

The Book of Revelation

Week Nine: Throne-Room Visions pt 1

- We began this lesson with a discussion of prophets and prophecy.
- Our example prophet was Michiah Ben Imlah from 1 Kings chapter 22.
 - We reviewed the history of the people of God up to that point, including summarizing their civil war north/south split into Israel and Judah.
 - We briefly discussed king Ahab (having already discussed his queen in a previous lesson)
 - We contrasted Michiah with the hundreds of prophets who were clearly on the king's payroll and were therefore motivated to agree with whatever the king said.
 - We also took some time to enjoy the humor and sarcasm that is so blatant in this story. Even though it's serious, it's also shockingly funny.
 - We picked apart Michiah's vision and discussed the effect of sharing it surrounded by the king's prophets.
 - We discussed Michiah's final words, and discussed the end of what happened to King Ahab, and how the prophecy came true.
- From this we gathered the following basic points about a biblical prophet
 - It is NOT an easy Job
 - They are called to tell the truth, often the truth that others *don't* want to hear.
 - God supports them with visions and miracles as demonstrations of the power of God behind the words they speak.
 - The visions are usually very specific to the context of the Prophet's life and the figure in power they are challenging (often a King, sometimes a priest, or another prophet).
- We then talked about how John fills many of these roles, and fielded questions which led us to a great discussion of what it means that the Bible contains *revealed* information (ie: information you *couldn't* learn on your own, without God revealing it to you).

The Sea of Glass:

- We then deconstructed the "Sea of Glass" and briefly discussed it's obvious connection with the bronze sea inside the temple of God mentioned in the books of Kings and Chronicles.
- We spent more time however discussing the possibility that a "sea of glass" could also be a calm sea, and contrasted that with the ancient world's understanding of the sea/ocean. A calm sea in the presence of God could be a symbol of God's power over chaos.

Further Reading:

- There are other Biblical visions of God's throne room/presence that are worth comparing to this one. They can be found in Ezekiel chapter 1 and Isaiah chapter 6.