

“Thirsty”

Revelation 21:1-6 (Sunday, May 2, 2010)

I don't preach much from the book of Revelation. Revelation is a hard book to read and a harder book to pray from. It is poetic, mystic, apocalyptic and sometimes toxic. Revelation offers brilliant insights into human behavior and stunning images of what God has in mind for all of us. It also can invite a swamp of human judgments. You can use Revelation to condemn your enemy, chide your friend or promote your favorite theological snake oil. The book is Dan Brown and the Da Vinci Code on steroids. It is Alfred Hitchcock, Stephen King and Tim Burton rolled into one campy horror flick. It is Jesus Christ for the Pro-Wrestling circuit.

Yet for those of us who *thirst* to know more about the kingdom of God (in this world but not of it, holding all our destinies in just and merciful hands), Revelation insists on exciting news: *The world as we know it is not in charge. God is.*

I know. I know. Sometimes it appears that the world financial markets are in charge of our destinies. Or the Middle East conflict. Or Global Warming. Or wealth. Or poverty. Or war. Or our own fears, anxieties, addictions, sins, hopes or dreams. Or the job. Or the relationship. Or the mortgage. Or the lack of any of these things. But Revelation puts a period at the end of the discussion by saying, *Nope, God is in charge.*