December 28 Answers

1) After giving John His messages to the seven churches, Jesus brought John into **heaven** in the Spirit. The voice speaking to John told him that he was about to see future events (Rev 4:1). These events will take place during the seven years known as the **Tribulation** (Dan 9:24–27). The first thing John saw in heaven was God the Father seated on a throne. The fact that God manifests Himself this way teaches us that kingship and authority are foundational to our understanding of who God is. He is the great King and Creator of all things, and this truth compels us to honor and worship Him. John saw a scroll in the Father's right hand, sealed with seven seals. This scroll contains the wrath and judgment God is preparing for a world which has rejected the precious blood of His Son, the **Lamb** slain from the foundation of the world. Jesus is the only one who can open the scroll and its seven seals, and He is able because He has "conquered" (Rev 5:5). God wants us to overcome just as Jesus did. John watched as the scroll was opened and God's judgments were carried out on earth and in heaven. Between the sixth and seventh seal, John saw a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, standing before God's throne with palm branches in their hands. John was told, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:14). How amazing to think that even when God is pouring out His wrath on the wicked, He is still welcoming those who turn to Him in sorrow and repentance!