

Lesson 7- “Worship in Heaven” Rev. 4:1-11

1. The Context of Worship in Heaven (Rev. 4:1)

- John saw something no one on earth had ever seen before...worship in Heaven.
- John saw a “door standing open in heaven” and was called to “Come up here” through it. How does this help you interpret Rev. 3: 8?

2. The Centre of Worship in Heaven (Rev. 4:2-3)

- The key word here is “throne” and is used 46 times in Revelation.
- The One on the throne appeared as jasper which is diamond or clear quartz and carnelian (or sardis) which is ruby or a creamy, reddish-brown chalcedony.
- An emerald green rainbow encircle the throne.
- “The Bible reveals the names of at least three “celestial beings” as Cherubim, Seraphim and Living Creatures. Cherubim appear to have a guardian role as seen in Gen. 3:24 where they were placed by God to guard the way to the Tree of Life after the Fall. Satan himself is described as a “guardian cherub” in Ezek. 28:14. Seraphim appear to have a role associated with the unceasing worship of God and the consecration of those who draw near to worship him (Is. 6:1-7). And the Living Creatures appear to be associated with the Throne of God manifesting the fullness of divine life, unceasing activity and seeing all things (Ezekiel Ch. 1).”

3. The Chorus of Worship in Heaven Rev. (4:4, 9-11)

- “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.”- William Temple¹
- How often do the 24 Elders cast their crowns before the throne? v. 9 and 8
- How exactly do you think this will play out in the future state? What will it mean to lay your crown before the throne?

4. The Crescendo of Worship in Heaven

- Crescendo means to start small and finish big. There is a growing crescendo in the worship songs in the book of Revelation.
 - Two- Fold Doxology (Rev. 1:6)
 - Three- Fold Doxology (Rev. 4:11)
 - Four- Fold Doxology (Rev. 5:13)
 - Seven- Fold Doxology (Rev. 7:12)
 - The Ultimate Crescendo (Rev. 19:1-8)

5. The Contrast of Worship in Heaven²

“Seeing our lives against the backdrop of heaven is the best way to keep things in perspective.”³

A. Worship is Not About Us- It’s About Him

- If worship is truly God honouring then we should lay aside our preferences of style.

B. Worship is Not About Here- It’s About There

- “Worship gets our minds off the things of this earth and onto the realities of heaven.”
- Colossians 3:1-3

C. Worship is Not About Now- It’s About Then

- Worship urges us to “leverage everything going on in our lives against the promise of the future.”⁴

D. Worship is Not About One- It’s About Many

- What John saw in heaven was “corporate worship”. We are justified as individuals, but sanctified and ultimately glorified corporately in the Body of Christ.

¹ Erwin Lutzer; *Pastor To Pastor; Grand Rapids; Kregel Inc. 1998; p. 79*

² David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.85*

³ *Ibid p. 89*

⁴ *Ibid p. 91*