

Revelation 5 Elders

Role models { A person or persons who serve as examples to others.

A) We have all had role models in our lives/ Me
Parents { Dad – 78 – **awesome role model.**
Mom Amazing heart and servant

B) Jon Courson – Love Jesus / Brian – Grace

1) Your life – Parent, coach, pastor – friend – mentor

C) Well, I think some of our best role models come from Scriptures.

Today I want us to focus on a group that we see over and over in the book of Revelation – that I think are incredible role models for us. –

A) Who am I speaking of? This group known as the 24 Elders! First seen. - Rev. 4:1-5

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 **Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.**

Now Who are the 24 Elders?

A) Several ideas :

Aa) Some Bible Teachers believe that it represents the **12 Patriarchs & the 12 apostles** – holding special positions in Heaven (Possible)

B) **Others suggest that they are special Angelic beings** – who hold a Position in the Govt of God –
1) (Sat on thrones indicates they reign w/ Christ)

C) Highly unlikely Because No where in Scripture are Angels seen sitting on Thrones – wearing crowns –
1) Never pictured ruling or reigning

D) Angels Role is as Ministering spirits sent out to Serve God's Kids

Completed nation of Israel?

A) **But that doesn't make sense because in the Book of Rev. we read in Ch 7 of a 144,000 – Jewish believers used mightily during Trib**

B) One other – idea is that this group around the throne is **the raptured Church** – Possible -
1) Their appearance coincides w/ what Jesus wrote in the Letters to the seven Churches **TO THE OVER COMERS**

Revelation 3: 5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments."

A) Here we see them – clothed in white robes – Redeemed, covered in the Righteousness of Christ

B) Revelation 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

C) Important to note – throne is not a Chair – but a Platform – Chairs upon it !!!!

1) God the Father / God the Son - God the HS -

D) Then there are these 24 also seated on the Platform

E) I Also interesting that the first time we are introduced to them in the story is immediately after this picture of the Church being raptured in Rev 4;1-2

So we do not know exactly who they are – but we can learn from them. { Elder is an example to us.

A) The **term Elder in the Bible** is synonymous with Bishop which means overseer.

B) And most of us **are overseers** in some fashion.-

Bb) **Husband over the Household.** – Parent over kids

1) Supervisor position at work. Teacher in school

C) Home group leader of a ministry leader.

So what can we learn from this group – that will help us in the calling that God has placed on our lives.

A) In the sphere of influence – at home, work, in the church, in our friendships

B) What can we learn from 24 elders about being Elders in our sphere of influence.

C) Note 7 things we see them doing here in the book of Revelation.

#1 Revelation Ch. 4:4 Here we see them Sitting in the presence of the Lord.

A) Not pacing - not worrying, not trying to orchestrate a move of God

B) They are worshipping & fellowshiping with the Lord.

C) First and greatest thing that we can do – Sit in His presence { **Devil hates that**

1) Their ministry is to the Lord! – Acts 13 *As They ministered to the Lord ... the Lord said ...*

D) As they were ministering to the Lord the Spirit moved – God spoke –

E) Ministering to the Lord VS ministering for the Lord { Ministering for – service -

Ministering to is worship – it is sitting at His feet – it is basking in His presence.

A) It is hearing His heart beat – Devotions that are not just mechanical – { **I DID MY READYING** }

B) Lord I need to hear Your heart – I want to commune with You.

C) Definitely can involve worship - {Late for church

1) Say that because I love you – Made for worship.

Worship is about spiritual intimacy – Proskuneo – to turn and to kiss. Affection

A) What would your marriage be like – no intimacy no affection ? – Dry

B) Some of you are dry – because you are not taking advantage **of being intimate with Jesus in worship**

C) Now, if you are having **awesome praise times** by yourself with Jesus – AWESOME

1) Not worried about you - but the fact of the matter is – I don't think most of you are doing that.

Precious saints and fellow overseers – we must learn to do this. Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God;”

A) Being still is so not a part of our society.

