

Revelation 4:1-11

An Open Door in Heaven

From a lukewarm situation (Laodicea), to passion and glory . . . a scene in heaven.

After these things . . .

- Behold, I have put before you an open door which no man can shut (Rev. 3:8)
- Behold, I stand at the door and knock (3:20)
- Behold, a door standing open in heaven (4:1) See Ezk 1:1; Matt. 3:16; Acts 10:11
- Behold, a throne standing in heaven (4:2)
- Behold, a Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (5:5)
- Behold, I am coming quickly (Rev. 22:12)
 - A Scene in Heaven . . . following a scene on earth (God's heavenly throne room)
 - A Voice:
 - Like the sound of a trumpet (1:10)
 - Like the sound of rushing waters (1:15)

The Creator who is glorious, eternal, pleased . . . (Chapter 4) The Father is the focus

The Redeemer who is sacrificial, triumphant, and gracious (Chapter 5). The Son is the focus

Five Key Notes - Five songs of worship in Revelation 4 and 5

1. **Separation:** "Come up here"
 - a. Up to Heaven . . . from down below; This whole scene is "Above and Beyond" the extreme disparity of sinful man in a fallen world.
 - b. One sitting on the throne: what God is like. Like jasper, sardius in appearance
 - c. God and heaven's throne is totally other; indescribably attractive, appealing, fascinating; etc. Brilliance, beauty, perfection, harmony
 - d. Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1 serve as the background and anticipation.
 - e. We are alienated; exiled . . . from the temple of fellowship that was Eden.
 - f. Only God can bring us up to this level; there is a great disparity between human nature and the world we live in.
2. **Adoration:** unceasing worship and praise . . .
 - a. Such transcendent beauty - beyond description; mysterious; categories beyond me - the trumpet, the throne, all that is seen is to bring adoration: lose self
 - b. Royalty - power, dominion, a sacred place, beyond my scope
 - c. Elegance; Brilliance; Purity; People; Rainbows; Thunder and Lightning
 - d. Four Living Creatures (symbolize creation's most impressive aspects) Ezk 10:20
 - i. Lion: the mightiest of the wild beasts:
 - ii. Calf: the mightiest of domestic animals . . . bull
 - iii. Man: the mightiest of all . . . the wisest, to rule and have dominion
 - iv. Eagle: mightiest among the birds . . .

1. Unceasing praise and adoration;
 2. They have wings and eyes, and they speak, sing . .
 - a. All creation for His praise
 - b. He is eternal . . .
 3. Holy, Holy, Holy: trinity formula
 - a. Glory: this is heavy!!
 - b. Honor
 - c. Thanks
 - i. He lives forever and ever . .
 - e. Twenty-four elders - People . . made holy and able to be in heaven's glory
 - i. The totality of the redeemed . .
 1. Fall before Him . . they cast all their crowns
 2. Worship Him who lives forever
 3. For YOU created all things . .
 - a. For His glory and pleasure
 - b. He willed it . . He spoke it into existence
 4. Everything exists for His will and pleasure. All animals; all plants; all people . . the stars . .
3. **Consecration:** Revelation 5 summary . .the Lamb and redemption becomes central
- a. The King, Creator, power and glory is also Redeemer - humble sacrifice and love; gentleness
 - b. What has happened?
 - i. Sin, fall, corruption; cursed is the ground.
 - ii. We cannot climb up, to this glorious place.
 - iii. God from above must condescend to save us . . we lack the capacity to even BE in this environment in the condition we are currently in . .
 - c. The solution: A Lamb- gentle, humble, harmless . . God accommodates
 1. Weeping and crying . . . not found is someone to open this book
 2. The book is judgment, to cleanse and purify, to set everything right; the way it is supposed to be . .
 - ii. He is weeping because something is a barrier; incomplete
 1. What our souls have thirsted and hungered for is here, but unable to be accessed:
 2. Who can open it? Only Jesus
 - d. Shocking figure: The lamb who was slain
 - i. His blood sacrifice and resurrection have opened the door
 - ii. He was slain; He now lives; and He purchased people for God
 - e. Notice the lamb
 - i. Humble; pure . . . unlike the lion, the eagle, or the man . . .
 - ii. Through His humble tearing, you and I can enter by faith

4. Destination: our future glorious reign

- a. The 24 elders, the OT and NT redeemed . . (Who ARE all these people?)
- b. From every tribe and tongue and nation . . .universal; across nations, people groups, races . . . generations . . .we are not this yet, but we certainly WILL BE
 - i. Eden is ingrained in us . . .a deep longing and memory trace
- c. They sing a new song! Join with all nature in manifold witness . .
 - i. The weeping has turned to joy because there IS one worthy; there IS good news!!
- d. A kingdom . . of priests - they will reign upon the earth - a glimpse (REV 7:15-17)
- e. Revelation 22:12; 16-17- my future so bright . . .
 - i. Another behold . .
 - ii. Another come . .
 - iii. Where will you be when you get where you're going?

5. Dedication:

- a. Such Knowledge is useless if it does not lead us to love and impact- response? Joyful Dedication: A vision becomes a responsibility.
 - i. When you are given a vision, it is a test . . . how should you respond? You now are responsible. Information and knowledge create and lead to accountability. To lead us to LOVE with a pure devotion and service- to lose ourselves and give ourselves to His kingdom and story, in exchange for our much smaller and temporal and vain story
- b. You and I were made by His will for His purpose and pleasure - what fuels this is what He has done, is doing, and will do - was and is and is to come . .
- c. Godliness - A life of devotion to God (fear and love) which results in a life which is pleasing to God (Jerry Bridges)

"I was not disobedient to the vision" (Acts 26:18-20) Deny self, take up cross and follow me

- Our desire is not just to see and hear . . .but to enter into it. But how?
- We now pray, thy kingdom come, thy will be done
- We no longer weep, for we see what is to come!

What are personal obstacles to entering God's open doors? (Eph. 5:15-17)

- a. Ignorance:
- b. Impatience:
- c. Indulgence:
- d. Immaturity:
- e. Inflexible:
- f. Insecurity:
- g. Indifference:
- h. Irresponsibility
- i. Inconsistency

“To all who are weary and need rest; To all who mourn and long for comfort;

To all who fail and need strength; To all who sin and need a Savior;

This church opens wide her doors and her heart with a welcome from Jesus Christ.”

John Newton, Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken:

Savior, if of Zion's city, I through grace a member am

Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name

Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show

Solid Joys and lasting treasure, none by Zion's children know