

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #10: The Throne of Heaven

March 12, 2023

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion, and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon – so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So, until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week, being assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And he wants your full attention.

Study Questions: #10 – *The Throne of Heaven*

Read Revelation 4:1-11

1. The scene in Chapter 4 is an incredible picture of God, Himself, sitting on His Throne. As you ponder this in your mind, is such a scene for you:

- something happening later in the afterlife, or something happening right now – in a dimension that you cannot see, but is as real as the room you are reading this in?
- As Revelation reminds us that a parallel universe is fully functioning right now and impacting our reality, how does this truth construct your worldview and how you make your daily decisions – raising your kids, spending your time? investing your money? preparing for your future?

2. The original readers of Revelation (the 7 churches) were facing intense persecution and daily hardship.

- How would chapter 4 encourage them? How are you encouraged, knowing that the Creator of the Universe is ruling His creation with power, wisdom & grace?
- What feelings does this chapter stir within you about what happens when you die?

4. Chapter 4 is primarily an OT view of God – we do not see Jesus until the next chapter - and many who see God only in chapter 4, struggle with fear and anxiety? For instance, how hard is it to draw near to God as He sits exalted on His throne, surrounded by elders, creatures, lightening, thunder, and everything else John describes? How hard might it be for this God to draw near to you, as you live in a broken world struggling to worship Him?

- How does chapter 4 deeply impress upon us the need for God's gift of Jesus?

5. P.K. said that people are the only part of God's creation that do not "automatically" give glory, honour and praise to God?

- Why would God create anything that might not give Him the worship he deserves?
- Why would anything created by God refuse to worship Him? What does this say about the corruption of our world, and the impact of evil upon our lives.

6. Spend time this week reflecting on heaven, God's majesty, and the worship being offered to Him. In your reflection:

- First, spend time in prayerful praise to Him, recognizing that you are joining the worship that heaven is already in the midst of.
- Second, pray for those God has placed in your heart that do not know Him yet. Pray that they will meet Jesus and join in the praise for all He has done in saving us.