

Theme: One Story (Acts 17:26-28)

Title: Yet to Come ~ The Exalted Son of Man – Revelation 5:1-14

Aim: See how God’s plan has been & still is being worked out.

Intro: Generally speaking, when we think of or picture lambs, we see this (pictures): cute, cuddly, warm fuzzy. But in ancient Israel, these animals were cultivated for sacrifice (in reality, so it is w/today – can anyone say “lamb chops?”). Lambs intended for sacrifice were to be w/out blemish, as they were to be a substitute for God’s people. At the 1st Passover, when the death angel saw the blood on the doorpost of the Israelite house, he passed over that home, & the occupants inside were spared – redeemed. That, of course, was a preview of what Christ would do for us. He is our Passover Lamb, & the Lamb of God is the exalted Son of Man & Lord of all. His work of redemption is finished, but His work in the plan of God goes on. Theme: One story – one God, one plan, one story – God’s story of redemption displayed in the pages of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, & displayed in the lives of the redeemed. We began last week to consider the last section of Scripture & of the 2-book study guide of the Old & New Testaments entitled Casket Empty. This last section in the book is noted by Y, for Yet to Come. Last week, Pastor Derek introduced this last section by taking us thru Revelation 1. However, tho this “Revelation of Jesus Christ,” made known to John on the Isle of Patmos, is intended “to show His servants the things that must soon take place” (1:19), Revelation 1 doesn’t do that. Rather, it sets the stage. Revelation 1 is what Jesus meant by “the things that [John] had seen”: the exalted Son of Man as Lord & protector of the Church. This is followed in chaps 2-3 w/the 1st part of the things that are (1:19). Jesus assessed the 7 churches in Asia Minor & assured them that He indeed is the Lord of the Church, standing w/the Church. He called them out on their failings & commended them for their faithfulness & comforted them regarding their struggles. He

promised His return & reward. He urged that they listen to what He had to say & respond w/obedience & endurance. Read those chapters, the messages of which apply to all the Church throughout history. Ask yourself, what would Jesus say to the Church, including this church, today? What would He say to me? Chaps 2-3 are followed (of course) by 4-5, which are still not “yet to come,” but those things that are. Rev.6-22 are “those [things] that are to take place” (after John received the revelation) – things “yet to come.” Here in Rev.4-5 Jesus gives us the perspective of heaven, which the 7 churches in Asia Minor needed & all the Church today needs to see & understand. Chaps 4-5 really go together & ought to be seen as a whole, tho we will only walk thru chap5. The focus of John’s vision in chap4 is the throne & the One seated on the throne. The message is clear & vital. **GOD IS ON HIS THRONE!** No matter what it looks like around us, at any time in history; no matter how difficult life is, for us individually & for the Church, God is on His throne, in control. His plan will not be thwarted. His timing will not be hurried or delayed. The praise of the 4 living creatures, echoed by the 24 elders expresses it all: ***“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was & is & is to come!” “Worthy are You, our Lord & God, to receive glory & honor & power, for You created all things, & by Your will they existed & were created”*** (5:8 & 11). The scene shifts in chap5, w/another important message needed to be heard by the Church as she goes thru the rest of Revelation. Revelation 5:1-14 [READ]. I) **The Scroll**. Scrolls were the means to record & keep letters & books in John’s day. Usually the message was written on 1 side, but this scroll in the right hand of God on His throne was “written w/in & on the back.” Certainly a lot was contained w/in. Some speculate that such a scroll might have been as long as 15’. Once a scroll was finished, it would be rolled up & tied w/a string. Then the string, at the knot, would be sealed w/wax, perhaps impressed w/the signet ring of the

