



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Revelation 4:1-11

[1] After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had 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 behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. [3] And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. [4] Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. [5] From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, [6] and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: [7] the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. [8] And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

[9] And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

[11] *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*

Sermon Outline:

1. The Setting of the Second Vision (1-2)
2. The Characters of the Second Vision (2-8)
3. The Proclamations of the Second Vision (8-11)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Pastor Scott began the sermon with a discussion on worship. What elements of worship do you see prescribed in the Bible? Why is it important for us to stay close to the Scripture as we plan our worship? What might happen to our worship if we veered away from Scripture and incorporated elements that are not specifically prescribed?
- This week's sermon covered the final two points of Revelation chapter 4: the *characters* (persons) and the *proclamation* of the second vision. The first set of characters were the 24 elders, who most likely represented God's people from the Old & New Testaments. Why is it significant that God's people from both testaments are represented before the throne?
- The four living creatures who worshiped at the throne were an example of the best of God's creation: the noble lion, the strong calf, the dignified human, and the majestic eagle. In John's day (and our own), the strong, powerful, majestic, and beautiful things of the world were not always bowing in submission to God. They were (and are) often in defiant rebellion. Why is it significant that the best of God's creation was bowing in reverent worship to God in Revelation 4? How would this have encouraged the early church? How does this encourage you now?
- Think about *how* the elders and living creatures worshiped. The creatures *covered* themselves and the elders *fell down*. Why does the Bible pay such close attention to the physical response of our worship? Do you think that our physical response matters much? They also *declared* his holiness in truth. Why does it matter that our worship is theologically & biblically accurate?
- Why is it significant that the living creatures praised God for his *holiness* instead of some other attribute? What does it mean that God is holy? Which of God's attributes do you typically think about when you come to worship him? Why is it important to keep God's holiness at the front of our minds in worship?
- When the living creatures worshiped the Lord, the elders fell to the ground and returned their crowns to God. Why is this an appropriate response? How does it make you feel to know that you will return your rewards in gratitude to God? How does this motivate your service to God now?
- Our worship must be infused with gratitude. Spend some time offering thanksgiving to God with your group.

