

Worship at the Throne of God

Revelation 4:1-11 ¹ After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

❖ Introduction

➤ Recap

- **John Sees Jesus**
 - What He saw in Chapter 1
- **Jesus tells the Churches what He is pleased with, and what He is not pleased with...**
 - The Churches had a mixture of true believers and false believers...
 - ◆ Know that the false believers came under the gaze of Christ
 - **Pleased with:**
 - ◆ Toil, works, endurance, not bearing with those who are evil
 - ◆ Testing those who claim to be teachers but are not
 - ◆ Hating the teachings and deeds of Nicolaitans
 - ◆ Going through tribulation
 - ◆ Honoring him even in poverty
 - ◆ Putting up with slander, faithful even unto death
 - ◆ Holding onto his name, not denying the faith,
 - **Not Pleased with:**
 - ◆ Leaving our first love
 - ◆ Putting up with false teachings
 - ◆ Holding to teachings of Balaam
 - ◆ Sexual immorality
 - ◆ Entertaining idols
 - ◆ Lukewarmness
- **He warns them of Judgment and discipline**
 - Remove their church
 - Sickness
 - Death

- Great Tribulation (even to his servants who live in sin)
- **To the overcomers were promised**
 - Future Glory and Rewards

❖ **How We will look at these verses**

- **Not going to go exactly in a straight succession through the verses...**
 - There is too much other information to do it that way...
- **We are going to look at the objects one at a time.**
 - We will look at:
 - 1) **View of and around the Throne**
 - 2) Participants around the Throne
 - 3) The Center of worship in heaven
 - 4) The Participants Response in Worship
- **To do this, we will have to look at each separately**
 - And we will look throughout the Bible at others who were able to see these things

¹After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

❖ **John sees the Throne**

- Upon seeing Jesus He had fallen down as dead
- Expound on verse...

❖ **Previous visions of the throne**

- **Moses**
- **Isaiah**
- **Ezekiel**
- **Paul**
- **Important Note:**
 - **Their reaction upon seeing the God of heaven...**
 - They were star struck
 - John fell down like a dead man at the sight of Jesus
 - Isaiah pronounced a curse upon himself
 - Ezekiel
 - Moses
 - **I say this, so you will be careful what you read**
 - Don’t get your theology about heaven, and what it will be like from a modern book...
 - It is always interesting to note the focus in heaven (in the books people write of their trip)
 - ◆ Is it God?
 - ◆ If it is not... then you can be pretty sure they did not visit the same place as these guys
 - **I am not saying God has not or will not bring someone into heaven again**
 - We have examples in the Bible that He did...
 - I have no idea if their stories are true or not....
 - They may be...
 - **But, if I want to know what heaven is like...**
 - There are numerous instances in the Bible of this happening
 - And we know that the Bible is inspired by God Himself.
 - It is “**God breathed**” as Paul says to Timothy

❖ View of and around the Throne

➤ John:

- Rev. 4.3b ... and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
- Rev. 4.5-6b ...⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

➤ Moses:

- Exodus 24:1, 9-10 Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar...⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

➤ Ezekiel

- Ezekiel 1:22²² Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads.
- Ezekiel 1:26²⁶ And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.
- Ezekiel 1:27b-28 ...and there was brightness around him.²⁸ Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around.

➤ Isaiah

- Isaiah 6:1 1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.
- Isaiah 6:4 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

➤ Paul

- 2 Corinthians 12:4⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

➤ What they saw

- **Throne – like Sapphire – A throne of fire**
- **A Crystal Clear – Sapphire floor**
 - John says it is like a sea... it is like a fiery clear floor in heaven
- **Flashings of Lightning and peals of thunder**
 - This is part of the glory of God
- **Temple**
- **Foundations that shook when He spoke**
- **Smoke filling the Temple**
- **Emerald looking Rainbow around God**
 - A brightness surrounded God

➤ I will not attempt to try to explain

- No one really can.... But we get the idea that it was beyond Amazing...

❖ The Participants around the Throne

➤ The Cherubim – Amazing Living Beings

- **You can get an idea of the greatness of God, by those surrounding Him**
 - Living Beings, living creatures...
 - Should not be translated as beasts

- **John Saw:**
 - Rev. 4:6-8 And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within,
- **Isaiah Saw:**
 - Isaiah 6:2 ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- **Ezekiel Saw: (The more detailed vision of these living beings)... turn here please**
 - Ezekiel 1:5-25 ⁵ And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, ⁶ but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: ⁹ their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. ¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. ¹² And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. ¹³ As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. ¹⁴ And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning. ¹⁵ Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. ¹⁶ As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. ¹⁷ When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went. ¹⁸ And their rims were tall and awesome, and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. ¹⁹ And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. ²⁰ Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²¹ When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²² Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. ²³ And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. ²⁵ And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings.
- **Just Fascinating Beings that were created by God...**
 - **It would take hours to dissect their appearance and how they moved...**
 - ◆ But we see these beautiful created beings that surround God
 - **They have 4 different faces**

- ◆ Human, lion, ox/calf, eagle
- ◆ Probably representative of their characteristics as a being
- **6 Wings**
- **It seems they have the task of guarding the glory of God**
- **Satan was one like these...**
 - ◆ He was called the Cherub that covered
- **By studying Satan and knowing His power and ways...**
 - ◆ We see how powerful these creatures are...

