

Sunday, December 7, 2025

## Honor GOD

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**Revelation 4:1-11** After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had 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, with one seated on the throne. **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. **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. **5** From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, **6** and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: **7** the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. **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!”

**9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,

to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.”

- The Word HONOR is both a noun and a verb...
  - Noun
    - 1 high respect; great esteem:
    - 2 adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct:
    - 3 something regarded as a rare opportunity and bringing pride and pleasure; a privilege:
  - Verb
    - 1 regard with great respect:
    - 2 fulfill (an obligation) or keep (an agreement):

- All these definitions can be synthesized into the following working definition from the book "Honor Intelligence" by Bryan Meadows and Tiffany Buckner: **"Honor is the proper placement of value, recognition, celebration, and sacrifice."**
- Launching from this working definition, we must assert that the only way to give honor truly is to do so from a place of proper understanding.
- **We cannot honor something we do not understand, and we cannot understand something that we do not receive revelation of. Hence, the need for Revelation.**
- Throughout the annals of time, we have celebrated the apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, for penning this most vivid revelation. There is no other book of scripture that is more revered, debated, and often ignored.
- But why? Could it be that John's revelation is too complex, contradictory, or controversial for the believer to navigate through?
- I think not. This revelation is not about John centrally, but rather about the one revealing it to him. This book is not the Revelation of John, but rather the Revelation of Jesus Christ ( Rev. 1:1).
- Jesus made this revelation to John in particular because he loved him dearly and wanted him to have a deeper, fuller understanding of who he is, so that he could honor God properly and spread the message.
- You see, John knew him as a rabbi, a teacher, a healer, and even a Messiah. But he had yet to know him as the lion of the tribe of Judah, the Alpha and Omega, not just the king of the Jews, but the king of the universe. We see Jesus giving a more profound revelation of who he is in his universal context, not just his personal context. And it is from this thought that we lift the single primary point of this message: **we must honor God, and to do so correctly, we must daily seek to know Him.**
- According to the Westminster catechism, which was derived from the very teachings of Thomas Aquinas, **"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."**
- The tension is, however, that you cannot honor, glorify, or enjoy a God that you do not know...and this is one of the enemy's chief strategies against the church of Jesus Christ.
- We can read about him, preach about him, sing about him, teach about him, even quote him, but don't get to know him...this is why the enemy has put social, theological, and even geopolitical barricades around this book of Revelation. Because Satan knows that, should the believer persevere, they will enter into a more profound revelation and understanding of the fullness of God, and will have no choice but to honor him with all their being.
- This is the whole impetus behind Jesus giving John such a vivid, complex, and eternal revelation. He wanted to ensure that John would know him, love him, serve him, and worship him forever.
- Jesus is extending the same invitation to all of us today; **if we would but endeavor to know him, our natural response will be to honor him.**
- Like John, we all have the propensity to worship the wrong things from time to time; however, we have a final instruction from the book of Revelation that should guide us for the rest of our lives...**Revelation 22:8-9 esv 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."**