

Lifted to the Heavenly Throne of God:

John's Unforgettable Revelation

Open your Bibles to Revelation Chapter Four. We'll focus on verses one and two.

Verses one and two say:

After these things, I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.' Immediately, I was in the spirit, and behold, a throne set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.'

God's Throne Room is on the Top Shelf

How often have we praised God for bringing things down to our level? Face it: Jesus brought the gospel down to our level. He broke it down, kept it simple, and made the love of His Father visible to us. In the Old Testament, the concept of God was so complex, but Jesus came down and put a face on God. Yet, how often does the Lord seek to lift us up and raise us to a higher understanding?

The good stuff is always on the top shelf. That's where my mama kept the cookie jar. If you wanted a cookie, you had to become a mountain climber and go for it. And more than once, I did. But that's why Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers in Ephesians 1:17-18:

[T]hat the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Paul prayed for the entire church that we would be enlightened, empowered, and enriched. With this open door and a trumpet call, God extended to John a marvelous invitation to gain insight into the future.

God is going to show John through faith some powerful things. This trumpet sounding here is significant because it symbolizes the point at which the church is removed from the world and taken into heaven, marking the beginning of a

new era of human history. From this point on in the Book of Revelation, there's not a single reference to the church until the very last chapter. Once you get to Chapter Four, it's all about Israel and Jacob's trouble, about God keeping His promise to Abraham. The word 'church' doesn't appear again until the end of the book when the bride of the lamb is mentioned. What John sees in the rest of the Revelation is what the church will see from its heavenly vantage point after being caught up to be with the Lord.

The word 'rapture' means being caught up together, caught up together to be with the Lord in the heavens forever. The first voice called to John, 'Come up here,' and it was not a whisper. It was loud and thunderous. 'Come up here' speaks of higher ground, a greater vantage point, a divine perspective.

King David, during a low point in his life, cried out, 'I will cry to you when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.' Higher. As children of God, our prayer should be, 'Lord, lift us up so that we might see all the good things you've placed on the higher shelf.'

When you're filled with the Holy Spirit, nothing is out of reach in the Kingdom of God.

God's Throne Allays our Concern for the Future

If you're worried about the world and its condition, the situation in Maine or the Gaza Strip, the evening news may offer little comfort. If you're concerned about the future, perplexed about the power of evil, or questioning where God is in all of this, you need to catch a fresh glimpse of what John saw in Revelation Chapter Four.

In Chapter Four, God opened the door, and John stepped through, crossing the threshold of time into the dimension of eternity. It's a divine invitation unlike any other. He finds himself immediately caught up in the spirit, standing in the control center of the entire universe, from the throne room of heaven, where all the visible affairs of the earth are governed. God is in control today. God is on the throne today, and one sits on the throne. It's the One on the throne who gives it authority.

This fact should remind us that God's government transcends all human events. Everything we experience takes place under the shadow of the sovereign throne

of God, despite modern-day thinking. Modern man may not like the idea of cosmic authority, as it implies unchangeable absolutes, higher laws, and an authority they can't ignore.

The authority of God's throne guarantees moral and spiritual values. People today want to be their own moral and spiritual authorities, making their own choices regardless of consequences. They want to invent their own gods, even becoming gods for themselves, and they desire to conduct business without ethical constraints.

God's Throne is Indisputable

But no matter how people resist and rebel, God's sovereign throne remains an indisputable fact of the universe. The operation of His moral law is as sure as the law of gravity, which itself is subject to the authority of God. One day, and I believe that day is coming very soon, God will say to the law of gravity, 'Let my people go,' and we're gone.

All nations can conspire, and the kings of the earth can take their stand against the law and reject the Lord. But the Bible, in Psalms 2, pictures the Lord as being amused at their foolish endeavors and feeble attempts to cast off His authority. It says, 'He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.' It's a great picture of God. I know we don't often think of God laughing, but when God looks down and sees what man is trying to do in rebellion against Him, He just sits back on the throne and chuckles. How foolish. Why? Because He is still in control.

Jeremiah wrote amid the turbulent times and tension of his day in Jeremiah 17:12. He said,

A glorious high throne from the beginning

Is the place of our sanctuary.

So, during our troubled times, America needs to catch a fresh glimpse of His immovable throne and unshakable kingdom. We need a new perspective. The greatest weapon America has in its arsenal, among all the weapons of war, is a simple prayer of repentance. National security begins on our knees. Our humility before God will become our hedge of protection. All He has to do is speak, and He can destroy armies with a single word. He doesn't need to engage in battle

because the victory is already won; it is finished. All He has to do is speak, and His enemies are defeated.

The Throne of God is a Sanctuary

I might be a simpleton, but I agree with Jeremiah. His glorious throne is the place of our sanctuary. The Bible says, 'Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.' You can have all the tanks, planes, and bombs you want, but without the Lord's protection, we are in jeopardy. Thank God for the security we find in Jesus.

Our nation is under attack today, and it's time to return to God. Watch the news; our military is under attack today. It's not going to get any better. We're moving toward Armageddon, and the stage is set. I'm just waiting for Him to stand up, move, and come with a trumpet sound and a shout of the archangel to call us home.

He will say to us, just like He said to John, 'Come up here.' I envision being a child of God, going to heaven, and seeing God on the throne, and He's calling us to sit on His lap.

