

Revelation

How Worship Changes Us

Revelation 4:1-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / October 4, 2026

I. Where You Look Most Will Determine What You Feel Most

Revelation 4 and **5** are like two jumbotrons that show us who God is and what He's done.

The main character of the Bible is Jesus and the big theme of the Bible is redemption. Both come into full view in **Revelation 4-5**. It's a symphony of redemption, in the key of Christ, to the glory of God the Father throughout all ages!

A. Jesus Commands Us to See More!

Revelation 4:1-2 "After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven..."

Jesus uses the verb "behold" two times, and it's in the imperative tense because Jesus is not making a suggestion; He's giving a command. Look! Don't miss it!

The command to "look" or "behold" is the most frequent command in the book of Revelation. Because until you obey the command to look, you won't be able to obey any of the other commands to "fear not," to "hold fast," and to "persevere."

Forming a regular habit of beholding who He is and what He's done is the only thing that enables you to obey all the other commands in this book.

Each one of us has to choose every day where we're going to focus.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV) "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

B. Jesus Doesn't Just Want to Save You... He Wants to Show You What's Really Going On

Revelation 4:1 "After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven!..."

V. 1 is talking about a door "standing open in heaven" because the same Jesus who opens a door of opportunity for us to get in on what He's doing here in our world, also wants us to get in on what's happening day and night in that throne room that we cannot see!

After you've seen what's happening for you in that throne room, it changes how you see what's happening around you.

“Very often when I’ve left a place of worship the first impression I have of the ‘outside world’ is how small it is – how puny its politics, paltry its appetites, squint-eyed its interests. I’ve just spent an hour or so with friends reorienting myself in the realities of the world – the huge sweep of salvation and the minute particularities of holiness... But after a few hours or days, I find myself getting used to and going along with its assumptions since most of the politicians and journalists, artists and entertainers, stockbrokers and shoppers seem to assume that this is the real world. And then Sunday comes around [or I do my morning Bible reading]... and I get it straight again, see it whole. Every call to worship is a call into the Real World.”

- Eugene H. Peterson, *The Wisdom of Each Other*

When you choose to worship Him and praise Him even when you’re not feeling it, that is not hypocrisy, that’s maturity, because our feelings can be great liars.

You don’t want to live life restricted or dictated by your feelings. You want to live your life by the truth of God’s Word. If Christians only worshipped when they felt like it, there wouldn’t be much worship going on.

You can worship your way into a new feeling because worship is an act and a choice that creates a new feeling for God.

II. Who You See First Will Determine What You’ll Do Next

Revelation 4:1 “...and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Jesus says He’s going show you some of the things that are about to happen next. In fact, they must happen because God has determined it. He’s the one in control of history!

But then **Revelation 4-7** are a massive worship interlude of what’s happening in that throne room before He begins to roll out in **Ch. 8** what’s about to happen here on earth, because if you are not overwhelmed by what’s happening in that throne room, you will be overwhelmed by what’s about to happen here on earth.

Read all of Revelation, but don’t obsess over the monsters in it. Obsess and revel in these breathtaking worship scenes that are strategically placed all through this book!

Revelation was meant to put calamities, wars, political tyrants, and persecution in perspective! The way you do that is you frame it up with something bigger - worship. And frame it up with someone greater - Jesus - who lived, died, rose again, and is coming back for us!

A. You’ll Need to See that God Is on His Throne

The word “throne” is used **47x** in the book of Revelation because it reminds us that God has the seat of authority and power. There is someone in control and He is seated. He’s not standing, thrashing, scurrying, or frantic. He is securely seated on His throne.

The throne of this universe is occupied and not up for grabs. There has not been a coup and the powers of chaos and evil have not taken over! The One who sits on that throne is sovereign, almighty, holy, and is someone good who keeps His promises.

B. You’ll Need to See that God Is Holy and Just

Revelation 4:8 “And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’”

C. You’ll Need to See How God Keeps His Promises

Revelation 4:3 “And He who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.”

The rainbow symbolizes faithfulness. In Genesis, God put a rainbow in the sky to make a promise that He would never destroy the world again with a flood.

As furious as God’s wrath will be later in this book, and as fearsome as the scene will become in the following chapters, this rainbow never ceases to surround His throne because He is faithful to keep His promise and show mercy to those who turn to Him.

Homework

For the next 30 days, soak in each of the following “Big God” chapters first each day before you look at your phone or scroll through your newsfeed.

Job 26:7-14

Revelation 4 & 5

Revelation 19

Job 38-42

Revelation 7

Revelation 21 & 22

Isaiah 40

Revelation 15