

Johannine Studies

Lecture 15 Study Notes – May 13, 2008

1. Modern scholarship has thought for a long time that too much emphasis has been put on the millennium. Instead of putting all the emphasis on Revelation 20 and the millennium, modern day scholarship will look at the entirety of the book in its historical setting to understanding how John's vision of the last days might apply to our lives. Bauchham says John "sees God's rule over the world apparently contradicted by the rule of the Roman Empire, which arrogates divine rule over the world to itself, and to all appearances does so successfully. He faces the question: who then is really Lord of this world? He anticipates the eschatological crisis in which the issue will come to a head and be resolved in God's ultimate triumph over all evil and his establishment of his eternal kingdom" (page 9).
2. The book of Revelation is highly theocentric . Revelation 1:8 gives us three of the four most important designations for God, the fourth is found in 4:9, 5:1, 7:13, 6:17, 7:15, and 21:5.
3. The throne room and the sovereignty of God is seen first and foremost in chapter 4. A throne room which is seen as shared with the Lamb. God's sovereignty is fully known and celebrated in Heaven and now the same must be done on earth. Everything that is done in heaven must be ultimately done on earth. In fact according to Bauchham, the entire book of Revelation is seen as a fulfillment of the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer: "...Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."
4. It is the worship of God and the Lamb which is the eschatological goal of all creation.
5. The forces of evil that stand in the way of this goal of creation and the worship of God and the Lamb are the forces of evil and Satan represented by the Great Roman Empire. Such a power is symbolized by the beast (chapters 13, 17) and the harlot of Babylon (chapter 17, 18). According to Bauchham, the evil of the Empire is not just seen in how it treats Christians but it is seen in the evil system that it represents (page 38).
6. Chapter 6 begins the movement and fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer- "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." There are three series of judgments: seven seals opened (6: 1-17; 8: 1, 3-5), the seven trumpets (8:2, 6:21; 11:14-19) and the seven bowls (15:1, 5-21). Seven, as you might know, is the number of completeness—in some sense each series completes God's judgment on the unrighteous world. Each series of seven is issued from the throne room of God and each is given being progressively worse.
7. Modern scholarship will not see these as being literal but highly symbolic (page 41).
8. Based on your study and understanding of the Book of Revelation, do you believe that Christ's Second Coming is soon, and if so, under what conditions do you believe this to take place?
 - a. A world-wide government (13:7-8)
 - b. A world-wide persecution of Christians and the church (3:10)
 - c. The U.S. government still protects our religious liberty
 - d. The beast and the forces of Satan will try to stamp out our religious liberty
 - e. Despite opposition of Christian values there is no evidence of tribulation or persecution in most of the world

- f. The second beast is to require total control of economic and material prosperity (13: 12-17)
- g. The gospel is proclaimed to all the nations (14:6)
- h. In my opinion, the closest thing we've had to the beast in modern times is Nazism during World War II.
- i. Yet we are supposed to pray and be watchful for the Second Coming.