

Our Father Which Art In Heaven

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. No Study next Wed...July 4th.
- B. Prayer: Prime our hearts, prep are minds.

II. Intro: Our Father Which Art In Heaven

- A. We begin the **3rd part** of Revelation [#1 things you have seen. #2 which are. #3 will take place]
- B. Here's our 1st glimpse of heaven. I picture John having a Go-Pro on his hat and we get to watch on, as he peeks into the throne-room.
 - 1. John depends heavily on *Moses, Ezekiel, Isaiah and Daniel* to describe the wonders he witnessed.
 - 2. Like *Ezekiel and Isaiah*, **John does not attempt to give a precise description of God. Instead, *he describes the overall effect of His glorious presence.**
- C. These next **2 chapters** form 1 scene & will be focusing on **Worship**. Read 5:13.
 - 1. **Worship of God the Father** (ch.4)
 - 2. **Worship of the Redeemer** (ch.5)
- D. Why are these chapters important for us to study?
 - 1. Both chapters will help us on **How to Worship God & How to give Him the Glory He deserves.**
 - 2. Both chapters are for **our Instruction & our Imitation.**
 - a) **Slide2** Screwtape (Pg.49 *Real Worship*) They (humans) have never known that ghastly luminosity, that stabbing and searing glare which makes the background of permanent pain to our lives. If you look into your patient's mind when he is praying, you will not find that! If you examine the object to which he is attending, you will find that it is a composite object containing many quite ridiculous ingredients...But whatever the nature of the composite object, you must keep him praying to it - to the thing that **he has made, not to the Person who has made him.**
- E. **Slide3a** Heaven is a place for Worship. All God's people will Worship for all Eternity.
 - 1. **Maybe we should get in practice now?**
- F. **Worship is** to ascribe **Worth**. Rev.4:11, 5:12 *worthy*.

G. Worship means *to use all that we are & have, to Praise God for all that He is & does.*

Wiersbe

H. Worship is also Wonder.

1. Wonder is *a priceless ingredient* in the life of *any thinking person*.
2. Today with our *information highway* we like everything explained. *We even neglect to admit there are things that cannot be explained.*
3. *We are no longer struck* by the wonder & mystery of God.
4. *We've forgotten to Wonder & have an imagination.*
 - a) Tests show that a child's creativity (which includes *imagination & wonder*) diminishes by **90%** between the ages of **5 & 7**.
 - b) *When an adult gets to be 40, they have about 2% of the creativity they had when they were 5 years old.*

I. Worship

1. **Q:** What is the chief end of man?
A: Man's chief end is to **glorify God** and to **enjoy** Him forever.
2. **Slide3b** To **worship** God is to recognize his *worth or worthiness*; to look Godward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the *value* of what we see.

J. **Slide3c** Glorifying God is a 6-fold activity:¹ J.I. Packer

1. **Lord, you are wonderful.** Praising God for all that He is & all his achievements.
2. **Thank you, Lord.** Thanking him for his gifts and his goodness to us.
3. **Please Lord.** Asking him to meet our own and others' needs.
4. **Take this, Lord.** Offering him our gifts, our service, and ourselves.
5. **Yes, Lord.** Learning of Him from His word & obeying his voice.
6. **Listen everybody.** Telling others of His worth, both by public confession and testimony to what He has done for us.

III. **Slide4 SUMMONED TO HEAVEN (1)**

A. *After these things* (John received this vision *after* the previous one in ch.2,3 of the 7 churches). The word *church* will not appear til **22:1**.

¹ Your Father Loves You by James Packer, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986, page for July 1

- B. **Open Door** - **Note**, was *close door* in last verses (laodicean church).
- C. **Come up here** - Many see this as a *symbolic representation* of the church raptured before the tribulation, *which starts in ch.6*.
- We see:** (1) heaven is opened to receive God's child (2) there is a voice like a trumpet (3) it is a sudden event (4) it comes at the end of the church age (5) it introduces John to the throne room of heaven (6) it signals the beginning of God's judgment on the world. *Warren Wiersbe*
- D. One day we'll see the same door fly open, the trump will sound & we're out-a-here.
- Maybe *the trump* sounding will be *like a dog whistle*, where dogs can hear **but** humans can't.
- E. **Meanwhile**, we can take advantage of the *open doors of worship* we can enjoy down here.

