



## Resources

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





- What is your view of heaven? How was that view of heaven shaped? After this week's sermon, is your view of heaven different from the Scripture's view of heaven?
- Pastor Scott referred to a growing genre of literature on near death experiences where people visit heaven and return with a detailed report. While some people have been encouraged by these stories, many of them are filled with errors, or even contradict Scripture. Pastor Scott asked a few thought provoking questions about supplemental literature like this. First, how much error should we tolerate in accounts like these for the sake of encouragement? And second, if we need these types of stories for encouragement, what does this say about our faith?
- This new section in Revelation begins with John entering a door into heaven. As he entered the door he saw the setting (1-2), the characters (2-8), and heard the proclamation of Christ (8-11). Was there anything unexpected or surprising to you about the setting, characters, or proclamations in heaven? What comforted you the most? What terrified you the most?
- This vision is very clear that God's throne is at the very center of heaven (it is mentioned 13 times in this chapter alone). In other words, God is sovereign, and the lightning that surrounds him will soon be unleashed on the wicked men and women who had rebelled against his reign. How would this have encouraged the original audience who were suffering under the harsh reign of the Roman Emperors? How does this encourage you to live faithful lives now?
- Do you know anyone who thinks that life is nothing more than a random set of events... that nobody is ultimately in control? How might they respond to Revelation chapter 4 and the knowledge that God is on his throne, sovereignly in control of every detail in the universe?
- When the human, biblical authors saw a vision of God in heaven, they had a hard time describing him. They talked about the glory around him and they grasped to find pictures or metaphors to describe it, often talking about jewels. What does this say about the majesty and glory of God? Is your own view of God growing?
- When anyone in the Bible encountered the majesty and glory of God in heaven, they fell on their face and worshiped. Why is this the universal response to a vision of God? Have you made the space to respond to the text this way? If not, will you set aside some time to contemplate these words and respond in worship?

