

Seventh Seal

- Silence for half an hour
- Seven angels with seven trumpets
- Golden censer
 - Prayers of the saints

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and
the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

~Psalm 141:2





Revelation for the Rest of Us

Scott McKnight and Cody Matchett

The Three X Seven Judgements are:

- Bitter Sweetness
- Answers to Prayers for Justice
- Divine Judgment
 - Not revenge or triumphalism or colonialism
 - God righting injustice
- (see pages 113-120)



Upside Down Apocalypse

by Jeremy Duncan

Duncan suggests that the four riders represent the **vulnerabilities in the structure of Roman society.**

- Rider 1: the limits of military power--use of mounted bowmen was a popular tactic for Rome's enemies
- Rider 2: the insufficiency of Pax Romana
- Rider 3: the inability of economic systems to bring stability
- Rider 4: any social order/empire is unable to protect us from existential threats or provide for deepest needs



Outline of Revelation

- Prologue (1:1-8)
- Vision of Jesus Christ (1:9-20)
- Letters to Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
- Visions of the throne and the Lamb (4:1-5:14)
- Seven seals (6:1-8:5)
- Seven trumpets (8:6-11:19)
- Seven bowls (16)
- Defeat of Babylon (17:1-19:10)
- Establishment of New Jerusalem (19:11-22:5)
- Epilogue (22:6-21)



Revelation's Interludes

- Interlude 1: Marking 144,000 (7:1–8)
- Interlude 2: Universal Acclamation by Witnesses (7:9–17)
- Interlude 3: Petitions of the Devout Ones (8:3–5)
- Interlude 4: Little Book Eaten (10:1–11)
- Interlude 5: Two Witnesses (11:1–14)
- Interlude 6: Woman and Dragon (12:1–17)
- Interlude 7: Dragon's Two Wild Things (13:1–18)
- Interlude 8: Allegiant Ones (14:1–13)
- Interlude 9: Judgment Announced (14:14–19)
- Interlude 10: Conquerors (15:2–4)

From *Revelation for the Rest of Us*; McKnight and Matchett, p. 106.



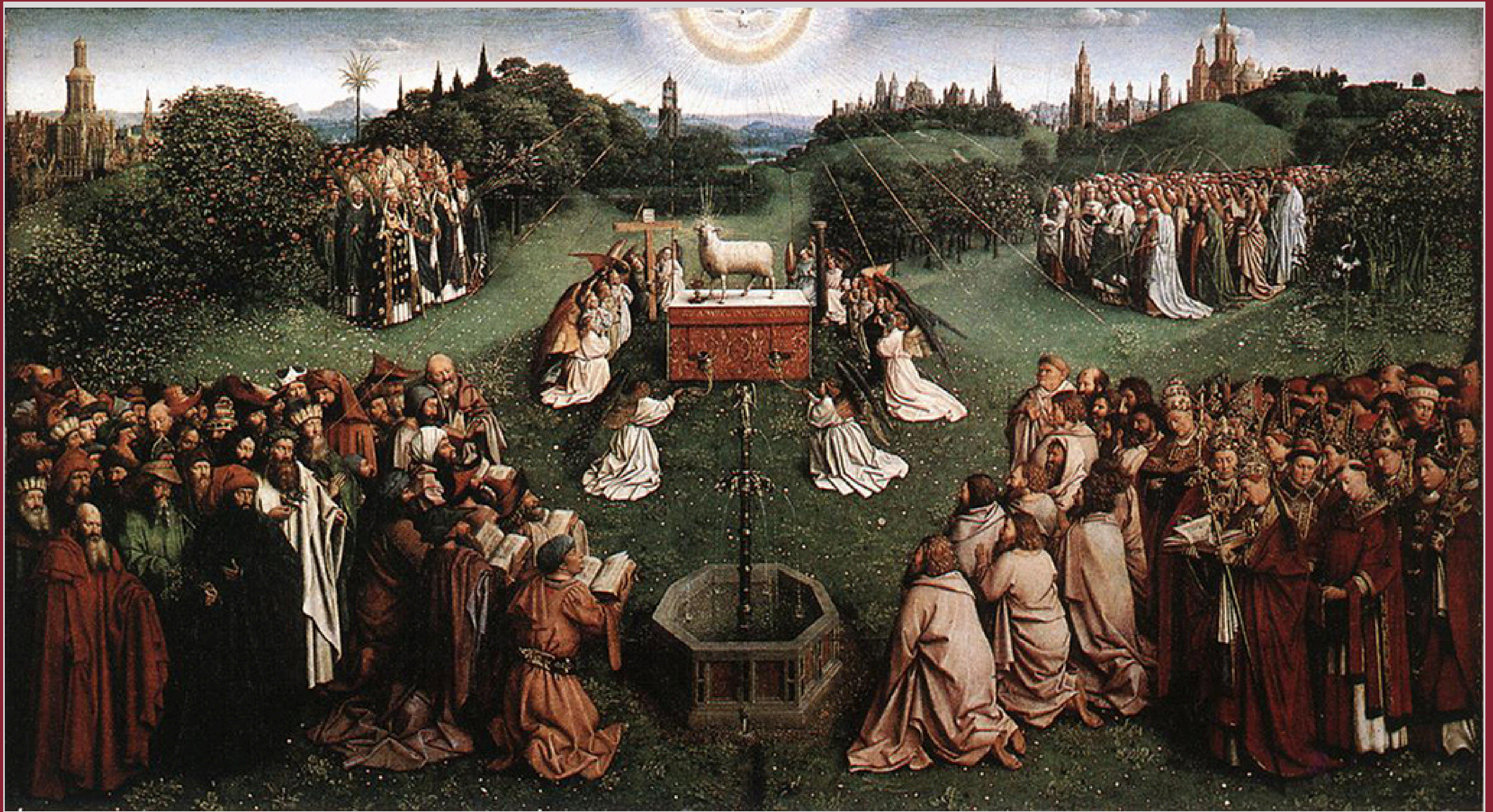
from Bamberger Apocalypse:
“Worship before the throne of God”

