REVELATION

THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

Review: Apocalyptic Literature & Source Material

Letters to The 7 Churches

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

Socio-Political Context

The Caesars

- Julius Caesar 49–44 BC
- Augustus 27 BC – AD 14
- Tiberius AD 14–37
- Caligula AD 37–41
- Claudius AD 41–54
- Nero AD 54–68
- Galba AD 68–69
- Otho AD 69
- Vitellius AD 69
- Vespasian AD 69–79
- Titus AD 79–81
- Domitian AD 81–96

Inscription at the City of Myra

“The god Augustus Caesar, son of a god, ruler of land and sea, benefactor and savior of the whole world.”
**Priene Calendar Inscription — Savior Augustus, 9 BC**

It seemed good to the Greeks of Asia, in the opinion of the high priest Apollonius of Menophilus Azanitus:

“Since Providence, which has ordered all things and is deeply interested in our life, has set in most perfect order by giving us Augustus, whom she filled with virtue that he might benefit humankind, sending him as a savior both for us and for our descendants, that he might end war and arrange all things, and since the Caesar through his appearance has exceeded the hopes of all former gospels, surpassing not only the benefactors that came before him, but also leaving no hope that anyone in the future will surpass him, and since for the world the birthday of the god was the beginning of his good messages (gospels) …”

**Revelation 4 English Standard Version (ESV)**

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

**Implications**

- God is up to something so much bigger than what any of us could ever perceive or understand.

- Revelation invites us to redirect our lives’ perspective from the immediate present to a much grander story.

- Hold on! Do not bend your knee. Refuse to compromise. Press on.

- We triumph when we humbly and persistently suffer together for the sake of our cities.