

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Revelation 20:1-6

June 4 & 5, 2016

### Baptized, don't give up your throne with Christ!

A lot of people talking about *Game of Thrones*. Power, prestige, privilege, intrigue, lust, playing games - high stakes! High costs! *Believable make-believe*

John shows us thrones - our thrones. They belong to all who are Baptized into Christ and remain steadfast in Christ. Great value. Tragic if lost. Real.

### Baptized, don't give up your throne with Christ!

- ❖ Discover the comfort and encouragement of Revelation
  - Many find Revelation *confusing* even *scary*.
  - Jesus gave it for our care and comfort.
    - ♦ Message: Satan & company will do their worst. Christ triumphs for us.
    - ♦ Jesus prepares us for the bad stuff so we see beyond it to hope in Christ.
    - ♦ Not predictive for planning, but for preparation & confirming his word.
    - ♦ Read it like a child - in awe of our Hero Victor Jesus!
      - No matter how bad it gets, in the end Christ (his people) triumph!
- ❖ This 7<sup>th</sup> and Closing Vision
  - **Every vision** - mini-movie of these End Times - New Testament era
    - ♦ Not sequential events. Look at New Testament era from different angle
    - ♦ We'd expect the same here.
  - One of the most misused section of Scriptures
  - Look at the **simple facts**:
    - ♦ **An Angel** - angel = *messenger*
      - *the keys of the bottomless pit* - Jesus has *keys ... of hades* Rev. 1:18
      - Jesus Christ = *Angel of the LORD* in the Old Testament
    - ♦ **Mission**: bust Satan's grip on people, especially the Gentiles
      - Just as holy angels are before God and yet with people
      - Satan in hell, yet roaming the earth - Jesus breaks dark deception
      - How? Unleashed such a powerful Gospel - stunning inroads...

- ♦ **Focus**: *And I saw thrones ...to them give authority to judge*
  - He sees **multiple thrones**, not just Jesus sitting on his throne!
  - **Souls of those who had been beheaded because of ...witness ...word**
    - Trust in Jesus, stood **steadfast** with him and in the faith
    - Souls - **no body** - in heaven
    - ...*they lived and ruled with Christ of a thousand years*
      - Many incorrectly translate: *they came to life*
  - All Scripture teaches:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection: souls come alive in Baptism, living faith...
    - When a believer's body dies their soul continues to live with Jesus
    - Believers (not just Apostles and martyrs) rule and judge with Christ
    - **Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection**
    - Why martyrs mentioned? To comfort believers who knew them!
    - All believers judge with Christ, serve as priests, rule with Christ

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- ❖ The 1,000 year reign of the believers and Christ **in heaven**
  - *1,000 year reign* - exclusive to this **vision**. In vision language.
    - ♦ 10 is # of completeness. 10 x 10 x 10 absolutely complete time, limited
    - ♦ Time for the spread of the Gospel - New Testament era
      - Concludes with the Last Day - when all bodies will be raised
    - ♦ Especially clear noting resurrection passages in the Gospel of John
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection: conversion - 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection: Last Day
        - 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection: all bodies raised
        - Believer to life. Unbelievers to condemnation with Satan in hell
    - ♦ No mention of earthly reign! Souls with Jesus in heaven
      - Jesus' kingdom is **never** of this world, a physical political power.
  - Here's our hope. It's real. It's guaranteed!
    - ♦ Hold to the Gospel. Grow in this new life. Revel being in Christ.
    - ♦ Seeing this reality: don't fear loss of life, property, prominence, people
    - ♦ Seeing this reality: Search the Scriptures to see this hidden reality
    - ♦ Treasure your Baptism - your resurrection to new life in Christ
      - Explore the current rule that is yours with Christ in Baptism - memorize and reflect on *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It* - CWS 737
      - Baptism is far more than God starting your engine! It keeps working, triumphing over sin, temptation, unbelief, and hostile forces!

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