**FOCUS** in 2020

January 26, 2020

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**REVELATION**

***From Weeping to Worship –*** Revelation 4-5

Praise the **Lord**

Cheer the **Saints**

Detest the **Beast**

Long for the Final **Victory**

*Behold,* ***I stand at the door and knock.*** *If anyone hears my voice and* ***opens the door****, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers,* ***I will grant him to sit with me on my throne****, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.* Revelation 3:20-21

An invitation to experience God in the **present** as we **prepare** to be with him in the **future**.

The God of your **future** can be become the Lord of your **present**.

***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****.”* Revelation 4:1

*Oh,* ***taste*** *and* ***see*** *that* ***the Lord is good****! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!* Psalm 34:8

**Heaven** is a **feast** prepared for you.

Every time you **worship,** you get a **taste** of heaven.

*At once I was in the Spirit, and* ***behold, a throne stood in heaven****, with one seated on the throne. 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.* Revelation 4:2-3

**A Throne** – this is found **43 times in Revelation from chapter 4 to the end of the book** and the key to understanding Revelation … God rules, reigns and restores.

*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. 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****, and before the throne there was as it were* ***a sea of glass, like crystal****.* Revelation 4:4-6a

*And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are* ***four living creatures****, full of eyes in front and behind: 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.* Revelation 4:6b-7

These four living creatures are mentioned **14 times in Revelation** …

worship is important in heaven.

*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****!”* Revelation 4:8

**Worship** is our **response** to a perfect, holy, creator God.

* A**ttention**
* A**doration**
* A**ffection**
* A**llegiance**

*And whenever the living creatures* ***give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne****, who lives forever and ever, 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 …* Revelation 4:9-10

*“****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.”* Revelation 4:11

***Then I saw*** *in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back,* ***sealed with seven seals****. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “****Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?****” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and* ***I began to weep loudly*** *because* ***no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it****.* Revelation 5:1-4

**Why was John weeping?**

*And one of the elders said to me, “****Weep no more****; behold,* ***the Lion of the tribe of Judah****, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”* Revelation 5:5

**Behold**, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has **conquered** … so you turn, you look up, you wipe away the tears and look around for the lion, the conqueror, the king. You are expecting grandeur … what do you see?

*And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders* ***I saw a Lamb standing****,* ***as though it had been slain****, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

**Seven horns** – perfect power. **Seven eyes** – perfect wisdom – all powerful, all knowing …

*And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll****, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb****, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And* ***they sang a new song****, saying, “****Worthy are you*** *to take the scroll and to open its seals,* ***for you were slain****, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a* ***kingdom*** *and* ***priests*** *to our God, and* ***they shall reign on the earth****.”* Revelation 5:6-10

Our **weeping** turns to **worship** when we know we are **included**.

We worship **Jesus** because He is **worthy** of our worship.

*Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “****Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing****!”* Revelation 5:11-12

We move from **observation** to **participation ...** from **observer** to **participant**.

*And I heard* ***every creature*** *in* ***heaven*** *and on* ***earth*** *and* ***under the earth*** *and in the* ***sea****, and all that is in them, saying, “****To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever****!” And the four living creatures said, “****Amen****!” and* ***the elders fell down and worshiped****.* Revelation 5:13-14

Our **worship** of God impacts our capacity to **persevere** in this life.