

August 2, 2007

## WFMCC Weekly

### The Big Blockbuster of the Bible, Part II

*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels,  
numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten  
thousand times ten thousand...In a loud voice they  
sang, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to  
receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!"*

--Revelation 5:11-12



Dear Friends,

"Angels numbering ten thousand times ten thousand," all singing praises to the Lamb...it certainly sounds like the set of a Cecil B. DeMille sweeping epic, doesn't it? But these words aren't from a screenplay - they are from chapter 5 of the book of Revelation, the chapter that introduces us to the Lamb of God.

With its vivid (some might say terrifying) imagery and eternal vistas of heaven and earth, Revelation definitely lends itself to our imagination, which is of course what makes it such a great blockbuster. In fact, a wildly popular series of books, the *Left Behind* series, has been written to take this bigger-than-life story and turn it into a fictional serial drama about the "end times" that has captured the imaginations of millions of people around the world. The *Left Behind* books have made concepts like the Rapture, the antichrist, and Armageddon practically household words, especially in the U.S., and have become a modern-day blockbuster in and of themselves.

But is what the *Left Behind* series has to say an accurate portrayal of Revelation? What does Revelation really have to say about the Rapture and the "end times?" Are all those ten thousands of angels praising a Jesus who will wipe out the "unsaved" peoples of the earth, or is the Lamb of God someone else altogether? On July 15th we began to take a look at these questions with Part I of a three-part series on Revelation. After being gone for the past two Sundays on vacation, I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone as we ask the ultimate question of Revelation together: does God ever leave anyone behind?

Many blessings,

*Lea*

P.S. Don't miss our very own Bee Smith singing "Cornerstone" in worship this Sunday too!

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**1. Summer Cinema Sermon Series Continues**

As we look ahead to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender film series the church will be hosting in August for Pride Week, we will also be exploring a different kind of "cinema" in sermons throughout the summer. What kind of movies do you like best during the summer? Romances? Superhero flicks? Blockbusters? Did you know you can find all three in the Bible?



From May 27 - August 26 the sermons on Sunday mornings will highlight some of the great romances and superheroes of the Bible, plus that great biblical blockbuster, the Book of Revelation. This Sunday we will hear the second part of a three-part sermon on Revelation (see above).

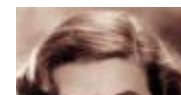
**2. Upcoming Men's Retreat: "From Isolation to Inspiration!"**

On Friday and Saturday, August 10 - 11, MCC Program Coordinator Joshua Love will be leading a retreat for all those who identify as men at WFMCC. This will be a great time for the men of our church to get to know one another and talk about the issues and challenges of being gay and bisexual men in Wichita Falls. Topics will include community, isolation, sexuality and spirituality, and sexual health and wellness. A flyer is available at church with complete details.

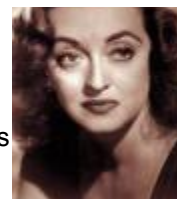


There is no charge to attend; food will be provided Friday night and Saturday morning, with the group going out for lunch together on Saturday. If you aren't able to attend the entire retreat, you are welcome to participate as much as you can. Please RSVP to Lea at [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org) or (940) 322-4100 by **Thursday, August 9th** so we know how much food to order. See you there!

**3. GLBT Pride Goes to the Movies!**



Celebrate Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Week, August 13 - 19 with some great movies that tell our stories, honor our lives, and camp it up! **Admission to all movies is free** (donations gladly accepted) and everyone is welcome. We'll be showing movies like...



#### Thursday, August 16th

**Victor/Victoria:** Julie Andrews as Victoria Grant, who pretends to be a male female impersonator. Also starring James Garner and Robert Preston. Rated PG. Starts at 6 p.m.

**Ed Wood:** Johnny Depp plays Ed Wood, who directed some of the most notoriously bad films in Hollywood while wearing women's undergarments. Also starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Bill Murray. Rated R. Starts at 8:30 p.m.

#### Friday, August 17th

**Brokeback Mountain:** Two shepherders, Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar, fall in love in 1963 Wyoming. Starring Jake Gyllenhaall and Heath Ledger. Rated R. Starts at 6 p.m.

**In & Out:** Kevin Kline, Matt Dillon, and Joan Cusack star in this hilarious comedy about coming out. Rated PG-13. Starts at 8:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 18th

**The Wizard of Oz:** Join Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, and the little dog Toto too for this gay classic adventure! Rated G. Starts at 1 p.m.

**All About Eve:** What's a Pride film festival without Bette Davis as an aging Broadway diva, and Anne Baxter as the conniving upstart without morals? This picture won six Academy Awards in 1950, including Best Picture. Unrated. Starts at 3 p.m.

**Boys on the Side:** Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker, and Drew Barrymore on a road trip from NYC to LA that involves adventure, AIDS, and love. Rated R. Starts at 6 p.m.

**Kissing Jessica Stein:** What happens when a straight woman answers a personal ad...from another woman? Find out with Jennifer Westfeldt and Heather Juergensen as Jessica and Helen in the Big Apple. Rated R. Starts at 8:30 p.m.

*All movies will be shown at Wichita Falls MCC, 1401 Travis Street.*

#### **4. Celebrate GLBT Pride on Sunday, August 19th**

On Sunday, August 19th we have a very special worship service planned in celebration of GLBT Pride, featuring:



- Karen and our VIP choir performing a beautiful arrangement of *We Shall Overcome*
- Our Liturgical Dance Team will share with us their powerful interpretation of *Man in the Mirror*
- The sermon will be provided by Heather, Lois and Raudel from the congregation as they share with us what "coming out" has meant to them spiritually in their lives
- Our Worship and Praise Band will be there to rock the house!

After the service there will also be a gathering at Odds with great food and good times for everyone (full details will be available next week). Bring your friends and don't miss this great chance to truly celebrate *all* of who God created us to be!

#### **5. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests**

**Thanksgivings** for cool weather...for my family and friends...for my family...for Barbara's message...**Prayer requests** for healing for Lauretta...for an easing of financial burdens...for Hannah...for Tonya and Michael...for healing for Trish...for Cheryl following the death of her grandmother...for Christopher's friend John...for Andrea Chapman who is in the hospital and fighting to live...for wisdom for Jennifer...for healing for Orville Walker.

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