Such hope this heavenly vision offers as we find ourselves living in extremely uncertain and challenging days. Listen, Jesus isn't lying in a manger, and He's not hanging on a cross. The Jesus of this Bible is sitting on the throne at the right hand of God the Father, and on His crown, there are no thorns because He has triumphed.

Jesus is the victor. He's the winner. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end because the Father has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him a name above every name. That's the God you serve.

As you watch the evening news and hear about the horrible things going on today, rest assured that God is aware. God knows, and He will settle the score. Look again; the tomb is empty. The cross has been vacated. But a throne is established, eternal and unshakeable, fully occupied in heaven. Isaiah said, 'I saw the Lord sitting on a throne. He was high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.' The glory of God was so thick you could cut it with a knife.

Worship Around the Throne

If we catch a glimpse of His glory, our lives will never be the same. We're saved. We're going to heaven, but God wants to transform us into the image of the Lord. The apostles say, 'the very image of God.' It's evident from the Bible that someone sitting on the throne is worthy of unceasing worship. In Revelation 4:8 it says,

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God Almighty,

Who was and is and is to come!"

For You created all things,

And by Your will they exist and were created.

Anytime we commit to spirit-directed worship, we align ourselves with His throne on Earth as it is in heaven. There are moments when we're caught up in the presence of God. His glory fills the place, and it's as if you can hear angels singing along, 'on earth as it is in heaven.' I don't want to have cultural shock. I want God, through His Holy Spirit, to teach me how to worship now so that when I get to heaven, I can jump in.

Please recognize this is personal. As the trumpet spoke to John, the Holy Spirit today calls to us, saying, 'Come up here. Get caught up in the Holy Spirit and enter heartfelt worship.' Verse 11 of chapter four says,

You are worthy, O Lord,

To receive glory and honor and power;

These words should never be repeated mechanically or skimmed over. Heaven is not dull; it's anything but. You won't sit on a cloud playing a tiny harp or getting wings. You'll have something better—a glorified body. Heaven resounds with praise because the inhabitants continually discover new, exciting, and profound aspects of God's wisdom and power. They are continuously inspired and re-inspired.

Is there even a word to magnify the Lord for the wonderful Creator that He is? Verse 11 continues:

For you created all things, and by your will, they exist and were created.'

We praise Him, and heaven praises Him for His tremendous power—not only to create life but to sustain and keep life. Once you were made in His image, there's no end. He'll sustain you not only on Earth but in heaven, eternally. There will be no headaches in heaven, medicine cabinets, or pills—just a glorified body. Heaven has never lost the wonder of who God is. His sheer awesomeness sparks worship around the clock. Day or night, when we arrive in heaven, we'll hear the worship of the saints, creating an incredible atmosphere. To be caught up in the glory of the Lord, recognizing the One sitting on the throne, how could you do anything less than magnify His name?

We Should Worship God on His Throne Now

Everything you do throughout the week that pleases God and glorifies Christ is an act of worship. So don't think your worship ceases when the service is over. Your worship of God is a lifestyle. You don't worship only on Sunday morning but also on Monday morning and all week long as you glorify Him. When God is in the house, and we behold His glory and enthrone Him in our praise, nothing remains the same. Our worship has a spontaneity that no one can program into the order of service. You cannot program God into a Sunday morning worship service because He is sovereign. He moves when He finds hearts open, sincere, humble, and in love with Him.

In heaven, rejoicing in God and worshiping Him, the One on the throne, is the top priority. He is not ignored, overlooked, or secondary. Either God is everything or nothing. Either He is Lord of all or not Lord at all. Is He my Lord? Is He Lord of everything, having my heart 100%? Am I consumed with Him, not just on Sunday morning, but all week long? Christians can't help but sing. When Jesus is in your heart, there's a melody, joy, and peace, even in the darkest moments. God gives a song in the night, no matter how dark it gets. May we get caught up in the spirit, losing ourselves to find Him, to catch a glimpse of Your throne, behold Your glory, and see Jesus Christ for who He truly is. He is the Christ.

Jesus asked Peter, "Who do men say that I am? There's a whole list of opinions out there, and if you ask people today about Jesus, you'll receive various answers, just as the disciples did. But the crucial question is: Who do you say that I am? Peter, always quick to speak out, boldly declared, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Even Jesus raised an eyebrow and responded, 'Peter, this revelation didn't come from mere human understanding but from My Father in heaven.' Recognizing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, is a profound revelation bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit through the name of Jesus.

You don't stumble upon God by chance; it takes divine revelation. Your journey to God has been led by God every step of the way. He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Creator of the universe, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Giver of life, and the Sustainer of all things. Every breath you take is a gift from Him, and He sustains your existence on Earth. John had the privilege of seeing Him seated on the throne, and we have the assurance of His imminent return.

Prepare yourself because Jesus is coming. The signs are unmistakable, and the time is near. When He gathers His bride, it will be an unparalleled moment of reunion. It's an event more special than any earthly wedding. Imagine the joy of seeing your loved ones who have gone before you, and you'll meet them in the air.

So, it's time to loosen your grip on the world and share God's love with others. Spread the message and let your life be a testimony to the power of Christ. If you haven't yet accepted Jesus as your Savior, today is the perfect time to invite Him into your heart. When you do, heaven becomes your eternal home. Your name will be inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life, and in Christ, you become the righteousness of God. This is why heaven resonates with praise, and our hearts should continuously overflow with worship throughout the week.