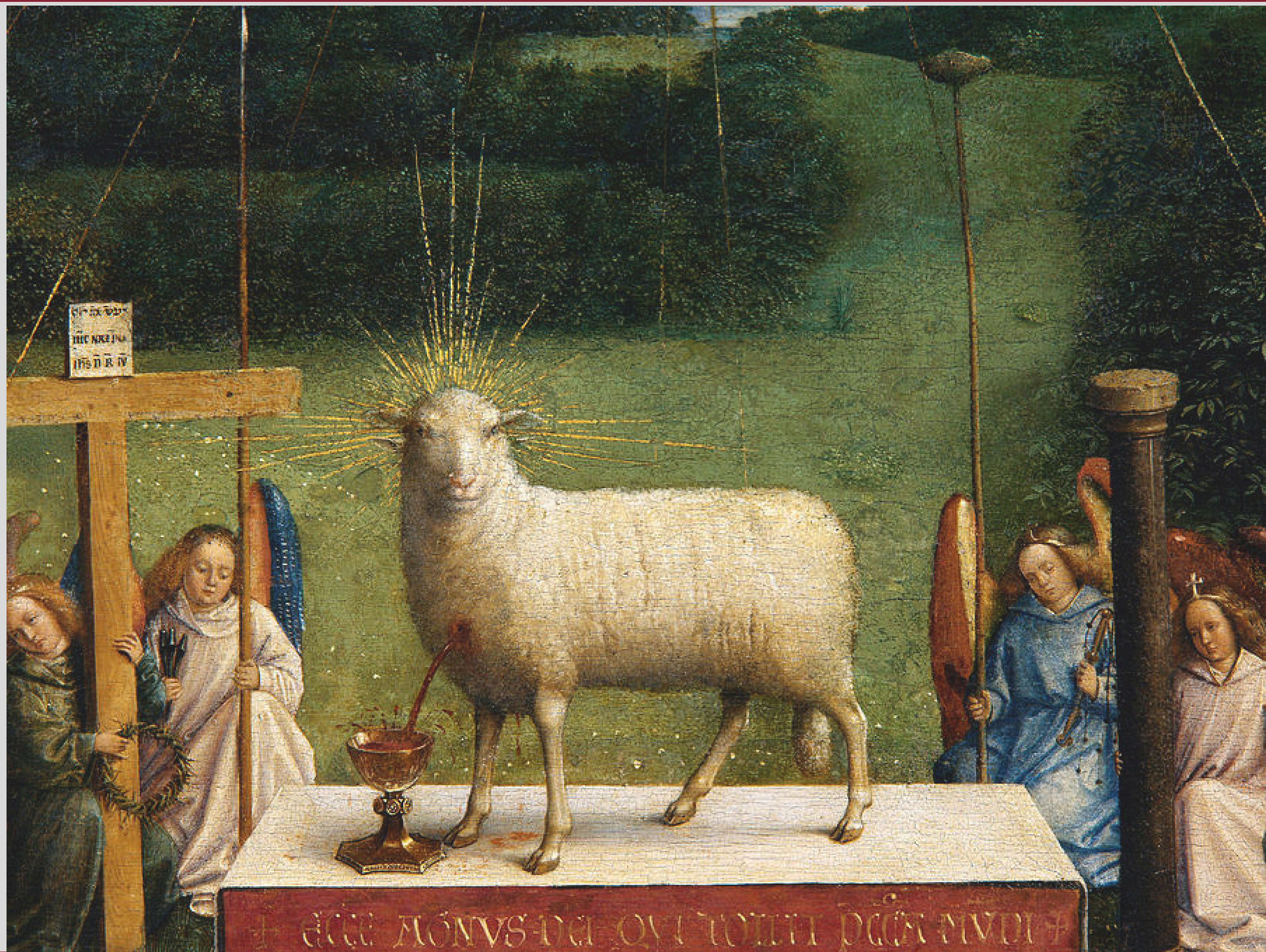
(1002-1020)

next slide: “Adoration of the Lamb”
by Jan Van Eyck; central panel of the
Ghent Altarpiece

(1432)









front lecturn, Benton Chapel
Vanderbilt University
1960

- Matthew: Human
- Mark: Lion
- Luke: Ox
- John: Eagle





Revelation 4: Parody of Roman Court?

See McKnight, p. 40; information from Tim MacBride

- Domitian was the first emperor to increase body guards from 12 to 24
- Domitian surrounded himself with priests dressed in white with gold crowns
- Kings conquered by Rome were expected to lay their crowns at the emperor's feet

After this I looked, and there before me was the Ancient of Days seated on a leather chair behind a mahogany desk. The office was shaped like an oval, and behind him were fifty stars all bowing down before him, with seven stripes which are the seven spirits of God. On the floor before him was the picture of an eagle. The eagle was covered in eyes which were continuous live feeds from all the satellites of the earth. Surrounding the desk were twenty-four sons of men. They were dressed in black suits and had discreet earpieces in their ears; day & night they never stopped whispering into their lapels. From the desk came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and a shock and awe campaign the likes of which the world has never seen. And I looked and I saw at his right hand a marine carrying a briefcase; in it were the launch codes for the seven judgements upon the earth.



McKnight

Babylon's Characteristics (p. 52-60)

- Anti-God
- Opulent
- Murderous
- Image
- Militaristic
- Economically Exploitative
- Arrogant