



TRINITY A.M.E. CHURCH

"God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit
Our Comforter, and Humankind Our Family"

Bible Study Notes

Series: *Revelation*

Lesson Scripture: Revelation 4

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Teacher: Pastor Grate

Revelation 4 – The Throne in Heaven

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Revelation 4:1-2)

- The process by which God shows up:
 1. God **ALLOWS** John to see a manifestation of His glory through the appearance of a door. John does nothing to earn what he sees. John's only actions is opening his eyes.
 2. The presence of God **CALLS** John to a more intimate place, "*Come up here.*"
 - a. The reason God **CALLS** John is because God has a plan for John's life: God must show him something.
 3. The Spirit **MOVES** John because John does not have the authority not come once God speaks. Notice, God does not ask John whether he wants to come; rather, John is told he is coming.

TAKEAWAY: God in God's mercy **ALLOWS** us to be who we are, while **CALLING** into deeper relationship with God, so we can get caught up in the **MOVE** of God which transforms our lives, our neighbors lives, and our communities.

Weather's Theological Significance in the Bible

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. (Revelation 4:5-6a)

- In the Bible, weather in particular storms, thunder, and lightning are used to convey the emotions of God and/or other deities.
- Historically, in the ancient near east and in many other human religious traditions, the sky is viewed as the realm of the God.
- Thunderstorms are many times viewed as celestial disturbances.
- Rain which falls from the sky is viewed as a life force. Because of the significance of rain in agricultural society God's ability or lack thereof to bring rains was viewed as a form of divine punishment.
- In the context of Revelation 4, in the throne room of God the manifestation of weather patterns suggests God's dynamism/active movement. Additionally, these meteorological occurrences attest to the power of God in a metaphor that would be familiar with the author's audience.
- The "sea of glass" referenced in Revelation 4:6 refers to a chasm that divides God and the author. This chasm exists because of the Levitical injunctions that state none can see God

and live. Evidence of this reverence can be found in the practices of the priest in Jerusalem Temple especially on the Day of Atonement. (Exodus 33:20, Leviticus 23)

Metaphorical Meaning of 4 Living Creatures: Revelation 4:6b-8

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, ’who was, and is, and is to come.” (Revelation 4:6b-8)

Lion	Sovereignty
Ox	Diligence/Hardwork
Human	Intelligence
Eagle	Agility

Responding to God’s Presence

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11 “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.” (Revelation 4:9-11)

- In the remaining verse of Revelation 4:9-11, the response of every being in the throne room symbolic of being in the presence of God is worship.
TAKEAWAY: Our response to being in the presence of God is worship.

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