

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 4:1-11 we are shown 3 aspects of God's throne.

- I. God's throne is in heaven (vs. 1-2a).
- II. God's throne is described.
  - A. On the throne sat God (vs. 2b-3).
  - B. Around the throne sat 24 elders on 24 thrones (v. 4).
  - C. From the throne came lightning and thunder (v. 5a).
  - D. Before the throne was
    1. the Holy Spirit (v. 5b).
    2. A sea of glass (v. 6a).
  - E. On each side of the throne are 4 living creatures (vs. 6b-8b).
- III. God's throne is the place of worship.
  - A. The 4 living creatures proclaim God's holiness (v. 8c-9).
  - B. The 24 elders proclaim God's worthiness (vs. 10-11).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 24, 2018

Passage: Revelation 4:1-11

Memory Passage: Revelation 4:11

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 4:1-11.** Who is speaking in 4:1 (“the first voice”)?
- (b) Where is “up here” and why does John need to come there?
- (c) To what does “after this” refer (cf. Daniel 2:28-29, 45; Rev. 1:1, 19; 7:1, 9; 15:5; 18:1)?
- (d) What happened to John when he was suddenly “in the Spirit” (v. 2) and why is this important?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 4:1-1, Ex. 19:16-19, Is. 6:1-3, & Ezek. 1:4-14, 22-28.** How do these OT passages inform our understanding of Rev. 4:1-11, and what do they tell us about the relationship between God’s dealings with His people in the OT and His people in the NT?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 4:1-11.** What does the rainbow bring to mind, and why might this be important for understanding the judgments that follow in Revelation (for help see Gen. 9:13-17 & Ezek. 1:28)?
- (b) The language in v. 5a is repeated after the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is broken (8:5), after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is blown (11:19), and after the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured out (16:18). What does this tell us about the nature and origin of all these judgments, and why is this important to believers both in the 7 churches and throughout time?
- (c) Are the 24 elders human or angelic (cf. their other appearances in Revelation: 7x in chapters 4 & 5, 7:11, 13, 11:16; 14:3; 19:4), who do they represent, and why are there 24 of them (cf. Rev. 21:12-14; 1 Chron. 24:3-19)?
- (d) What do the 4 living creatures represent and what does “full of eyes in front and behind” reveal about their role?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 4:1-11.** What do you learn about God’s character and work from the description of His throne as well as the content of the worship given to Him in this vision? What comfort would this bring to the 7 churches in Asia? What comfort does it bring to you as a 21<sup>st</sup>-century believer?
- (b) Contemplate the worship of both the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders. What implications does this have for our corporate worship services at BCC? What implications does it have for you in your personal worship?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 4:1-11.** Why do the 24 elders “cast their crowns before the throne” and what does this teach us about the rewards you and every believer “earn” for persevering to the end?
- (b) The 24 elders proclaim that God is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. In what ways are you seeking glory, honor, and power for yourself instead of giving these to God who is worthy?
- (c) God’s sovereignty is central to this passage, both in the throne room description and the praise given to Him. In what ways are you daily thriving on the truth of God’s sovereignty? In what ways do you act as though God is not sovereign over the details of your life? In what practical ways can your walk be strengthened by more fully and more often remembering God’s sovereignty? How does God’s sovereignty inspire joy in the life of the believer?
- (d) Write an order of worship to support a sermon preached on Revelation 4:1-11. What songs will you sing? What Scripture will you have read? Will you include a responsive reading, and why or why not? What will the topic or outline of your prayer include? Will you have the Lord’s Supper, and what will influence your decision? What will you use for a Call to Worship and Benediction?

DATE: June 24, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 4:1-11

*The Holy & Worthy One Enthroned*