

One

First, let me remind you that the Book of Revelation is always to be remembered as a book of prophecy: a book of symbols setting forth in a prophetic manner God's plan, and future events.

The first four verses of the passage picture a book in the hand of ONE who sat on the throne. The book with seven seals, of which we read in the sixth chapter, reveals world event in the time of the end. (Compare Daniel 12-1-4 with the events leading to the beginning of God's wrath and judgments to come upon the earth, beginning in Revelation 8:1-7.)

In Revelation 5:8-12 is shown the raptured church before God's throne (Revelation 4:1-11). Revelation 5:6 symbolically pictures the plan of redemption with a "Lamb as it had been slain." Revelation 13:8 also refers to **"the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"** Here is pictured God's plan of redemption from the beginning. He would veil Himself in a body of flesh (John 1:14), and be a spotless lamb, to be offered for the sins of all mankind (Hebrews 10:9-14).

Though this was in God's plan "from the foundation of the world, it became real only when Jesus went to Calvary. In the mind of God. He was also begotten from the foundation of the world, but was actually born of a woman at Bethlehem. This was **"God manifest in the flesh"** (1 Timothy 3:16), and His death **". . for sin condemned sin in the flesh"** (Romans 8:3).

In Revelation 5-4, 5, John heard that the **"Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David,"** had prevailed to open the book he saw in the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. When John turned to see the Lion (a symbol of the King of kings and Lord of lords), he saw a **". . Lamb as it had been slain** (a symbol of redemption-Emmanuel, or Jehovah-Saviour, called JESUS). John never saw two persons; he saw Jesus as both Lord and Saviour.

Now let us look into the question; Who was the one that sat on the throne? (Revelation 4;2; 5:1) The God who sat on

the throne, and who is worshipped in Revelation 19:4, is the same ONE seen in Revelation 21:5, and the same one who shall ". . be their God, and shalt wipe away all tears from their eyes" (verses 3, 4). He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 21:6 22:13), and in verse 16 He tells us that his NAME is JESUS. Also, in Revelation 22:3 the throne is called "the throne of God and of the Lamb." Verse 4 says, "And they shall see HIS face (not their faces)." Again, verse 3 says, "his servants shall serve him" (not them).

So when "the mystery of God shall be finished" (Revelation 10:4), when the work of redemption is completed, when the last enemy (death) is destroyed, when the need of a Mediator shall be no more, then we shall see Him as He is - the One who sits upon the throne, the Alpha and Omega, the FIRST and the LAST, the BEGINNING and the END, He that liveth and was dead, but who is alive forevermore-the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come. The ALMIGHTY (Revelation 1:17, 18, 8).

Paul declared, "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power-" Colossians 2:9, 10). He also said, "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" Colossians 1:19).

Throughout eternity we shall behold the invisible God, made visible in that glorified body of the only begotten Son of God, the man Christ Jesus, born of a woman; the Lamb of God who alone sits on the throne, revealing the glory of the eternal God. "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us (in redeeming us) through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

Jude said, "To the ONLY wise God our SAVIOUR the Lord Jesus Christ, our EVERLASTING FATHER) be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen" (Jude 25).