

# Revelation: Following Our Victorious King

[Revelation 4:1-11](#)

“The Heavenly Throne Room”– April 7, 2024



## Introduction

When you work on something and think you are headed in the right direction, it is frustrating to realize that you are not. What are you working for? What gets you out of bed in the morning? What do you see as important, worth doing, or valuable? The answer to these questions could include something that gives you pleasure, purpose, or significance.

It's one thing to waste an hour, but what if you waste a year, a decade, or even your whole life. Would you want to know that you are going in the wrong direction before it is too late?

Revelation 4 gives us a glimpse into the Holy of Holies. God is on the throne. Our sin has a way of distorting our spiritual vision. Revelation 4 acts like a pair of spiritual lenses, bringing reality in focus.

## Sermon Outline

1. Look at life through the lens of God's rule. Vs. 1-7
2. Worship the King on the throne. Vs. 8-11

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 1-7

We can see an earthly realm very clearly. However, there is also a spiritual realm. It is as real and near as the earthly realm. God has given us a spiritual lens and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can see this heavenly realm. Before we see “what must take place after this,” God was showing John a spiritual lens through which all are to see everything. We are commanded to “behold.” John was going to write down what God showed him.

John saw a throne with God seated on that throne which is the focus of chapter 4 - God's sovereign rule over creation. If we look at life through the ordinary lens of the earthly realm, we may doubt that God is on His throne. What causes you to be tempted to think that God is not on His throne? God's throne is the ultimate control center of the universe. From the smallest detail to the largest event - God is in charge.

John described the throne room. Here, symbols of the gemstones are used to describe God and communicate truth. They are gemstones in the priest's ephod Exodus 28 and again in the walls and foundation of the new Jerusalem in Revelation 21. These colors of the gemstones remind us of God's promise to Noah. God will be merciful and faithful. These colors show us God's breathtaking glory. There are many things in life that are breathtaking, but God is the perfection of beauty.

Who are the twenty-four elders? Consider the context of the book of Revelation. They are wearing white garments similar to the Christians at the church in Sardis. ([Revelation 3:4](#)) They are wearing crowns similar to the Christians at the church in Philadelphia. ([Revelation 3:11](#)) The garments and crowns refer to the saints in history who have persevered. Why twenty-four? They are the redeemed from the Old Testament and the New Testament who are trusting in God. They are representatives of all the redeemed. When God saves us, He puts a crown on our heads. ([Ephesians 2:6](#)) We are saved to rule with Him. What grace and mercy!

John sees flashes of lightning and peals of thunder. Beginning in Revelation 6, we will see three series of God exercising His wrath. At the end of each (7th Seal - [8:5](#), 7th Trumpet - [11:19](#), 7th Bowl - [16:18](#)) We see flashes of lightning and peals of thunder. God on the throne has the right to judge evil. The Holy Spirit brings conviction, makes us alive, and opens our eyes to truth.

In [verse 7](#), we observe a sea. Throughout Revelation, the sea is an image of chaos, evil, wickedness, and rebellion that seeks to destroy the work of God. Does your life feel chaotic at times? Are you overwhelmed by life's circumstances, trials, and storms? In this vision, the chaos of the sea is calm. For John exiled on the

isle of Patmos, this vision of the calm sea is so encouraging. Our storms will pass over because God is one the throne.

The living creatures that John described seem to represent all living beings. (They are similar to the ones described in Ezekiel 1 and Isaiah 6) God is holy, and the only way we can enter God's presence is to be holy. Because of sin, we are not holy, so how can we come into the presence of this awesome, holy, great, knee-shaking causing God? Remember what the elders are wearing? They get their white garments from Jesus who covers our sin and shame. Only Jesus can take all of the sin of those who trust in Him. God is seated on the throne because on the cross the work of Jesus was completed. Everything that you and I need to be right with God was completed by Jesus.

How do we respond?

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 28; Revelation 21; Ezekiel 1; Isaiah 6:1-6; Mark 4:35-40

## 2. Read vs. 8-11

The living creatures, who represent every living being, and the twenty-four elders, who represent the redeemed are worshiping. They describe God as holy. God is transcendent - in a category all His own. God is also eternal - He was and is and is to come. There is never an end to His rule. God is in a category all His own as Creator. He is holy. That God is holy is repeated three times for emphasis. This is the only attribute of God that is emphasized in this way. His holiness describes every other attribute - holy love, holy justice, holy mercy, etc. Nothing else compares to Him. That is why He is worthy to be worshiped.

As we look into the spiritual realm and see God in all His glory, the only appropriate response is to worship. Nothing is more important than God. One of the chief problems marking our culture is that God has been rendered unimportant. This is why people use God's name as a curse word. The elders and the living creatures show us how we are to respond to the God of the universe. Do you respond to God as these living creatures and the twenty-four elders did? Do our lives display God as worthy, trustworthy, and wonderful? What carries weight in your life? What can you not live without? Do you live to be noticed? Important people are an illusion. ([Psalm 62:9](#)) We were created by God and for God. The solution to our discontentment is knowing God. You will not find contentment in this world. God is bigger than the problems we face, and He is good.

We cannot escape reality or truth no matter how much we ignore it. We don't create God in our image. We see the truth about God in Scripture. He is Holy. He is worthy. This is true right now. When Christ returns, we will see fully what we now see dimly. How can we grow and see the truth more clearly? Read your Bible. Pray. Gather with brothers and sisters in worship. Ask God to open your eyes. Like any other relationship you have, it takes time. Coming into the sanctuary of God changes our perspective. ([Psalm 73](#)) God is worthy.

### Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Revelation 5:1-14](#) "The Lion is the Lamb"

## Family Guide for week of April 7<sup>th</sup>

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc...)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

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### Bible Intake (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Psalm 28  
Day 2 – Psalm 29  
Day 3 – Psalm 30  
Day 4 – Psalm 31  
Day 5 – Psalm 32

*\*Read Revelation 5 in preparation for church on Sunday, April 14, 2024*

### Prayer (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.  
Pray for a few church members on pg. 37 of our church directory.  
Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

### Sing together

"The Power of the Cross" – use the bulletin from Sunday

### Memory verses for the month

**Exodus 20:2-3** "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me."

**Exodus 20:4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

### Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>

Question 39

*With what attitude should we pray?*

*Answer: With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God's will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, he always hears our prayers.*

<sup>1</sup> *New City Catechism* (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)