PART 2

Chapter 1 – I Turned to See- The Sense Amid the Strangeness

Summary of Key Points
- Revelation’s oddities must be confronted
- Many reads propose ways to make sense of the imagery of the Apocalypse
- A Catholic, liturgical reading enables the most coherent reading of the Book of Revelation

Discussion Questions
1. Have you ever been attracted to any of the various interpretive strategies outlined in The Lamb’s Supper – the futurist, for example, or the preterist, or the idealist? If so, why?
2. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself in such strange and shocking terms? What does it accomplish?
3. With the fall of the Jerusalem Temple, the early Christians saw a “world” coming to an end. What events in history—or in your life—have been comparable to this? What do these experiences suggest about how we understand the end of the world?

Chapter 2 – Who’s Who in Heaven – Revelation’s Cast of Thousands

Summary of Key Points
- Revelation’s drama depends, to some extent, on how we identify its characters.
- Key characters are the Lamb, the Woman, the Bride, and the beasts.
- Some of these characters may have multiple identifications

Discussion Questions
1. Have you ever seen contemporary figures identified with the beasts of Revelation? Why did commentators make such an association?
2. The Church has, down the centuries, identified the “woman” of Revelation 12 with the Blessed Virgin Mary. What do you think are the consequences of this for Christian life and prayer?
3. Why do you think the same figure, Jesus, appears in Revelation as a lamb, lion, a light, and a “Son of Man”? What can the vision teach us about him?

Chapter 3 – Apocalypse Then! – The Battles of Revelation and the Ultimate Weapon

Summary of Key Points
- Revelation presents history and life as a great battle.
- The warfare depicted refers to historical battles, but also to spiritual realities.
- Jerusalem, the holy city, is an important key to our understanding of the Book of Revelation.

Discussion Questions
1. What are the possible benefits or drawbacks of preferring a perennial view of revelation to the popular futurist interpretations?
2. Why would John compare the holy city, Jerusalem, to such places as Egypt and Sodom? What is he saying about Jerusalem’s morals and its relationship with God?
Chapter 4 – Judgment Day – His Mercy is Scary

Summary of Key Points

- People mistakenly believe God’s mercy is incompatible with his “wrath”.
- Mercy and justice are complementary aspects of God’s love.
- We can better understand God’s mercy and justice in the light of parental discipline.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do parents discipline their children? What do they hope to gain by the process? What does this suggest to us about God’s fatherly discipline?
2. In what sense is hell the guarantor of human freedom? Can we truly love someone if we do not have the freedom to reject them?
3. Why is God’s love bliss for some and unbearable for others? Why does the same fire warm the righteous and burn the wicked?
4. Angels clearly play an important role in God’s governance over the world. What role do they play in your life and your devotion?