



Worship Guide for March 28, 2021

Sermon Notes

A Life-Changing Vision of Heaven

Revelation 4 (pew Bible pg. 1030)

Human language is stretched to its limits in trying to describe the indescribable - the heavenly throne room and the Holy God who occupies that throne. Were it not for the fact that through his Spirit God gave men the words, we would not and could not know. Were it not for the eyes of faith that God gives us, we would be left in the dark. In Revelation 4, a door into heaven is opened for us, and Jesus is inviting us to “come up here” and through the eyes of faith see the command center of the universe, the throne room of God. It is here that the God the Creator and Christ the Redeemer are ruling, reigning and being worshipped.

What we see and hear in this section of Revelation is foundational for the remainder of the book, and it is foundational for our lives! From this heavenly perspective we will see the earth and all of its events, including our own lives, with a new perspective. Jesus is inviting us to look up and by faith be lifted up out of the mundane and live as we were created and redeemed to live.

The Open Door: Come up here and see (4:1-2)

The One who came down to earth and walked among us now invites us to come up to heaven and be changed by what we see. Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we are shown the hidden realities of what is planned, the future unfolding that is certain to take place.

The Central Focus: The majesty and power of God on his throne (4: 2-7)

God and his reign (symbolized by his throne) are at the center of the created world. John describes concentric circles of worshipping beings expanding out from the throne. At the center is the throne of God surrounded by the worship of heaven. Humanity is on the periphery. We are not the center of the world nor even of our own lives. God is at the center.

The Singular Purpose: The praise and worship of God (4:8-11)

The vision of God on the throne surrounded by heavenly beings, lightening and thunder, and a crystal-clear sea all point to the holiness and majesty of God - His ‘worthiness’ to be praised, worshiped, and glorified. Verse 11 is the main point of the whole chapter: God is to be glorified and worshipped because of His holiness and sovereignty over creation. The mysterious four living beings are performing the function which all of creation is meant to fulfill - to praise and glorify God the Creator. The twenty-four elders represent the central purpose of those whom God has redeemed: to praise and glorify Him here on earth the way we will one day do in heaven.

Applications:

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What does this vision of the ongoing reality within the throne room of the Lord reveal about our identity and function as worshipers? How should what's going on constantly there shape the way we view our lives daily here?

What effects should such a vision have on us as we approach the celebration of Resurrection day?

What aspects of God's character and splendor draw you to praise and worship him? Where do you see these attributes in the Scriptures?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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