

2023 Vision Series

Life Around a Table

Revelation 5:6-14

01.29.2023

Reward Sibanda

Revelation 5:6-14

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

Our tables will become our churches.

Psalms 61:1-3 [NKJV]

Hear my cry, O God;
attend to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I will cry to You,
when my heart is overwhelmed;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
For You have been a shelter for me,
a strong tower from the enemy.

God is *cause*; we are *effect*.

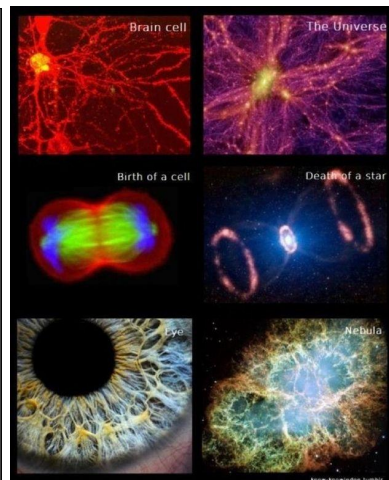
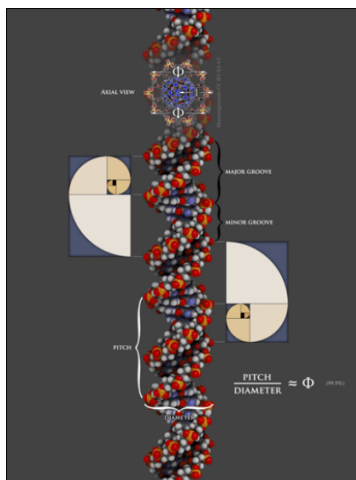
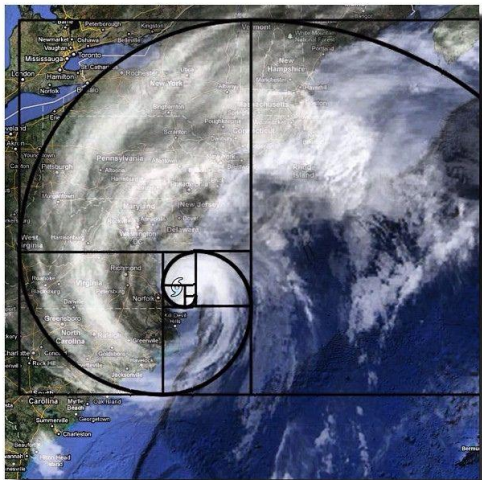
Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Perichoresis

Boxes

Circles



“The oldest form of indigenous shelter were always round in shape. (Think of the Navajo Hogan, Mongolian Yurt, North American Teepee, South African Kraal, the Greek Tenemos, among others.) Why did our ancestors choose to build round? Because the ovoid shape—eggs, earth, tree trunks, and stones—is what they saw reflected in the surrounding natural environment.”

- Rachel Ross, *Mandala Homes*

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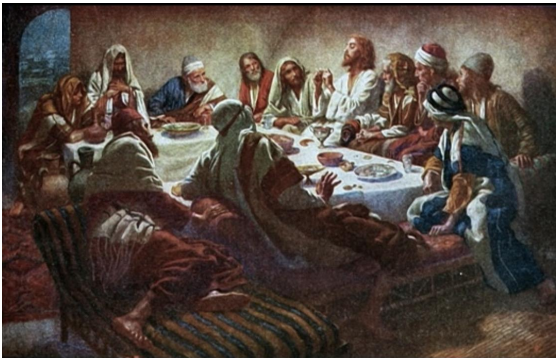
The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and
worshiped.”

Psalm 23:5-6

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



“Even the rectangular shape of the table, and the placement of the sitters
along one side, is an anachronism. This issue, prosaic as it may sound, tends
to assume some significance in later Last Supper representations, so it is
appropriate at this point to consider it in some detail. In virtually all depictions
of the Last Supper before the 12th century, the table is round or D-shaped.
This shape was seen as embodying a special element of fraternal fellowship. It
also corresponded more closely with the Jewish practice of conducting
Passover meals round low tables, or no tables at all, with diners semi-reclining
on low lounges. In contrast, the long table shown by Leonardo was not

commonly used for meals until the Middle Ages. Furthermore, even after it had been adopted, the practice of seating diners along only one side, with servants attending to their duties from the other side, was reserved for particularly wealthy households, hardly a likely scenario for Jesus and the apostles.”

- Philip McCouat, *On the Trail of the Last Supper*

The essence of redemption is bringing life back to the table.