

Revelation 4:1-11
Holy Holy Holy

Warm Up

Sometimes we regard objects as sacred or special. Keepsakes, mementos, heirlooms. What objects are sacred in your home? What makes them sacred or special?

Background and context

The challenge to the Laodiceans in ch3 is to overcome and the reward will be to sit with Jesus on His throne. Here in chapter 4 the apostle John is given a vision of God's throne room in heaven. This chapter focuses not on future judgments but on the majesty, holiness, and sovereignty of God. Before revealing what will happen on earth, God first shows John who is truly in control of heaven and earth. The chapter teaches that the centre of reality is not earthly governments, world events, personal struggles, or even the end-times themselves—it is God's throne. The chapter invites believers to view life from heaven's perspective: God is holy, God is sovereign, and God is worthy of worship regardless of circumstances.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ: Revelation 4:1-11. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. **Read v1-2.** Why do you think God shows John the throne before revealing future events?
2. What is the significance of the phrase **"must take place?"** What does it reveal about God?
3. Why does John describe God in terms of jewels and not attempt a physical description?
4. What does the rainbow remind us of? What is its symbolism?
5. What does the repeated emphasis on God's throne teach us about fear and uncertainty in relation to future events?
6. Scholars differ about the symbolism of the elders. Who do you think they might be?
7. How does the worship in heaven differ from worship we often experience on earth?
8. **Read v 5-6.** Where else in scripture do we see God's presence described like this? What does it reveal about God?
9. **v6.** The sea is often a symbol of chaos and death. What does the image here suggest?
10. **v9.** What does it mean when the elders lay down their crowns before the throne?
11. What might laying down **your** crown before God look like?
12. **Read. v6b-8.** Look up Ezekiel 1 and Isaiah 6. Why are these creatures significant? What do they represent? What have they understood about God?

Discipleship and Application



The throne dominates this passage. We get a glimpse of God's power and sovereignty. We see creation and the church worshipping Him. We understand that God is already ruling, His reign is not yet to come but is now! We can have confidence that whatever we face in the future, God's rule will not stop!

13. Which particular part of the passage most helps you understand God's nature and character?
14. What gives us the right to gain access to God's throne room? How does that make you feel?
15. We are made in the image of God. How should this impact our worship of Him?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.