B) We are always doing something – texting, laptops – working planning – Be still – sit in His presence

C) The elders in Antioch – took the time to minister to Him – to sit in His presence – and that is when the Spirit spoke

D) Not hearing – maybe – it is because you are not still enough.

#2 v. 10 We see them Casting their crowns at His feet.

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne,

A) The word used here for crown is Stephanos – which was the crown that went to the victor in the Olympic games.

B) They become known as the gold medal winner.

1) Rarely remember those who merely competed in the games. – Unless tragic terrible loss – Mary Decker

C) We remember the victors – It becomes a part of their identity.

1) That is the idea here – the Crown is symbolic of their identity – **their reward – their position.**

D) Overcomers -

1) Olympic winners - Wreath of sticks and garland – but here we are told in v.4 it was a crown of gold.

E) Crown of Value! = capacity – It is who they are.

But notice what they are doing with their crowns – they in absolute humility are falling down before Jesus, are casting their crowns at His feet.

A) Here is what they are saying: We want our identity to NOT be in our achievements – but in You

B) Christian, that is the key for us as well.

1) Your identity should not be in what you do? – But it should be in **who you are in Christ.**

C) Our confidence – not in our achievements – But in His achievements – Who He is!

Casting our crowns is symbolic of:

1) Laying our identity before Jesus.

2) Submission to Jesus – in all areas -

Putting aside all of Self Sufficiency

A) Putting aside of all of Self Recognition

Putting aside of all of Self DEPENDENCY

B) Not clinging to our position - but submitting to the Lord and declaring Him to be Lord!

C) Because of their value – Crowns could also reflect their wealth and resources.

1) Bringing that to the Lord – How do you want to use this? Bible says tithe – 10%

D) How much do you want me to give, Lord?

Why should we cast our crowns at His feet ? Notice what they are Declaring in V.11

v.11 *"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will [KJV Your Pleasure] they exist and were created."*

He is worthy and we exist for Jesus!

A) Fundamental truth – we exist for Jesus- Jesus does not exist for us! – We exist for Him!

B) His goal is not to align Himself with our agenda- His goal is to align our hearts with His mission.

C) The minute that we lose sight of that – This is all about Him – that is when we lose total perspective

1) We get all messed up – side tracked – priorities get out of wack

D) When we cast our crowns before Him – we are declaring that it is about Him – not us.

1) His plan – His mission – His heart

E) So what is the crown or crowns you possess?

1) Are you willing to follow the examples of these Heavenly role models – and cast it at His feet?

So they are sitting in His presence - #2 Casting their crowns before Him

#3 We see them seeking out those who are hurting.

Revelation 5 The scene – John is bummed because no one has been found worthy to open the scroll and loose the seal. Rev 5:5

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

A) There are hurting people all around us – if we would have the eyes to see them.

B) I Ask people – How are you doing ? really? you look sad.-

C) **In the fellowship – church family** – every time we meet – there are pp walking around, hurting.

1) watch – look at faces – walk up – You ok?

D) Can I encourage you - Be honest – I could use some prayer!

Notice what this elder did with weeping John !

A) He offered Psychological counseling - No. v.5 – He pointed John to Jesus *point to the Lamb! - Jesus! BEHOLD – Look at and be amazed.*

B) Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah – See Jesus as the answer – see him in His strength.

C) Lion – see him in His strength and power!

I was so blessed this week in our Bible reading plan – Psalm 31- David's heart –

A) David is being real with God – I am tired, weary I am hurting physically emotionally – my enemies are after me – slander

B) Lord, my present situation stinks – in every way.

C) **But David never stays there** – He always returns back seeing God in the midst of the Darkness.

1) Uses all of these expressions to Describe Him

D) Rock, fortress, Good, Kind, trustworthy, faithful, shelter, strong.

This Elder Says Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Rev 5:6

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain,

A) He is reminded of that which speaks of His love and His sacrifice. – The Lamb – Slain

B) Jesus still bears the scars – He paid for our redemption –

C) See Him in His glory and strength – but always reminded of His GREAT LOVE!