writer or another stamp. This was to secure it until the one to whom it was sent would open it. This scroll was fastened w/7 strings, each knot sealed w/wax. In dramatic fashion, “a mighty angel” asked, “Who is worthy to open the scroll & break its seals?” The significance of this scroll in God’s hand is that it contained God’s will, the rest of God’s plan from John’s day until the return of Christ & the completion of God’s story. The one who opened this scroll would be charged w/overseeing the carrying out of its contents. So, you can understand why John began to weep – loudly it says – when no one came forward. No angel or human, dead or alive was able to break the seals & open the scroll. No one was able to carry out the rest of the plan of God. But then one of the 24 elders comforted John. There was One who could open the scroll & carry out the plan. The angel identified this One as “the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.” “The Lion of the tribe of Judah” is a reference to Genesis 49:8-12, which records Abraham’s blessing upon his son Judah. He spoke of One to come in Judah’s line who would be the ruler to whom tribute & “the obedience of the peoples” belongs. God had a plan. “The root of David” refers to Isaiah 11, where Isaiah wrote of “a shoot” which would come forth “from the stump of Jesse” (David’s father – vs1). That “shoot” is also spoken of as “the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples...” (vs10). In Romans 15:8-12 Paul makes it clear that this root of David is Jesus Christ the Messiah. David Palmer wrote, “The Messiah from the line of Judah, to whom the obedience of all nations belongs, had come. The Son of David who will stand as a signal for all nations had conquered. This is Jesus Christ, whom heaven declared worthy to reveal & execute God’s will for the salvation of the nations.” Hang onto that phrase “has conquered.” Expecting now a lion, John’s attention (& ours) is turned toward the subject of the angel’s announcement. Instead of a lion we see a lamb – but not just any lamb. No cute little lamb is this, but one

bearing the marks of having been slain, the scars of the nails driven into his hands & feet, of the beatings, of the thrust of the spear into His side. Palmer again wrote: “Jesus is the royal Messiah who has given His life to carry the sin of the world (Isaiah 53:4-5; John 1:29). [Here] He stands enthroned in heavenly glory (as the exalted Son of Man) after His {glorious, triumphant} resurrection, {by which He has conquered sin & death & the devil}. He conquers the nations by dying for them (& will again, by judging them). His death & resurrection are the center of the biblical narrative (God’s story – I Cor.15:3-4).” Note that the Lamb that was slain had “7 horns” – symbol of perfect power, & 7 eyes, which John tells us “are the 7 spirits of God sent out into all the earth” – representing the all-seeing Holy Spirit, who enabled Christ to carry out the Father’s will on the cross & will further assist Him to complete that part of God’s will yet to be carried out. The Lamb of God took the scroll from the hand of the Almighty Father, in essence saying, “Yes, Father, Your will be done. I’ll open the scroll & see it all completed.” In Palmer’s words, “The court of heaven responds w/praise” in vs9-10. John records that they sang a new song [READ]. Palmer wrote: “By the blood of our Passover Lamb we become God’s redeemed from every tribe, tongue, & nation.” Remember again that God told Abraham (Gen.12:3): “In you all the families of the earth will be blessed”? Again, Palmer: “Jesus makes us into a kingdom of priests & a holy nation who will reign w/Him forever. This echoes the original commission to humanity in the Garden of Eden (Gen.1:28) & to Israel at the base of Mt. Sinai (Ex.19:6). This fulfills prophetic hope found in Is.11:9 & Hab.2:14, that ‘the whole world will be filled w/the knowledge of the glory of the Lord like the waters cover the sea.’” Then we read that praise erupts from the 4 living creatures & 24 elders, joined by many angels – myriads & 1000’s, & every creation being – vs12-14 [READ]. What are we to do w/this? Palmer suggests this, 1st of all: “Allow this eternal scene of worship to

fill your own heart. Take time now to set your affection on the Lamb who was slain for you. Worship is our highest joy, the true meaning of humanity, & the ultimate purpose of global missions – nations freed from idolatry to worship & serve the living God.” Also, let us set our minds on the truth chaps4-5 declare to us: Almighty God is on His throne. Nothing is out of His control. Rest in the fact that His plan is being carried out, to the letter. His timing will be always right. His will will be done. His kingdom has come & will come. Let’s be about His business until Jesus comes again! Your life is in His hands. He knows your every need & if you are in Christ, He cares for you as the good, good Father He is. Rest in Him, come what may. He will get us to the end of His story – that one story. One God, one plan, one story!