

**Following the King**  
**Christ's Vision of visions (Revelation 5)**

Proverbs 29:18 tells us that “*where there is no vision the people cast off restraint...*” This proverb brings to mind a team of horses that are pulling their master’s carriage to its intended destination. But suddenly the harness breaks and the horses begin to run off in different directions. In the same way, God’s people need to have a common vision and mission and also shared values to keep us moving together toward our ultimate goal (following Christ is more a ‘team sport’ than it is an individual pursuit). As Christ’s disciples our goal in this lifetime is to grow to become like Jesus and to carry on with the mission that he began. But beyond the short term goals of this lifetime are God’s eternal rewards. Therefore, we will commence this series by looking at the ultimate Vision through which God reveals to us his eternal and glorious kingdom that is to come.

**Vision** can be defined as *a compelling picture of the future that drives us in the present.* Early in the book of Revelation (chapters 2 – 3) the Apostle John was taken on a spiritual tour to show him what was happening in seven different churches that existed in Asia Minor during John’s lifetime. The various situations of these seven churches are a picture of the trials and temptations that face all Christians as we try to remain faithful to Christ. But then John looked up and saw a door standing open in heaven and he was invited to go up and see what must soon take place (4:1). The next two chapters (Revelation 4 – 5) reveal to us John’s vision of the risen Christ and his eternal kingdom that is to come. John was told to write down this great Revelation and to pass it on to us so that we too can be inspired and encouraged to keep pressing on toward our ultimate goal and reward.

1. What do you think the following images (symbols) of Revelation 5 represent?
  - The right hand of him who sits on the throne. (Revelation 5:1,7)
  - The sealed scroll. (5:1 – 4)
  - The Lion of the tribe of Judah...(5:5)
  - The slain Lamb in the centre of the throne (5:6)
  - The Lamb’s seven horns and seven eyes (5:6)
2. Why is it that only the Lamb could open the scroll? (Revelation 5:5 – 10)
3. Read Revelation 5:8 – 14. What is this great worship song, sung by every creature in heaven and earth, meant to portray about the coming kingdom of God?
4. In what ways does this vision challenge and inspire you to remain faithful to Christ and to keep moving forward toward our goal and our great reward?