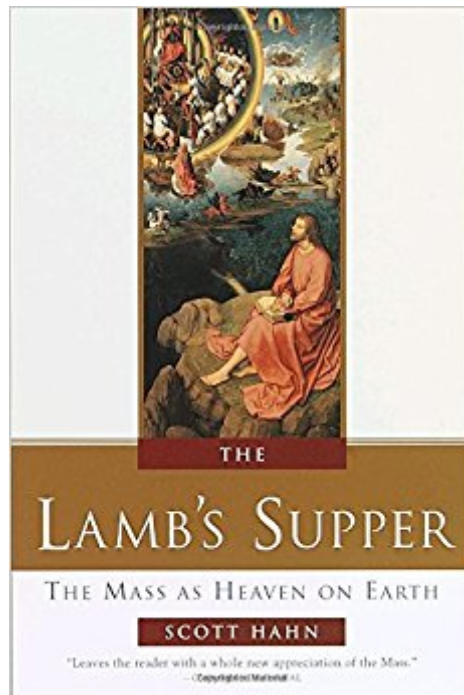




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The Lamb's Supper: The Mass As Heaven On Earth



Synopsis

Bestselling author Scott Hahn sheds new light on the Mass, offering readers a deeper appreciation of the most familiar of Catholic rituals. Of all things Catholic, there is nothing that is so familiar as the Mass. With its unchanging prayers, the Mass fits Catholics like their favorite clothes. Yet most Catholics sitting in the pews on Sundays fail to see the powerful supernatural drama that enfolds them. Pope John Paul II described the Mass as "Heaven on Earth," explaining that what "we celebrate on Earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy." *The Lamb's Supper* reveals a long-lost secret of the Church: The early Christians' key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass was the New Testament Book of Revelation. With its bizarre imagery, its mystic visions of heaven, and its end-of-time prophecies, Revelation mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the Eucharist. Beautifully written, in clear direct language, bestselling Catholic author Scott Hahn's new book will help readers see the Mass with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and powerfully than ever before.

Book Information

Hardcover: 174 pages

Publisher: Doubleday; 1st edition (October 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385496591

ISBN-13: 978-0385496599

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 649 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,375 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Roman Catholicism #4 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology #8 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament

Customer Reviews

The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth reawakens a surprising ancient view of the Eucharist, as the harbinger of the supernatural drama described by the New Testament book of Revelation. Catholic theologian Scott Hahn thinks that many worshippers receive the sacrament of communion without ever considering its links to the end of the world, the Apocalypse, and the Second Coming. Hahn wants to change our minds; he wants us to know that "The Mass--and I

mean every single Mass--is heaven on earth." Literally. So, Hahn declares, "Now heaven has been unveiled for us with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ ... Jesus Christ Himself says to you: 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me' (Rv. 3:20)." Hahn's enthusiasm, as evident even from these short quotes, is considerable--and infectious. Furthermore, he delivers his arguments with great levity (demonstrated in chapter titles such as "Oath Meal"), which makes *The Lamb's Supper* quite a tasty read. --Michael Joseph Gross

As with his earlier *Rome Sweet Home*, Hahn's *The Lamb's Supper* seeks to bring scriptural exegesis and Roman Catholic ritual tradition into fruitful dialogue. The central thrust of this piece is that Catholic liturgy offers the best interpretive paradigm for studying the Book of Revelation. Hahn divides his subject matter into three main sections, considering in turn Scripture in the canon of the Mass, various interpretive approaches to the Book of Revelation and the mutual illumination of the Catholic Mass and John's Apocalypse. Apart from vapid section titles (e.g., "Guided Missal," "Resisting a Rest" and "The Need to Heed the Creed"), which detract from the serious themes presented, Hahn treats the material quite competently, and he is candid in his enthusiasm for both biblical liturgics and liturgical exegesis. Hahn's work is a fine introduction to eucharistic theology for the Catholic layperson, offering a crash course in the history of sacrificial worship in ancient Israel. The book has an ecumenical appeal, especially for Lutherans and Anglicans desiring to better acquaint themselves with Catholic ritual and the New Testament. The only consideration noticeably absent from Hahn's liturgical review of Revelation is whether the doxological splendors of the Mass are marred or made manifest in the hastily prepared English translations of the Latin Rite issued in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a well written book, it is a concise book on what happens during the mass. Mr. Hahn draws from the bible verses relating to how the mass is God's unveiling (Greek: Apokalypsis). I like how Mr. Hahn explains how the Book of Revelation is revealed in the mass and what all the people, symbols and numbers actually mean. The book of revelation makes more sense after reading this book. On a side note, for a more detailed description of the mass and the spiritual fruits and graces obtained from attending and hearing I recommend this book, "The Incredible Catholic Mass: An Explanation of the Catholic Mass" by Fr. Von Cochem is highly recommended.

