

The Throne Room Of Heaven

Revelation 4:1-11

MEMORY VERSE

REVELATION 4:11

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough construction paper to have two sheets for each child in your class, markers, scissors and a stapler.

ATTENTION GETTER!

What “Didn’t” God Make?

Have the children sit in a circle and ask them if they can think of anything that God did not make. They may come up with some things that God didn’t “directly” make. What you will want to do is for everything they say that God didn’t make trace all of the parts of it back to their materials or origins (ultimately creation). What we will find is that God made everything and should be praised.

Here’s an example: A child might say “car.” You can trace all of the parts of a car back to their original source, which was created by God. Tires come from rubber, which come from rubber trees, which was created by God. Metal comes from the earth (a mineral) which was created by God. Plastic comes from oil which is drilled from the earth which was created by God. Ultimately everything can be traced back to creation.

A variation could be to play “I Spy Something God Made.” What this activity will do is show that **God is awesome and should be praised.**

LESSON TIME!

Beginning in chapter four we see a glimpse of the throne room in heaven. John was writing about the seven different churches and begins to write about “things to come.” He is talking about the future. These things have yet to happen. It is exciting to see what God has in store for His people, but it is also sad to see what will happen to those who don’t want anything to do with the Lord. That is why it is so important to share the good news of Jesus with as many people as we can.

One of the greatest things that we see in this lesson is how great our God is. It is incredible to even imagine what heaven will be like and what it will be like to see Jesus face to face. The thing that we continue to see is that there is constant worship and praise to the Lord because of how great He is. That is our theme for today’s lesson; **God is awesome and should be praised.**

REVELATION 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

When John starts out this passage of scripture with “After these things...” he is referring to all the things that came before in chapters 1, 2 and 3. In verse 1, John explains that he saw a vision of the heavenly throne, “I looked and behold, a door standing open in heaven.” This vision was after he heard the revelation of the messages to the church. John also heard a voice inviting him saying, “Come up here and I will show you things that must take place after this.”

In chapters 2 and 3 we learned about Jesus’ message to the churches. But after chapter 3 we don’t hear about the church anymore. This is because the church will be removed from the earth in an event called the “rapture.” What this means is “to be caught up.” The Bible teaches that there will be a time when Jesus will return and the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be “caught up” together with them in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Jesus has promised to return for His people, the church. There will be some very hard times that will come upon the earth, but Jesus is going to keep His people from them. So John being “caught up” into heaven is a picture of what will take place in the last days. **God is awesome and should be praised.**

REVELATION 4:2, 3

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

John moves on to say that he was immediately in the Spirit. He saw in heaven a great throne with one sitting on it that has the appearance of Jasper and Sardius (the Sardius was a precious stone like a ruby). John says that the throne's overall appearance was one of great beauty and color and was enhanced by a rainbow that looked like an emerald.

John hasn't even finished telling us the rest of his vision and yet the description of what he is seeing is so wonderful. We can't even picture in our minds the true beauty that awaits us in heaven. Who God is and what He has prepared for us is so incredible that no doubt we will join the heavenly host in saying "You are worthy O Lord to receive glory and honor and power." **God is awesome and should be praised.**

REVELATION 4:4, 5

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

John tells us that around the throne were 24 lesser thrones and on them were seated 24 elders. They were dressed in white and were wearing gold crowns on their heads. He goes on in verse 5 to tell us that in addition to this impressive scene of heaven he also says that from the throne proceeded lightning, thundering and voices.

John also saw seven lamps of fire burning before the throne; the seven lamps probably represent the Holy Spirit.

We don't really know who the 24 elders are. Some have said it may be the 12 tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles (with possibly Paul replacing Judas). No one really knows, but the thrones represent authority or ruling. They serve in a special capacity in heaven. And as we find out a little further one of their main purposes is to continually worship the Lord and acknowledge His greatness by casting their crowns before His throne. **God is awesome and should be praised.**

Fall Down and Worship

Talk about opposites with your class. Say some words and ask them to give you some opposites for the words. For example, if you say "good," the children should say "bad" because these are opposites. The following are some words you can use. You can add more if you like; up/down, wide/narrow, rotten/fresh. It is very important though to end with the word "proud." The children should come up with the word "humble." They may need some coaching.

Next, ask them to demonstrate proud and humble...see if they demonstrate "high up" and "low to the ground." If not, when they are done you can present these two contrasting physical pictures of proud and humble. Then re-read the verse about the elders falling down before the throne and how that showed their humility before the Lord.

REVELATION 4:6-8

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

Next, John tells us that a sea of glass clear as crystal was before the throne and reflected all the brilliant colors of the entire heavenly scene. Some have said that this sea of glass may represent a sea of people, all saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, giving praise to the Lord.

In the center of the picture the four living creatures were compared to a lion, an ox, a man, and a flying eagle. Each of the creatures had six wings and were covered with eyes all around. They were said to be continually praising God as the Holy, Almighty and Eternal One who was, is, and is to come.

There are different interpretations given for who or what the four living creatures represent. Some say that they could represent the attributes or character of God including His omniscience and omnipresence. The lion would indicate His majesty, the ox is typical of faithful labor and patience, a man might indicate intelligence, and the eagle represents supreme sovereignty.

Another view is that they represent Christ as revealed in the four gospels. In Matthew He is portrayed as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. In Mark the ox as the servant, in Luke the incarnate human Jesus and in John the eagle as the Son of God.

We may not know exactly who the four living creatures are, but we do know that the four living creatures worshipped the Lord day and night without resting, saying, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come!" Their purpose was for worship. How important worship is in our relationship with the Lord. **God is awesome and should be praised.**

REVELATION 4:9-11

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

John tells us that whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to God that the 24 elders also fall down to worship Him. They all acknowledge that He (God) is the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe. They also leave their crowns before the throne giving Him all the glory.

The Bible talks about different crowns that we can have as we are faithful to the Lord. But it is interesting that the crowns, the very thing that was probably the most important to the 24 elders, were no longer desired; they cast them back before Jesus. What we realize is that anything that we ever receive or have in this life is only because

He has given it to us. He has given us all things and to understand that only makes us want to give everything back to Him.

Worship of the Lord is very important. As you have the opportunity to worship the Lord in church or at home, think about what it will be like one day in the very throne room of the Lord. But even though we don't "see" all of these things now, the Lord promises that we can boldly enter His throne room and worship anytime that we want to. He has given us His Holy Spirit, so we can always be in the presence of God and sing unto Him:

"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"

God is awesome and should be praised.

Revelation Crowns

You will need two sheets of construction paper for each child. Depending on the age of your children either have a pattern drawn for a crown or allow the children to draw their own crown. Use about half of the two sheets of the construction paper (horizontally). After drawing your crown pattern cut out the crown from each sheet of construction paper.

Next, measure the crown around the child's head. You can cut off any excess. Then you can staple one end together to make a strip. Next, allow the children or assist them in writing the memory verse (Revelation 4:11, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power").

After writing the verse, staple the remaining ends to form a crown. Have the children gather together and think of at least one thing that they can praise the Lord for.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and adoration for who the Lord is. Express your thanks as you begin to see and understand His glory. "Lord, help us to be watching, waiting and ready for your return. We can't wait to see you face to face." If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.