Table Host Discussion Guide

Week 3: The Throne and the Scroll

This week's teaching shifts our attention from the churches on earth to the throne room of heaven. Before Jesus reveals anything about the judgments and visions that follow, He first reminds John—and us—that God is still reigning. While the earth appears filled with chaos, persecution, and powerful kingdoms, heaven is marked by worship, order, and complete sovereignty. From that throne John notices a sealed scroll that no one is worthy to open. By tracing the imagery back to the book of Daniel, we discover that the scroll represents God's previously sealed purposes concerning the persecution of His people, the coming of the Messiah, and God's ultimate victory over the kingdoms that oppose Him. John weeps because generations had longed to know how these prophecies would be fulfilled. Then heaven announces the One who alone is worthy to open the scroll—not because of military power or earthly conquest, but because He is both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb who was slain. Revelation ultimately directs our attention not merely to prophecy, but to the worthiness of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Revelation 4 begin with a vision of God's throne before revealing the contents of the scroll?

Application: When circumstances around you feel chaotic or uncertain, what helps you remember that God is still reigning? How might your perspective change if you viewed your circumstances from heaven's throne room instead of earth's headlines?

2. Why is it important that the sealed scroll in Revelation points us back to Daniel?

Application: How does seeing the connection between Daniel and Revelation increase your confidence that Scripture tells one unified story? Why is it important to let earlier Scripture help interpret later Scripture?

3. Why does John weep when no one is found worthy to open the scroll?

Application: Have you ever found yourself asking, "Lord, how is this going to end?" How does John's experience encourage us to trust God even when we cannot yet see the full outcome of what He is doing?

4. Why is it significant that John hears about a Lion but sees a slain Lamb?

Application: How does Jesus' example challenge the way our culture defines strength, victory, and success? Where might God be calling you to embrace faithful sacrifice rather than worldly power?

5. According to Revelation 5, why is Jesus alone worthy to open the scroll?

Application: As you've studied the first five chapters of Revelation, what has most expanded your understanding of who Jesus is? How does seeing His worthiness deepen your own worship and trust?