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Valley Church

January 4 & 7, 2024
Week 11 – The Worship of Heaven (Rev. 4:1-11)

Introduction:

Revelation 4:1-11

(Parallel Passages include Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 10)

Crowns in Heaven?

Romans 14:10 & 2 Corinthians 5:10 use the term BEMA (Greek)

- Believers promised various “crowns” in relation to the fruit of their lives (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12)
- Jesus & Apostles talked about storing up treasure in heaven based upon faithfulness to Christ and His teachings (Matt. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:4)
- Promise of being told, “Well done, good and faithful servant” is somehow related to how we live on earth (Matt. 5:21; Luke 19:17; 1 Cor. 4:5b)
- Special promises given to believers who are described as “overcomers” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26)
- Promise of special responsibility and authority in the future Kingdom given based upon faithfulness (Matt. 19:28; 24:45-47; 25:21, 23; Luke 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rev. 2:26)

Four Responses to the Scene of God's Throne

1. Never under-estimate the eternal significance of your earthly _____.
2. Always remember that you were created as a _____.
(See Galatians 5:17 – flesh vs. Spirit)
3. Never forget that every day is a new opportunity to bring glory to the name of _____.
4. Never forget there is far less disconnect between earth and heaven than you _____.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. Reading Biblical descriptions of Heaven contrasted with pop-cultural ideas can present a big disconnect! What were some of your early understandings about Heaven that have morphed as you've grown in your faith and knowledge of the Bible? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Revelation 4:1-11 presents a vivid vision of the Heavenly throne room of God. What are your initial thoughts or feelings about this imagery? How does it speak to you personally? Discuss...
3. In the passage, the throne of God is very central. What does the throne mean or symbolize, and how does its description impact your understanding of God's nature?
4. The beings around the throne (angelic beings, 24 elders, etc.) continually worship God with the words, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come..." What does this tell us about the nature of worship in Heaven, and how can it inform our worship here on earth?
5. In the weekend message, did the discuss of the BEMA (judgment seat) of Christ as a place of rewards (without punishment) make sense to you? How is it possible that salvation is a free gift, but "crowns" or rewards are still given? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. Considering the majesty and awe described in this chapter, how does the vision of God's throne room affect your personal walk of faith? Does it impact your perspective about your daily life and decisions?
7. This vision offers a glimpse into eternity. Keeping in mind that this is only one of many glimpses of heaven offered in Scripture, how does it affect your thoughts about Heaven and eternal life? Discuss...