

# 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** — <sup>27</sup> **‘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 worshippers
    - our worship is to be God centred not on ourselves / others
    - go home worshipping God