

One Holy God

Revelation 4

Not the way it should be...

What is not the way it should be in the world?

Sometimes it is outside of myself

Sometimes it is me

How are we to live in a world that is not the way it should be?

It can be discouraging. We can be tempted to give up

What gives you and me the strength...

to see the race to its end?

to be hopeful rather than to despair?

to have real hope rather than “useful fictions”?

Revelation 1:7

Companion in suffering

Living in a world that is not the way it's supposed to be

Living by values that sometimes do not match the world

Sometimes being rejected by the world

Companion in kingdom

The Kingdom Jesus proclaimed is...

already here: “the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

not yet fully here: “ready to be revealed in the last time”

Companion in patient endurance

Letters: blessing to the ones who are victorious/overcomers

Revelation 4

God is the unrivaled King

“Throne”=symbol of highest authority ☞ 24 times in 11 verses!

Appearance of greatest glory

without even describing the one who sits on the throne

Theme of Revelation: Even in chaos and conflict, God is in charge

The greatest created powers bow before God alone

24 elders: maybe Israel (12 tribes) plus the Church (12 apostles)

4 living creatures: perhaps wise angels with greatest powers of wild and domesticated animals, humanity, and creatures of the air

Unceasing worship of God's unending glory

“You are holy, almighty, eternal”

“You alone are worthy!”

“You are the creator and sustainer of all that lives and all that is”

The Big Idea

**The one holy, creator God alone
will receive all the worship of all creation**

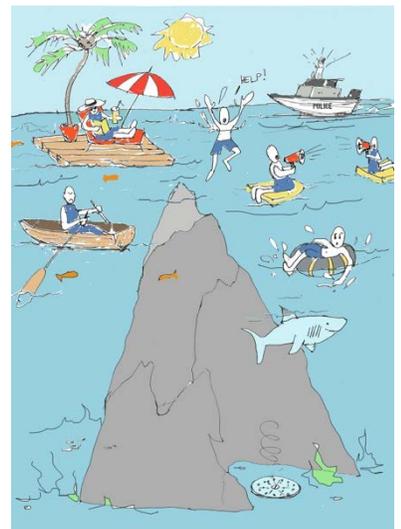
Application

Know that God is the only One on the throne ...now and forever

The sea (chaos) is as nothing before God

“He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;

he puts the deep into storehouses.” *Psalm 33:7*



“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.” *Revelation 21:1*

Know that all crowns will submit to God

By choice, we are invited to submit what is ours to Him

Our...

Not merely renouncing these things

It is submitting them to the throne of the One Holy God

Either way, all will submit by the power of God’s majesty

Every authority and claim will one day bow before Him

Those who resist Him will suffer unspeakable loss

“You deserve the greater glory, overcome I lift my voice, to the King in need of nothing, empty handed I rejoice”

Nothing I can give Him is worth anything compared to Him, so I have nothing of value to give to Him

Everything we claim, whether treasures or bitterness, whether valuables or griefs, whether pride or regrets, we put at His feet

Join the song of worship to Him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever

By what we do

Obey His Word, with boldness and with perseverance

Jesus said: “Love your neighbor as yourself”

Love does not dishonor others

Love is not self-seeking

Love is not easily angered

Love keeps no record of wrongs

By our attitude

Rejoice even when His reign is not obvious to our senses

Praise His Holy Name, even when we have pain and loss

Conclusion

When Jesus arrives, those who are watching for Him will rejoice that His reign has come!

Reflection Questions

1. Where in life is it hard for you to see the throne of God? What is it that you see instead?
2. What helps you see (again) the overwhelming glory and authority of the One Holy God?
3. What is something that you find hard to submit to God (to lay the crown before Him)? Why is that?
4. What is an example of how we are called to give glory to God by what we do?
5. What is an example of how we are called to give glory to God by our attitude?