

## Worship in Heaven

### Revelation 4:1-11

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Context of chapter 4

1. Chapter 4 of Revelation marks beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> section (chapters 4-12) of the book.
2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> section is prophetic, tells what will happen in the future.
3. These chapters tell of tribulation & judgment of God upon the wicked, antichrist, the false prophet, and the beast, battle of Armageddon, kingdom age, the millennial kingdom of Christ, The Great White Throne judgment, the new heaven and the new earth, new Jerusalem where the saints of God will live forever, & eternity with our God.
4. God has told us what will happen in the future so we can make preparation now.
5. The most important part of that preparation is being saved by faith in Jesus.

#### II. Context (Revelation 4:1-4)

##### A. Opening scene in heaven

1. – Called up to heaven
  - a. The call of John up to heaven is a picture of the rapture of the church.
  - b. Jesus Himself will call His bride out of this world.
2. – One on the throne
  - a. The first thing John saw was One sitting on the throne, Jesus.
  - b. Jesus is King of kings & Lord of lords. All judgment been given to the Son by Father
3. – Radiance of His glory
  - a. John described the radiance and beauty of God's glory in terms of light shining through precious jewels. The glory and majesty of God is awe inspiring.
  - b. Jasper is a clear stone, like a diamond. Sardis is a red stone.
4. – Rainbow
  - a. The rainbow reminds of God's promises. God always does what He's promised.
  - b. Those who ask by faith for His pardon of sin will receive forgiveness & eternal life.
5. – The elders
  - a. Around the throne of God are 24 elders on 24 thrones.
  - b. Elders represent the church in heaven which has raptured before the tribulation.
  - c. The white robes represent the righteousness of Jesus upon His church.
  - d. The crowns (stephenos) represent rewards received at the judgment seat of Christ.
  - e. These elders are proof of the pretribulation rapture of the church.

#### III. John continued his description. (Revelation 4:5-6)

##### A. Lightenings, thunderings, & voices

1. Throughout the Bible lightning and thunder are associated with the presence of God.
2. When Israel was at Mount Sinai and God's presence was manifested on the mountain, we read the same thing. (**Exodus 19:16**)
3. Lightening and the resulting thunder represent immeasurable power.
4. Every creature will bow before Him. God's power permeates all of heaven.
6. Application: This manifestation of God's power presents a scene of impending action, judgment. Jesus will break forth in judgment on the wicked during the tribulation period.

7. He'll bring judgment at the battle of Armageddon & The Great White Throne Judgment

**B. A sea of glass**

1. In Solomon's temple there was Bronze Sea (**1 Chronicles 4:2-6**) which represented purity before God. It represented holiness, the absence of any form of sin or corruption.
2. Before the throne of God is found, as appearing to John, a vast sea of glass or crystal.
3. The Greek text does not mean a literal sea of glass, but rather looked like a sea of glass
4. This sea represents perpetual state of purity & holiness that exists around God's throne
5. God is holy and everyone or everything around Him must be holy.
6. Application: Those who are saved are made pure & holy in Jesus will spend eternity w/ God because Jesus has forgiven their sin & placed on them His righteousness.

**IV. Four living creatures (Revelation 4:6b-8)**

**A. Four creatures**

1. As John observed heaven's throne room, he saw 4 living creatures around the throne.
  - a. This is not the first time these creatures are described in the Bible.
  - b. They are described as seraphim in **Isaiah 6**.
  - c. Very similar description to John's is in **Ezekiel 1**. In **Eze. 10** they're called Cherubim
2. – Always around the throne of God
  - a. These four living creatures are the attendants of the throne of God.
  - b. In every vision where they are revealed, these angelic beings are near the throne.
3. – They have six wings.
  - a. Both Isaiah and John speak of their six wings.
  - b. Isaiah describes them as covering their face with one set of wings, covering their feet with a set of wings, and flying with the other set.
4. – Full of eyes
  - a. This emphasizes their perpetual activity and service to God.
  - b. These creatures are ever serving God, without ceasing.
5. – Constant worship
  - a. These creatures surround the throne of God, crying Holy, Holy, Holy, all the time.
  - b. They have worshipped God since the day they were created by God.
  - c. Application: We too will worship God for all eternity.
6. – Active in the tribulation
  - a. These creatures will have an active part in the judgments of the tribulation.
  - b. When Jesus opens the seals of the scroll, it's these creatures that bid John come, see
  - c. It's one of these creatures that hands to 7 other angels the full bowls of God's wrath.

**B. Faces of These Creatures**

1. Each creature has a specific appearance: Face of a Lion, Calf or Oxen, Man, or Eagle.
2. They represent greatest in each area of God's creation. Lion is greatest among beasts. Oxen is greatest among cattle. Eagle is greatest among birds. Man is greatest among all.

**V. Worship in heaven (Revelation 4:9-11)**

**A. The elders join in.**

1. Elders represent the church in heaven, we'll worship w/ all angelic beings in heaven.
2. The casting of crowns before the throne means we will give our rewards back to Him.

**B. God is the creator.**

1. God is both the creator & sustainer of the universe.
2. He is worthy of praise, honor, and glory because He is the creator and giver of all life.
3. God created the angelic beings in heaven & all life on this planet.