

Revelation 4:1-11 – Through the keyhole

Revelation 4: “Who lives in a house like this?” - A vision of God’s home

Recap – Revelation 1-3

- In the midst of suffering, remain faithful Jesus (overcome) - this is what things are really like

What's is all about?

before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it - v. 2

- a vision with God at the centre
- just how do you go about describing God?
 - language from Ezekiel’s OT vision

Rainbow - God’s covenant faithfulness

Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. - Ezekiel 1:27-28

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Gen. 9:13

Thunder and lightening – God’s majesty

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. (Exodus 19:16)

A sea of glass – God’s otherness

the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (Gen. 1:2)

- limits of creaturely language
- it’s all about the: Glorious, Faithful & True, Awesome Creator God
 - It is not about us, our world, our good

You were made to glorify God

Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” - v. 8

- 4 living creatures – all of creation

lion – king of the beasts / *ox* – most powerful domestic animal

eagle – ruler of the air / *man* – ruler over all of God’s creation

- *Cherubim* – living, active servants – Ezekiel 1:5-21 & 10:11-12
 - *Compare with the lifeless, silent, dead attendants of idols*
 - What do you do? Our job description – “*God glorifier*”
- Because, “He’s Worth It”

The church exists to worship God

“*You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.*” - v.11

- 24 elders = 12 OT tribes + 12 Apostles
- All those who have ‘overcome’
 - To Smyrna - *Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.* (Rev. 2:10)
 - To Laodicea - *To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne,* (Re. 3:21)
 - To Sardis - *He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.* (Rev. 3:4)
 - To Thyatira - *To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations* —²⁷ **‘He will rule them** (Rev. 2:26)
- Ruling as God always intended

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” - Gen. 1:28
- Which looks like worship
 - In life - *whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord* – Col 3:23 (& see 1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - When we come together
 - we are joining these heavenly worshipers
 - our worship is to be God centred not on ourselves / others
 - go home worshipping God