

WORTHY OF WORSHIP

REVELATION 4:1-11

Big Idea:

Because God is eminently worthy, our lives are eminently worthwhile.

- The all-glorious vision of God in Revelation 4 is the response to the problems and challenges that were presented chapters 2 and 3.
- The answer to our issues is to see God as entirely glorious, completely sufficient, totally sovereign, and eternally satisfying.
- Not only is Revelation 4 the answer to our present problems, but it is also source from which every future reality and remedy will flow.

1.) God is the epicenter of **REALITY** (v. 1).

- Heaven is presented here as the center of all that is true and real (Revelation 21-22).
- “*After this*” – While much of Revelation relates specifically to the very end of human history, much of it relates to all people in all times.

2.) God is the epicenter of **GLORY** (v. 2-4, 9-10).

- The one sitting on the throne is God the Father.
- Beginning in verse 3, the rest of this chapter is deeply rooted in Old Testament imagery and vocabulary.
- v. 3 – The glory of God forever shines forth in an astonishingly beautiful array of bright colors that emanate from the throne (Exodus 28, Revelation 21, Ezekiel 1).
- v. 4 – The 24 elders represent the church that has **OVERCOME**

- The number 24 is symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel in the OT combined with the 12 Apostles in the NT (Revelation 21).
- There were 24 divisions of priests and musicians in the temple (1 Chronicles 24 and 25).

3.) God is the epicenter of PEACE (v. 6a).

- The sea envisioned here is most likely a symbol of peace overcoming violence.
- For this sea of glass in to be as clear, calm, and placid proves that the chaos and violence of earth is subdued in the presence of God (Revelation 21).

4.) God is the epicenter of POWER (v. 5, 6b-8).

- v. 5 – These images represent the unparalleled power of God's presence (Exodus 19).
- The seven lamps represent the Holy Spirit, whose presence and influence is complete in the church and in the heavenly realms (Exodus 25, Zechariah 4).
- John's vision is very much related to, and even based upon, **EZEKIEL'S** vision (Ezekiel 1:10).
- The four living creatures are angelic beings (Isaiah 6).
 - These creatures reflect certain essential virtues of God, such as omniscience, nobility, strength, wisdom, and majesty.
 - There are exactly four creatures because God's angels cover the "four corners" of the earth.
- These visions are symbolic of the fact that both God's people (24 elders), and God's creation (angelic beings), are all praising God.

5.) God is the epicenter of HOLINESS (v. 8-11).

- This emphasis on God's holiness powerfully epitomizes this whole experience in God's throne room.
- The word "holy" indicates that God is "other than" and totally set apart.

-- Everything that ultimately matters comes from God and is found in Him.

Application

- It is astonishing how small and meaningless we can make our lives.
- In the midst of our everyday trials, John is showing us a true vision of God and His glory that is far more **REAL** than all our troubles.
- If we are in Christ, then our lives are filled a greater purpose than anything we could ever have wished for ourselves.
- Our God is worth everything we have, everything we are, and anything we could give. He alone is worthy!
- On that great day when all God's people enter into His eternal glory, it will be eminently obvious that He was absolutely **WORTH** it all.