

Worship is Worth-Ship

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Rev 4:1-11

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Synopsis:

Why do we worship?

What are we doing when we worship?

These are the topics in the DE chapter on Worship and in the two texts we look at today and next week.

But before we get to worship I want to ask you a seemingly unrelated question:

Would you like to know how your life/our life is going to end?

How would this help you to live now?

The answer has to do with worship.

I.

A Vision is a Picture

Rev 4:1 “Come up here and I will show you”

Let me paint you a picture: “I will show you”

Narnia: through a wardrobe

Wizard of Oz: not Kansas anymore

Lord of the Rings

What do these have in common? Use fantasy, symbols, and characters we know to make a point about life now.

It takes two worlds to make sense of one.

About the end of all things: “What *must* take place” (4:1)

Determined end of life

Know the end before we begin

E.g. Movie, book, from the end

*Revelation is a *picture* of the *end* of all things, which helps us live *now*.

E.g. Phil 2:5-11, a poem about the end which helps us live now.

II.

What Picture Does Revelation Paint?

Rev 4: "There in heaven stood a throne"

Let me paint a picture using images you will understand:

Beach, waves, skyscrapers, cars, planes

Imagine time travel = would 1st century people understand? No

Let me paint a picture using images they understand:

Throne, 24 elders, 4 creatures, sea

What do these symbolize?

Imagine time travel = would we understand? No

Use temple, king, Isa 6, Ezek 1, Gen 1

Heaven = God's perspective

E.g. altitude in a plane "up here" vs. "down there" (ch 1-3)

Throne = rule

Monarchy

E.g. Oval Office with ___?___ in chair

24 Elders on chairs with crowns =

angels

heavenly council, 24 hours?

12 x 2 (OT and NT) = tribes and apostles

Group of ruling people

E.g. Picture of Congress doing something good

4 Creatures = whole cosmos

Cherubim on ark (1Sam 4:4) wind moving

Ezek 1 = creatures, moving,

4 winds, 4 corners of earth

E.g. Picture of Planets

Sea = chaos

Gen 1 chaos

Tiamat, Rahab, Leviathan in ANE

Here quiet and beautiful

E.g. Picture of Katrina after restoration

This is the vision, the who of the story. But what are these characters doing, the what of the story?

III.

What Do The Characters Do?

Rev 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory”

A Worship Service: Paint a picture

- Singing, incense, bowing
- Joy later (determined end)

A Worship Service Before a Battle: Light and Darkness

- Evil, fighting, etc.
- Trouble now (ch 1-3)

Summary: If the end of all things is a worship service, and between now and then there is a battle between light and darkness, how are we to live now?

Praise:

practice praising vs complaining

Give:

practice stewardship vs consumption

Learn:

read Scripture/Script and become a disciple

Proclaim:

tell others so they can reorient their lives

Rule:

help establish God’s rule on earth out there