

Sermon study questions for Life Groups from Revelation 4
Grace Church; Pastor John Fernandez. 11-5-2023

John's revelation is sent to the seven churches of Asia Minor, most were suffering Roman persecution. Revelation is Jesus' revealing to His people things to come (1:1; 19; 22:6) so that they would heed them and be encouraged (1:3). In 1:19 we are given an overview of the book: "Things which you have seen" (the vision of Jesus in chapter 1); "Things which are" (Jesus' letters to the churches in chapter 2-3); and "things which will take place after these things". These future things are described in chapters 4-22. Before Jesus describes future events, He first reveals a scene in Heaven around God's throne. In chapter four God the Father is worshiped as Creator, in five He and Jesus are worshiped for Redemption.

1. Read Revelation 4:1-11.
2. The context of Revelation is the suffering, persecuted Church at the hands of Emperor Domitian. Why do you think Jesus wants His church to see the scene in heaven of God in His glory being worshipped?
3. In 4:2, the first thing John sees is a throne. This word is used 37 times in Revelation. What does a throne indicate about God? What does Revelation 5:13 and Daniel 4:34-37 tell us about God's rule? Why do you think Jesus reminds His church of this? What affect does it have on you knowing God is ruling the universe? What difference would it make if God's people didn't know this?
4. Read Revelation 4:3. (Jasper is probably a brilliant, bright reflective effect like a diamond. Sardis is fiery red.) How does this description of God compare with Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Daniel 7:9-10? What effect did this have on Ezekiel? What does 1 Tim. 6:15-16 and Jude 24 tell us about God's glory? How does it affect you?
5. Read 4:4. (The 24 elders are probably representative of God's people.) What were they wearing? How does this relate to Jesus' promises in Rev. 2:10; 3:5, 11, 18?
6. The 24 elders were seated on thrones which indicates ruling. What do the following verses tell us about God's promises for His people in His future kingdom: Rev. 3:21; 20:4,5; 22:5; 1 Cor. 6:2-3. Why do you think Jesus reminds His church of this?
7. The four living creatures described in 4:6-8 are probably angels, called cherubim similar to the ones described in Ezek. 1:22-25. They are the highest most powerful created beings. Why would Jesus want us to see they are worshipping God?
8. In 4:8-9, how do they describe God? Describe each thing they say about God and why it would cause them and all creatures to worship Him? How does each description of God in verse 8-9 affect you?
9. What do we learn from Revelation 4 about worship? What is it fueled by? How does this differ from wrong ideas of worship?
10. In 4:10, what do the 24 elders do? What do you think this means? What attitudes does this reveal will NOT be in us in heaven? How can we have that attitude now?
11. In 4:11, what is the reason God is said to be worthy of glory, honor and power? What specifically do we learn about how all things came into existence? What does Heb. 11:3 tell us about the universe?
12. Does a person's view of how the universe came to exist affect how they live? Read Romans 1:20-28. What do we learn about man's view of creation and the effects it has on him?

13. How does *God being creator* affect you?

14. In Revelation 4, Jesus reveals theology. (the study of *God*). He lets His people see *God's glorious person*. List things you learned about *God* in this passage that prompt worship:

15. In light of Revelation 4 evaluate yourself on a scale of 1-10:

- a. Do I worry over politics, economics or world events?
- b. Do I acknowledge *God's rule and sovereignty* by giving thanks even in tough times?
- c. Do I fuel my worship with Scriptural truth about *God*?
- d. Do I wait to feel something before worshipping *God*?