

## Who Do You Think You Are? Revelation 4:9-11

### **I. What does Revelation mean?**

Revelation or Apocalypse = unveiling; These visions and prophecies were revealed to Jesus and then to John (Rev 1:1)

### **II. How should we interpret Revelation?**

Two schools of thought on how to interpret Revelation: 1. Written to the 1<sup>st</sup> century church as an answer and consolation for persecution happening at the hands of Domitian 2. To give a picture of the final things (actually it is a mixture of both)

TAKE THIS HOME: CHRIST IS DEFINITELY COMING BACK! (Acts 1:11; Matt 25:46; John 5:28; Heb 9:27; John 14:3; Rev 22:20)

### **III. Descriptors of the ALMIGHTY Christ (Verses 4-8)**

John's Description (verse 4-7): **1.**The eternal one (was, is, is to come) **2.** The Faithful Witness of the Father **3.**The Firstborn from the dead **4.** Ruler of the kings of the earth **5.** The one who LOVES US **6.** Released us from Sins through his blood **7.** Made us (the believers) as a kingdom **8.** Made us priests (devotees) to the Father **9.** The one that deserves glory and dominion forever **10.** The one that is coming back again (v7)

### **IV. Christ's Description (Verse 8; Verse 17-18):**

**1.** Alpha and Omega (Eternal) **2.** Who was and is and is to come (Eternal) **3.** The Almighty- only used to describe God, no one else in the bible (Equality with God and Jesus)

### **V. Seven Letters Directly from the lips of Jesus (Chapter 2-3)**

Seven letters are not only to the first century church but to the universal church- the church is still dealing with the issue of lukewarmness and of false confidence in itself and not in God (**Laodicea**), of false prosperity (**Sardis**), of allowing false teachings (**Thyatira, Pergamum**), of being hard and calloused and unloving at times (**Ephesus**), even of being persecuted (**Philadelphia, Smyrna**)

### **VI. Chapter 4 The Throne Room of God**

- ★ God the Father is so far removed from humanity- He is not a man, God is Spirit (Spirit and truth)- he is totally separate from any created being! (for more see Ezekiel 1, Isaiah 6)
- ★ Twenty-Four Elders and Four Living Creatures (Revelation 4:4; 4:6;
- ★ Who are the elders? Best description<sup>1</sup>: exalted angelic order who serve and adore God as the heavenly counterpart to the 24 priestly and 24 Levitical orders (1 Chronicles 24:4; 25:9-13)

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<sup>1</sup> Mounce, R.H., The Book of Revelation, Revised, Wm. B. Eerdmans publishing, 1997., p. 121.

- ★ Where are the elders seated?
- ★ What do the garments/ adornments mean?

## VII. The Splendor of Heaven (4:5)

Splendor and majesty and power of God represented by the thunder and lightning

## VIII. Four Creatures (4:6-7)

Who are the Four creatures? An exalted order of angelic beings; immediate guardians of the throne; WORSHIP LEADERS in HEAVEN; similar to the cherubim in Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1 but not the same; eyes represent alertness/knowledge; nothing escapes their notice<sup>1</sup>

- ★ What is Worship?

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers **must worship** in the Spirit and in truth."

Worship = προσκυνέω = proskuneo

*prós*, "towards" and *kyneo*, "to kiss"; Literally translated as kissing the ground on which a **superior** stands

- ★ **How will worship occur?**

- Day and night; Perpetual

- ★ What do they say about God?

- HOLY, HOLY, HOLY- three times = completeness, God is utterly and completely HOLY and PERFECT
- LORD GOD, THE Almighty (only used of God)
- Who was, and is and is to come

## IX. The Response to God's Holiness?

- ★ **What do the elders do?**

A.W. Tozer- "The most telling thing about a man is not what he may say or do at any given time but what he conceives God to be like deep within his heart"

- ★ **What should our attitude be towards God?**

Reverence, Worship, Fear, Honesty, Transparency (what can we hide from Him?)

- We cannot continue to live in sin before a Holy God- and make excuses for why we do not repent
- We cannot walk around as if we have it all figured out
- We cannot live full of pride and selfishness- it all belongs to Him- all praise, all honor, all glory- our entire life!