1) **#3 Seeking the hurting – pointing them to Jesus.**

#4 Revelation 5:8 We see them connected to Prayer!

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

A) One of the best things we can do for those we are called to oversee – is to pray for them. **Intercession**

B) Prayer list – Pray – bring them to Jesus in Prayer

C) I love this picture of prayer and incense.

D) See it again in ch. 8 this wed. 7th seal is opened
silence in heaven – 30 minutes – no women

But in both passages prayer is seen as being like incense.

A) **So encouraged by this:** Our prayers being like Incense pictures two things

B) 1st – smoke rises it doesn't sit still!

C) **So often we can find ourselves – feeling like our Prayers – are not penetrating the Ceiling**

1) Falling to the ground

D) **Be encouraged by this Picture ! Prayers ascend – God hears our prayers {Never too busy!**

1) Cast all our cares – He Cares for us!

2nd Incense had a sweet sent. Sort of the poo-pouri of its day.

A) **So our Prayers come to God like a Bouquet of flowers w/a note! (that is His view)**

B) **I think what we learn from David is God likes it when His kids are talking to Him.**

C) **Our prayers are a sweet smell to Him!**

D) **So #4 We see them connected to Prayer!**

#5 Revelation 5:9 They sang - a new song!

Rev 5:9-12

9 And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have **redeemed us** to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

One thing we notice about the 24 Elders is they are engaged often in Worship! Worshippers

A)But I want to note that they sang a new song!

B)Here is how that speaks to me, our relationship with God is meant to be progressive.

1)Always growing – always discovering – new reasons to praise Him – New attributes

C)Their worship is progressive: Ch. 4 You are worthy and we exist for You.

D)Here Ch. 5 Declaring His redemption: redeemed us to God – by the Blood of the Lamb

Rev 7:11-12

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

**"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."**

Declaring His wisdom and glory –

Rev 11:16-18

6 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

**"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and
reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath
has come, And the time of the dead, that they should
be judged, And that You should reward Your
servants the prophets and the saints,
And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth."**

**Drawing attention to His Eternal nature and
His strength & Power over the nations.**

**Our praise and worship of the Lord needs to be
progressive – Our view of Him –always growing**

A)Our experience with Him always changing –
developing.

B)I encourage our Worship leaders to introduce new
songs into the fellowship.

C)**Manna – every day**- They couldn't live off of
yesterday's Manna – **and neither should we.**

**Memorials are great, Altars / rocks / trees – today
Journals –**

A)But sometimes I can grow weary of all the talk
about what Jesus was doing – 30yrs ago

B)I am interested in what Jesus is doing today!
1)Fresh – sing a new song!

#6 Revelation 7:13-14 We see them Supplying Instruction.

A)Scene in Ch.7 there is this great multitude in heaven arrayed in white Robes –Unfamiliar

B)John hasn't seen this group before.

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Note Initiate spiritual discussion v.13 Asking a question { Who are these.

A)Dads – Moms – do this with your kids

B)What did you learn in Sunday school – youth group – what was the message about.

C)Help explain. - Ask your teenagers – where reading in your Devos

D)Ask each other – What is God speaking to you about?

1)Where are you at in the word – What did you get out of the message.

E)Best way to learn is to teach. -

1)When it is appropriate – Help instruct pp –come up with answers

#7 Revelation 19:1-4 We see them saying Amen! So be it!

A)Ch. 18 –We will see the destruction of the Anti-Christ Kingdom – Babylon

B)Ch.19 – opens with the reaction in Heaven to that event

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

C)Alleluia = Praise the Lord – Amen = so be it or Let it be so.

D)Their reaction to God's judgment is True and righteous - Amen – So be it.

E)Not questioning God but saying – Right on! God Amen:

Sitting in His Presence.

Casting crowns

Seeking out those who are hurting

Connected to Prayer

Sang a new song

Supplying Spiritual instruction

Saying Amen