IV. Slide5a **SIGHTS IN HEAVEN (2-8)**

- A. **WORSHIP OF THE ONE ON THE THRONE** (2,3a)
- B. The 1st focal point **wasn't** the gold under his feet, **but the One** on the throne.
- C. **Key word:** *Throne* (sov & power). 46 x's in Rev, 14 x's in ch.4 alone.
- Ps.103:19 *The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.*
 - Remember, no matter what takes place on earth...God is still on the Throne.
- D. Obviously no human words can describe what God is like *in essence*.
- John tries comparisons:**
 - Jasper Stone** - The gems of scripture are hard to be dogmatic about (many stones have different colors).
 - It's a clear gem. *Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.* Rev.21:11
 - It's most likely like our Diamond, not our cheap modern jasper.
 - Sardis Stone** - Its root means *red* (blood red color). *It is our red carnelian.* [mined in Sardis/hence the name].
- E. Slide5b **WORSHIP AROUND THE THRONE** (3b)

F. A RAINBOW (3b)

1. A complete circle **around** the throne.
2. There is only 1 rainbow mentioned in scripture in (Gen.9)
3. Gods benevolent promise/covenant w/man seems to be **ever around him**.
 - a) Ezekiel saw it also, 1:28 *Like the appearance of a **rainbow** in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the **glory** of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.*
4. Usually a rainbow appears **after** a storm, here **before** the storm (vs.5).

G. ELDERS (4)

- H. The rainbow seemed to be around the throne **vertically**, while these **heavenly beings** were around **horizontally** placed.
- I. They're **not** Angels [Angels are never **crowned/stephanos/victors crown**]. **Also**, we never see angels on thrones.
- J. 24? - Some see as the *24 courses of priests* in the OT (1 Chron. 24:3-18).
 1. Others believe they represent 12 tribes of Israel & 12 Apostles (the completion of Gods people/**Jews & Gentiles**).
 - a) Mt.19:28 *Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, **you who have followed Me** (apostles) **will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

K. LIVING CREATURES (6,7)

- L. They resemble the **Cherubim** like Ezekiel saw. Ez.1:4-14 (only 4 wings). 10:20-22.
- M. They resemble the **Seraphim** in their Praise. Is.6:1-3
- N. **Full of eyes** - probably symbolically suggests unceasing vigilance.
- O. These creatures could represent **all** of God's creation praising their creator.
 1. Gen.9 *context is the rainbow* [see the 4 faces in 9:8-10. **Noah/face of man. Birds/flying eagle. Cattle/calf. Beast/lion**]
 2. Vs.8-10 *Then God spoke to **Noah** and to his sons with him, saying: 9 "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with **you**: the **birds**, the*

cattle, and every beast of the earth.

P. Slide5c WORSHIP **OUT OF** THE THRONE (5a)

Q. STORM SIGNALS

1. **Lightening & thunder** let's us know storms are coming.
2. Our world doesn't like to think of God as a **God of judgment**. They prefer to look at **the rainbow around the throne & ignore the Lightening & Thunder out of the throne**.
3. We see this combo in God (judgment & mercy) at the cross. **God manifested His love for sinners & His wrath against sin.**

R. Slide5d WORSHIP **BEFORE** THE THRONE (5b,6a)

S. (5b) **7 lamps** = 7 Spirits of God (Is.11:2)

T. (6a) **Sea of glass** - poss. the bronze laver? **Was used for cleansing the priests/hands & feet.**

1. So it's possible this Laver in heaven is symbolic of Christs cleansing.

U. Slide6 Heb.9:23,24 **Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.**

V. Slide7 EARTHLY TEMPLE

HEAVENLY TEMPLE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Holy of Holies | The Throne of God |
| 2. 7 branched candlestick | 7 lamps of fire before the throne |
| 3. Bronze Laver | Sea of Glass |
| 4. Cherubim over Mercy seat | 4 Living Creatures around the throne |
| 5. Priests | Elders (are a kingdom of priests) |
| 6. Brazen Altar | Altar in Rev.6:9-11 |
| 7. Incense Altar | Incense Altar Rev.8:3-5 |
| 8. Ark of the Covenant | Ark of the Covenant Rev.11:19 |

W. (8) **Holy, holy, holy** - this echoes the song of the *Seraphim* in Is.6:2,3.

X. **Blaise Pascal** observed *that the people who have the greatest influence in shaping the hearts and minds of any generation are not the folks who write the laws, but those who write the songs.*

1. **Plato** observed, *Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten.*

V. Slide8 **SONG OF HEAVEN (9-11)**

A. **PRAISE TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE (9-11)**

B. The book of Revelation is filled with **Praise**.

C. Whenever the Living Creatures Glorified God, the Elders would fall down & Praise Him.

1. Showing us that worship should be contagious.

D. (10) **Casting crowns** - the 24 elders, though *wearing* crowns, *realize the ultimate source of their power* - God Himself, the Great King.

E. (11) **You are worthy - You created - Your will.**

F. (9,11) **Glory** - *How much does glory weigh?* What an odd question! That is, until we learn that the OT word for **glory** is *kabod*, which has a primitive root meaning *heavy*.

1. Used in a negative sense, something weighty is something *burdensome*.

2. Used in a positive sense, such heaviness means *wealth and honor*.

Weighty issues are important ones.

G. **The Living Creatures** then could *represent all God's creation Praising their creator. And The Elders representing God's people Worshiping Him.*

H. **Prayer:** Lord, help me to wonder again as a child. *Deliver me from routine worship, business as usual. Let my Worship be ever new, ever fresh, ever more.*