

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



10. The Throne Room

Introduction

At the time when John wrote the Book of Revelation the Christians were facing persecution, temptation and complacency, just as the church is today. The believers needed the encouragement and rebuke Jesus gave in His letters to them. However Jesus knew that they could only overcome when they saw who He truly is and understood the hope they have in Him. So Jesus gave this amazing revelation of Himself and the plans He has for those who love Him, to the Apostle John, to pass on to the believers. This revelation was not just for those who lived in John's day, but for all who would follow in the generations to come, and especially for those who would live in the last days. This revelation is for us!

Scripture Reading: Revelation 4 and 5



John found it difficult to describe the glory that he saw in the Throne Room. Each part of his description reveals more about the One who sits on the Throne, and the glory of that place. Look carefully at the description and explain each part of it. Revelation 4:3-6

(See notes at the end – you don't necessarily need to share all the details covered there.)



God's Throne is mentioned 45 times in the book of Revelation. Revelation 4:2, 5:1. Why do you think it is so important in this book?

(This book tells us how God will judge mankind and establish His Kingdom on earth. The references to the Throne reaffirm that He is King and He has all power and authority. He will bring to pass the things He has spoken about. The assurance that God is reigning would have been a great comfort and encouragement to the early Christians – just as it will be in these last days as we see the world facing more and more trouble.)



In these chapters what seems to be the main occupation in Heaven? See 4:8-11, 5:8-14.

(Obviously worship is. The Greek word 'worship' means to prostrate oneself before deity and kiss his feet. There is a double stress on falling down before the Lord in 4:10, 5:14)



What attributes and deeds of the Father are mentioned in 4:8-11?



Why is Jesus the Lamb praised and worshipped in 5:9-10, 12-13?



What can you learn about worship from these chapters? Share your thoughts. In what ways would you like your own worship to change and deepen?

Conclusion

It is so easy to get side-tracked and discouraged in our Christian lives. God gave this wonderful revelation of 'The Throne Room' to encourage His people in the midst of difficulties and temptations, so that they would overcome and inherit the blessings of His Kingdom in this life and the life to come.

We have seen that Heaven is a place of constant worship. True worship is living in total submission to God, and is expressed in our words and songs. True worship comes from our spirits and ascends to the Throne of God. When we worship here on earth, we can be lifted into that Heavenly realm, and by faith can enter into the blessings of that Kingdom right now. We don't have to wait until we die! Let's learn how to truly worship our King!

Notes of Revelation 4-5

Ref.	Description	Explanation
4:3	Jasper & Carnelian	God is described as 'light' and these precious stones reflect a brilliant light. Jasper can be various colors, and can be translucent like crystal. Carnelian is red. John is trying to describe what he has seen in human words.
4:3	Rainbow resembling emerald	The rainbow is a sign of God's faithfulness. As judgment is about to begin the rainbow reminds us that God has made a covenant with man. Genesis 9:16
4:4 5:8	Twenty four elders	Some say these were a special angelic order, others that they represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostle of the Lamb. Others believe these 24 elders are representative of the over-comers, who are Kings and Priests to the Lord. Just as there were 24 divisions of priests in 1 Chronicles 24:4, 18, who led in worship in the Temple, it is possible that there are also 24 divisions in Heaven before the Throne.
4:5	Flashes of lightening, rumblings and peals of thunder	There was a similar occurrence on Mt Sinai when God met Moses. Exodus 19:16, 18. It is an indication of God's holiness and is linked with judgment. Compare with 8:5, 11:19, 16:17-18
4:5 5:6	Seven lamps	In v5 we are told these 7 lamps are the 7 Spirits of God. 7 is the number of fullness and so these represent the fullness of the power of God through His Spirit.
4:6	Sea of glass	In the temple there was a basin filled with water called 'The Sea'. 1 Kings 7:23, 26. What John saw was the Heavenly counterpart. The water in the Heavenly Sea was as clear as crystal.
4:6 5:8	Four Living Creatures	These are probably the same as the cherubim described in Isaiah 6:1-3 and Ezekiel 1:26-28. They were guardians of the Throne. Just as the Bible describes Jesus as the Lamb, so the character of these beings is described using various animals. John is using earthly terms to describe heavenly realities.