

## **Revelation: The Triumph of the Lamb**

Behold Your God (4-5)

*The Business of Heaven*

4:1-11

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Revelation 4-5 unveil for us what is the business of heaven.

I ask you: What is the business of heaven?

### **WORSHIP**

There are 5 praise passages listed in these 2 chapters that are sung by the inhabitants of heaven.

Chapters 4-5 are programmatic to the whole book. As the apocalyptic drama unfolds in chps. 6-22 you will see a carefully devised plan. The place of chs 4-5 is that the location of that carefully devised plan is none other than the throne room of heaven. Everything that will happen in Revelation's drama flows from this one throne.

Ch 4 sets the stage for the drama

Ch 5 will describe the purpose of the drama

Chs 6-22 will unfold the drama in several acts.

The first and all-important part for understanding this book is to first understand who the main character is. You are going to meet a dragon, a harlot, a beast, several angels, a bride; but none of these are the drama's central figure. Ch. 4 introduces the central figure **BEHOLD YOUR GOD**.

1. The Ineffable God (vv. 2-3)  
Indescribable
2. The Unapproachable God (vv. 4-6)
  - a. Separated from us by row after row of heavenly beings.
  - b. From his throne come lightning and peals of thunder. He is "awesome" – terrifying.
  - c. Before him is a great gulf fixed – "sea of crystal" – representing the Fallen order and all things evil, chaotic, and tumultuous.
3. The God Who Reigns (vv. 6b-7)  
Standard Roman symbolism to have thrones set of pillars with the head of an animal engraved in the pillars. Here the throne of God rests on the backs of these four pillars depicting his rulership.
  - a. Lion – Royalty (King of the beasts)
  - b. Ox – Strength (the Egyptian God, Aepos – bull)
  - c. Man – Intelligence
  - d. Eagle – Providential (protective care; cf. Exod. 19:4).
4. The God of Asceity (v. 8)  
This is another of the old theological words. It is a Latin word which means "from himself." It describes the self-sufficiency of God with three attributes.
  - a. His holiness – set apart only for God and his useage.
  - b. His omnipotence

c. His eternality

God is self-contained.

5. The Worthy God (vv.9-11)

What are the things that we most naturally give thanks for? What would the angels in heaven thank God for?

a. First they thank God for who he is.

b. Second, they thank God for what he has done – his act of creation.

God is to be seen first for who He is and then for what He does, starting first with his work of creation, then moving forward, to his work of redemption.

Before you come to the great truths of ch. 5 full of God's graciousness and his provision, you have to come to grips with the fact that God is God.

God is transcendent ;

He is not like us;

He is distant from us;

He is not easily approachable;

He is, in fact, awesome, and frankly, terrifying.

He is not dependent upon us;

He is the God of asceity (He was, he is, and is to come);

He is the Almighty. – D.A. Carson

And He is the very God who made you.

The doctrine of creation is the heart of our responsibility to God.

All things owe him their obeisance, allegiance and worship because he is their maker.

Not to see this is the heart of all sin. – D.A. Carson