

Thursday 2 April CHS Daily Devotion

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I wonder which of us are finding the shutdown most difficult

- Not easy for those who like being surrounded by people
- Not easy for those who walk a lot
- Actually not easy for any of us

In our Wednesday “Word and World” group we have been looking at the book of Revelation. It is written by a John, a man who was used to being surrounded by people, but now finds himself banished by the authorities to a lonely island, away from all the people he used to spend time with. He was probably also feeling that God had gone silent.

I John, ...was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see" (Revelation 1:9ff)

What he wrote on a scroll we now have as the book of Revelation, a book which spoke to John when he was isolated and a book which surely speaks to us during shutdown.

After being assured that the risen Jesus has not left the people in the church, he has a wonderful vision of a door into heaven!

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits^{pl} of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. (Revelation 4:1ff)

It is a glimpse of “our Father in heaven” where he is surrounded by beauty and power. That is so assuring in these very difficult hard times: God is on the throne.

In the next chapter the vision moves from the Father to the Son Jesus, seen as the lion and the lamb. So that is what I am holding onto as I struggle with an “uneasy feeling in my stomach.” I am encouraged to look through that door in heaven to see that God is on the throne and to see that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one who gives us a deep peace.

When we look through this door we can join in the worship of heaven.

***Day and night they never stop saying:
“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”***

They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ *"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."*

*"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honour and glory and praise!"*

¹³ *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all
that is in them, saying:*

*"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"*

Peace be with you