

**Weekly Bible Study
group – January 27, 2010**

This week's reading: Revelation 4:1 – 8:1

Reflection by Bob Zurinsky (bob@spu.edu)

Remember that this letter was written to a community that was struggling to follow the Way of Jesus, constantly tempted to give in and be swallowed up by the culture and empire around them. Constantly tempted to live according to the values and rules and desires of a society that looks very little like the cross of Christ.

So if that's the context, if those are the readers that John is addressing – what do you think the point of this grand vision is? What are the people supposed to hear and feel when they are confronted with the image of the throne room of God, and the image of all creation surrounding the throne and worshipping the one true king?

And then, after that vision of majesty and power – why this shift? When John is weeping because no one in the universe is found to be strong enough to open the seals of God's plan for the world, he turns and sees the only one found worthy and truly strong... a slaughtered lamb.

What is this supposed to teach us about the nature of God's kingdom power, and our calling to follow him today?

