

THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN

Part 1 of THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN. Revelation 4.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 12, 2023.

NEW SERIES

There is a God in heaven.

- That changes everything for everyone.

REVELATION 4

The summons: 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.”

The throne: 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.

The elders/angels: 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.

The presence and power: 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.

The living creatures: 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!”

The worship: 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.”

THREE URGENT MESSAGES OF REVELATION 4

Urgent message one: There is a God in heaven - verses 1-2.

- Jesus summoned John to look into heaven for one main reason: To know that there is a God in heaven.

Psalms 53:1-2 (ESV) The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. 2 God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

- The Book of Revelation is similar to an ancient Roman play.

“a divine persona was placed in a central box or throne high above the stage. This actor clarified the significance of each scene for the audience ... Between the stage and the audience, an orchestra of speakers voiced the emotional climate of the play ...” (NLT Illustrated Study Bible, p. 2346).

- God is in heaven, seated on a throne, directing the “play” on earth.
- God explains the storyline and choirs of angels and creatures react.
- Everyone must deal with this basic reality: There is a God in heaven.

Urgent message two: God in heaven is singular and supreme - verses 3-11.

- Everything in the heavenly throne room reveals some aspect of God:

- The throne reveals authority.
 - The precious stones reveal majesty.
 - The rainbow reveals mercy.
 - The lightning and thunder reveal power and judgment.
 - The crystal sea reveals victory over evil.
- Two choirs or “orchestras” explain the “play” to us.
 - The living creatures worship God because he is the sovereign creator.
 - The elders/angels declare “Holy, Holy, Holy,” the singularity, unique.

Isaiah 40:25 (ESV) To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

- The elders/angels address him as Lord: Yahweh, self-existent I Am.
- The elders/angels address him as Almighty: Greater than all powers.
- The elders/angels proclaim him who was and is and is to come: Supreme over time and history and events.

Urgent message three: God in heaven sees us - verse 4.

- God knows what we’re going through and is actively helping us.
- The sea of glass, like crystal: God has conquered evil for us.

Colossians 2:15 (ESV) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- The twenty-four elders: Mighty angels watching over us.

The church is represented in heaven by powerful heavenly beings who attend the throne of God, and who therefore hold great power (they have their own thrones and wear golden crowns), which they exercise on our behalf (G. K. Beale, Shorter Commentary on Revelation, p. 102).

Conclusion: There is no person/power anywhere greater than our God.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 4.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the promises of Revelation 4.

- In what areas of life do you feel your faith is most vulnerable or shaky.
- How does our culture exert pressure to compromise?
- How does the idea of a supreme God in heaven strengthen your resolve not to compromise to the culture's beliefs and behaviors?
- What do you feel about powerful angels representing you.
- How does the message of Revelation 4 impact non-believers?

Pray together. Be bold.

Almighty God in heaven. We join with angels and creatures to bow down before your majestic throne. Your glory is shining with the splendor of precious stones. You are holy, separate from all others, one of a kind. You are the I AM, self-existent, needing-nothing Lord God Almighty. You are supreme over all things. You are the creator and savior. Fill us with awe and wonder and confidence in your power for us. Help us to stand firm against every pressure to quit on Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Blessed: Chapter 4.
- John MacArthur on Revelation 5: <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-202/worshiping-the-worthy-lamb>