies victory
    - 2. Heart of the Church, Head of the Body, Christ
    - 3. The Altar



## Notes From the Podium (cont)

- III. Cosmic Nature
  - A. Royal Priesthood
    - 1. Priests offer sacrifice
    - 2. “Reasonable” sacrifice
      - a. man is bridge between body and spirit (body and soul)
      - b. All creation gives God glory of its own nature
        - i. a tree gives glory by being a tree, by its nature, but not willfully
        - ii. man offers all that is created to God willfully, rationally, intelligently, reasonably
    - 3. A natural priesthood
    - 4. The Fall of creation – sacrifice
- IV. “Come up hither....”
  - A. The Throne
    - 1. Christ
      - a. Judgement Seat
      - b. Men choose darkness rather than light
      - c. He ascends to throne of the cross to offer sacrifice – an eternal act
      - d. John sees Christ now as reigning on glorious throne.
  - B. Jasper and Cornelian
    - 1. Reference to Eden, *Ezek. 28:10-13*
    - 2. No direct vision of God
    - 3. Stones in breastplate of priests
  - C. Rainbow
    - 1. Noah’s Ark, *Gen. 9* (Creation)
    - 2. Water – cleanses – Baptism
    - 3. Covenant
  - D. 24 Elders
    - 1. 12 tribes (OT) and 12 Apostles (NT)
    - 2. Architecture of old churches
    - 3. *1 Cor 24, 25* – alternative interpretation
    - 4. *Matt 19* – 12 thrones of judgement
    - 5. Golden Crowns
      - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Century evidence of apostolic usage during the liturgy
      - b. symbolic of being both priest *and* king – royal priesthood, rule *and* offer the temporal order
      - c. Crowns thrown down – deference to the true king
- III. Signs of Theophanies – God manifesting Himself
  - A. Flashes of Lightning
  - B. Peals of Thunder
- I. Before the Throne
  - A. 7 torches – 7 Spirits of God
  - B. Sea of glass, like crystal
    - 1. Courtyard
    - 2. Waters – usually dark and dangerous, but like crystal for God



## **Notes From the Podium (cont)**

- II. Four Living Creatures – Lion, Ox, Man, Eagle
  - A. Eyes in front and behind
  - B. Each with 6 wings
  - C. Never cease to sing
  - D. Interpretations:
    - 1. Josephus – Jewish historian – Temple is the Image of Creation with 3 levels.
      - c. 1<sup>st</sup> level: courtyard – sea
      - d. 2<sup>nd</sup> level: holy place – earth
      - e. 3<sup>rd</sup> level: Holy of Holies – Heaven
      - d. Showbread (2 rows of 6 = 12) – 12 months of year
    - 2. Cherubim – new age?
      - a. Significant evidence to suggest that the symbols of the 4 living creatures correspond to the 4 fixed signs of the zodiac.
        - i. Lion = Leo
        - ii. Bull = Taurus
        - iii. Man = Aquarius
        - iv. Scorpio = Eagle (Eagle often substituted for scorpion because too much like serpent)
      - b. All of creation reflects God and gives him glory; all things created are good.
      - c. Problem: we cannot interpret and there is a great danger of being deceived. While creation reflects God, Satan makes creation an end in itself – no reliance on Divine providence.
    - 3. 12 tribes and 12 signs
      - a. Judah = Lion, Rueben = man, Ephraim = bull, Dan = Eagle
      - b. Cathedral in Siena – 12 signs of zodiac in the floor – the natural order represented by those signs is elevated into the New World.
    - 4. The Evangelists
      - a. Matthew = man (genealogy)
      - b. Mark = Lion (Desert)
      - c. Luke = Ox (sacrifice)
      - d. John = Eagle (soaring above, contemplating)
  - E. Cherubim –
    - 1. God mediates His control with the angels.
    - 2. Lion = power, Man = wisdom, Ox = strength, Eagle = speed
    - 3. Each has dominion in their proper realm.
    - 4. Do not disembody worship.