

Revelation 4 The Throne of God

When you read about Jesus in the gospels you read about God veiled in flesh the incarnate deity. When you read about Jesus in heaven you are reading about God not in flesh but God in all of His glory. You should be overwhelmed by the description.

The reason you have this as a reasonable expectation is that the entire Bible has prepared you to meet Jesus. All of Scripture contains little descriptions of Jesus.

As you read through the Bible, your anticipation of Jesus grows and your expectation of what you see when you see Jesus in heaven should be off the charts. When you finally get to Revelation, you are not disappointed.

In Revelation – Jesus is...

The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last: (Revelation 1:17, 22:13)

The Lamb who was slain (Rev 5:6)

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev 5:5)

The Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

The King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev 19:16)

If you are a student of the Bible, you have also been prepared to hear the old, old gospel story of a God who loves people so much that He chose to send His Son to atone for their sin. That simple story will never cease to leave your consciousness throughout eternity.

Notice that the first thing John saw in heaven was a throne. What John describes first is the person seated on the throne and all that he sees around the throne. The word throne is mentioned 13 times in this short chapter as well as 39 times in the Book of Revelation. God's throne is a central theme in the Book of Revelation.

In 4:1 John is invited to look into heaven and he is told by the voice that sounds like a trumpet:

“ I will show you what must take place after this.”

He doesn't see things that will take place until chapter 6. And the first thing he sees is a throne. This speaks of God's unchallenged and unrivaled sovereignty.

At the time John sees this throne in heaven: The Church was being persecuted; some of her leaders killed; her witness silenced; her voice muzzled; her progress blocked. In answer to the inevitable question that people will ask – where is God in all of this – it is a great comfort to know that God is sovereign and He is still in control.

What John sees is more than a description. This is determinative. What John sees determines the outcome of the history of humanity. John sees God on a throne.

Your eternal purpose is to adore Jesus. You don't have to wait to get to heaven to enjoy that. You can start right now.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Based on Revelation 4, who is on the throne? What does it mean for God to be on the throne? What does this reality do for you? What difference does this make today?
2. Is John's description of heaven anything like what you imagined? Any surprises?
3. Are you sometimes challenged to believe that God is really in control? (If so, what are you focused on or even trusting rather than the Word of God.)
4. How would you describe God to an inquirer?
5. What does the phrase, "Christ-centered worship" mean? How about "Christ-centered life?"
6. Does your worship feed your life? Does your life feed your worship?