

Revelation -13

5:6...seven horns and seven eyes. Horn symbolizes power and eye symbolizes intelligence...the picture (as noted earlier) is of one who is both omnipotent and omniscient.

5:8...harps not a symbol but notice how the Old Testament imagery increases. The harp is the characteristic instrument of praise in the Old Testament and this is but one of the returning symbols that indicate an understanding after the Old Testament pattern. We think this is due to the fact that the tribulation age does not pertain to the church but to the "people of God" the Jews. Thus in an age when we believe the saints will be with the Lord, the symbolism is much closer to that which is understood among the Jews than that which is common to the church. Remember: we believe this but we do not make it the test of fellowship or life.

...golden vials, bowls is the better translation and it suggests the place our prayers in heaven have although I am interpreting the prayers as being those of praise and worship. There are other suggestions.

5:9...a new song, one that could not be sung until the redemptive work was achieved and the further processes to be set in motion. Note the representative character of those who sing (or for whom this song is sung.)

5:13..The imagery is that of the representative worship which will be universally attributed to the Lord at this time of His power.

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Just a few thought lessons from these chapters:

1. What is the real basis of our worship?
2. Why is Christ still represented in heaven as the "lamb slain?"
3. God must and will in time judge the nations but his judgment is always just and on a basis of truth. The fearsome nature of the tribulation age could make one wonder about the purposes and execution of the Lord. Can you see how He has made it possible for John to face the coming picture and not doubt the mercy of God?