Born Catholic. Strayed. Went through life's ups and downs, and returned to my faith. Enjoying

reading books to fully appreciate the one true church! This book, by far, is the most important, validating, reference material, for embracing the catholic mass! Read this, and you will never sit in a mass the same person again! This book, will leave you with a reason and purpose for every morsel of the mass...even arriving early. I am going to have to read this again soon. That is how valuable this book is!

Interest in the last book of the Bible, Revelation or the Apocalypse, runs so high that Hal Lindsey's book synching ancient prophecy to the daily news, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, was the best-selling non-fiction book of the '70s, and now ranks as the number two bestseller of the last thirty years. Instead of looking to the future, however, Scott Hahn looks to the past, to the early church, to be exact. What did they think of this book, which owes its inclusion in the Bible to St. Augustine? The results are clearly revealing. In both the New Testament and the earliest church document, the *Didache*, the writers found the events of Revelation reflected in their celebration of the Mass. Moreso, the Mass was specifically designed to reflect the books of Revelation and Hebrews (also courtesy of St. Augustine). Anyone who has dipped into either book immediately encounters the idea of worship on earth as a reflection of worship in heaven. However, the casual reader may be surprised how many details fall into place following this idea. Scott Hahn wrote this book for Catholics with at least some casual acquaintance with the Mass. They may not know the names of the Gloria and the Kyrie, but something will likely ring a bell. He assumes the reader has no knowledge, on the other hand, of the book of Revelation. I'd like to suggest another audience for the book, and that is the mainstream and non-denominational Protestants and charismatics who make up Hal Lindsey's readers. What would they get out of this book? First, at least an initial encounter with the Mass, which generally elicits surprise at how much Scripture is both read and incorporated into it. The next shock is how much of that comes from the book of Revelation. If an aftershock is forthcoming, it may be in realizing how much the altar and structure of the Mass resembles the vision in Revelation, as well as other places such as the books of Daniel and Nehemiah. The writing style of this book is also rather unusual. There are humorous sub-titles, perhaps in an attempt to lighten the heavy subject matter. The writing is at once dense and breezy, perhaps to enable the casual reader to skim, and the more intrigued reader to dig deeper. At first glance, there are almost no or references. This, however, is merely to keep the text from bogging down in endless citations. Numerous Scripture references are given as asides in the text, and there are copious, engaging endnotes for those so drawn. This book would be ideal for a book study, or a Bible study in which members simply looked up and discussed the many Bible references in the

text. The really good news is that Scott Hahn wrote the notes for Ignatius' Catholic Study Bible New Testament, which is the Revised Standard Version, the readable and literary English version approved for and by both Catholics and Protestants, and which will likely incorporate many of these revealing insights. Ignatius Catholic Study Bible New Testament. In both cases, Scott Hahn's (re)discovery of the view of the Mass in the early church is a revelation.

Oh My Gosh! This is an Amazing book. Ever wonder what the Book of Revelation is really about? Very well researched by Dr. Scott Hahn. If you are a Catholic - nominal or deeply-rooted, this book is a must read if you haven't already. Buy extras as you will want to give this book out to all of your friends! Oh yeah, and I have a son that is a priest, and he highly recommends it too.

I confessed missing Mass a few times between confessions. The priest recommended that I read this book as penance. He told me that I would never miss Mass again. It has given me renewed understanding of the Mass. I am a convert off about eight years, I feel that the Catholic Church offers more than my previous churches. To me it is the "Real Deal", and The Lamb's Supper helps to prove that point. Dr. Hahn does a wonderful job in explaining the why and where for of the Mass.

Best discussion and explanation of the Catholic Mass I have ever read. Mr. Hahn also ties the Catholic Mass with the Book of Revelation. Outstanding! I have read the Book of Revelation numerous times and never saw so clearly what Mr. Hahn points out is there. Definitely recommend for Catholics who want a deeper and more profound union with our Lord and all of the angels and saints during Mass.

Awesome. I read it several times. Makes clear how the Catholic Mass is the Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist and how it is played out in the Book of Revelation with cross references to the Old Testament, and early Church after Christ instituted the new and everlasting covenant at the Last Supper. Makes one appreciate the Catholic Mass and gives one an appreciation and understanding the true meaning of Revelation.

This is a great introduction to the Apocalypse as liturgy. I found most of the arguments to be persuasive. The only minor quibbles I would have is when the author gives a particularly Roman Catholic interpretation of the text (but who can blame him as that is his tradition). It is still a helpful book for a Lutheran like me or others in the reformation tradition.

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