➤ **The Elders**

▪ **John sees them:**

- **Rev.4.4 ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.**
- **Elders represent Redeemed Man**
 - ◆ I would think each one is a specific person that lived...
 - ◆ Yet they also represent Mankind
 - ◆ Some would say:
 - They are Israel, or the Church, or 12 from each, etc
 - No one knows that for sure...
 - **But we do know they are Redeemed mankind**
 - You can look at their characteristics
- **They sit on thrones with God...**
 - ◆ As God has promised that men will have authority and rule with Him
- **Clothed in White Garments**
 - ◆ Signifying their righteousness before God...
 - ◆ A righteousness that was given to them by Jesus
- **Golden crowns**
 - ◆ Signifying their great works...
 - ◆ Men that had done exceptional things
 - ◆ Many if not all, had given up their lives for Jesus...

❖ **The Center of Worship: God on the Throne**

➤ John sees:

- **Rev 4.3 ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.**

➤ **Ezekiel Sees:**

- **Ezekiel 1:26-28..26 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. 27 And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. 28 Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.**

➤ **Moses Sees:**

- **Exodus 33:20-23 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand**

until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

- Exodus 34:6-8 ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

❖ Their Response in Worship

➤ From Isaiah’s vision

- Isaiah 6:3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

➤ What John Saw

- Rev 4.8-9 ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

➤ They See Him as:

- 3 times Holy
- Almighty
- Who was and is and is to come
- Worthy
- To receive our glory, and our honor, and our power
- Because He created all things (they were His to begin with)
- By His will they existed and were created...

➤ They give Him

- Glory
- Honor
- Thanks

❖ Our Response in Worship

➤ Worship is not about

- How you dress
- How much money you have
- How smart and intellectual you are
- How many friends you have
- The type of job you have
- Your background
- **Not about the style of Music (although the music must be reverent and Biblical)**
 - If it be older hymns, or 90’s praise and worship, or modern music styles, or songs written straight from the Bible
 - What is important is the content of the song
- **Not about the style of the preacher**
 - If He be monotone, or very loud, or somewhere in between...

- Although there is a great degree of importance that the message be heard clearly and effectively....
- The importance is on the **content** of the preaching.
- **Its not about You...**

➤ **Worship is Solely about God**

- He is the center of our Worship
- The Person comes into the equation, with His or Her response

❖ **Our Response in Worship is directly proportionate to How we View God**

➤ **What we know about God.**

- How well read we are in the Bible
- Have we rightly divided the word of God
- Have we dug deep to discover who He is... or do we just read to get it over with

➤ **How Do you view God this morning**

- What do you know about him... really know
- What do you truly believe about Him
- How do you feel about Him...
- What is your emotional response to God

➤ **Do You see Him like those in Heaven do?**

▪ **They See Him as:**

- 3 times Holy
- Almighty
- Who was and is and is to come
- Worthy
- To receive our glory, and our honor, and our power
- Because He created all things (they were His to begin with)
- By His will they existed and were created...

▪ **They give Him**

- Glory
- Honor
- Thanks

❖ **Warning:**

➤ **Look at yourself**

- Don't sit and look around you at judge others hearts by their actions or their facial expressions

➤ **Sometimes stuff happens... (accidents)**

- Just laugh and move on
- Don't be legalistic
- Be merciful

➤ **But their should be a consistent attitude of:**

- Wonder and Amazement and Respect in worship

➤ **Nothing more disrespectful in worship**

▪ **When songs are being sung to God**

- About His glory, His attributes, Jesus sacrifice for us, His mercy to us
- We could care less... and are off in never never land, or distracting those around us

▪ **When the word of God is being taught and expounded upon**

- To not focus on His word to us

- Focusing on what we will be doing later
 - Bringing attention to ourselves
 - Regardless of the preacher... IT is God's Word
- **So, often we have ALL done this... I include myself**

❖ **How should we Respond in worship?**

➤ **Humbly**

- The elders laid down their rewards, their accolades, what was exceptional about them, their individuality...
- The incredible cherubs, far greater in appearance and might than man
 - Flew around him and sang to Him day and night...
 - Never mentioning themselves... only focused on Him

➤ **Reverently**

- The elders bowed down before Him
- The Cherubs covered their feet and faces from His face
- They feared God in a reverent way

➤ **Honestly**

- Being honest about ourselves

➤ **Unashamedly**

- The Elders gave up everything they had
- There Cherubs exalted Him

➤ **Focused**

- It should be only on Him

➤ **Love**

- Did you see the love the Elders and Cherub had for God...
- Constantly with Him, adoring Him, focusing on Him

❖ **Invitation**

- **Is there a need to repent?**