

# SEEING THE UNSEEN REVELATION 4

**Big Idea: Overcoming in Christ begins with a right vision of reality.**

## **1.) Revelation is a circular **LETTER** to seven specific churches.**

- Revelation addresses the immediate circumstances and challenges of the seven churches.
- One of the most important keys to understanding the Book of Revelation is to examine its visions in view of its original audience.

## **2.) Revelation is a call to **OVERCOME** in Christ.**

- Revelation makes obvious that Christ will be victorious and that His victory will include everyone found in Him.
- Though we are already redeemed in Christ, there is still a battle to be fought, a race to be run, and every incentive to overcome.
- God has given us this book for the purpose of summoning every believer in every church to live as overcomers in Christ.

## **3.) Revelation has **IMMEDIATE** relevance for every reader.**

- In the specific problems mentioned in chapters 2 and 3, we see the basic kinds of problems that the church must overcome in every day and age.
- John wrote the whole letter with the every intention of addressing directly the wide variety of circumstances and challenges facing the church.
- As much as Revelation addresses the end-time events of Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, it also addresses the immediate situation of the church in every age.

- The phrase “*after this*” in verse 4:1 is not meant to usher in a chronological progression of strictly future events. Rather, it simply announces the chronological progression of John’s vision.
- In several vignettes that grow in intensity, John’s visions show us the basic pattern of human history and how that pattern will ultimately and inevitably culminate in the second coming of Christ.

## 5.) Overcoming in Christ begins with a right vision of REALITY

- The vision of the triune God we see in chapters 4 & 5 is the answer to the problems posed in chapters 2 & 3.
- Overcoming our present circumstances begins by taking our eyes off of our temporary situation on earth and perceiving the much greater, divine realities that are taking place in the throne room of heaven (Colossians 3:1-2).

### Revelation 4

- Notice the **CENTRALITY** of God’s throne to everything real in Revelation 4.
  - The throne is the epicenter of glory (v. 3).
  - The throne is the epicenter of worship (v. 4, 9).
  - The throne is the epicenter of righteousness (v. 6b, 8).
  - The throne is the epicenter of power and authority (v. 5).
  - The throne is the epicenter of peace (v. 6a).
- Being in God’s presence really will **SATISFY** us infinitely beyond our greatest imagination.
- The key to overcoming in Christ is to understand what is right now taking place in heaven and to focus our hearts upon it (2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 18).