

COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Verse 19 of chapter one reveals the message of Revelation as divided into three parts – the things which you have seen, the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter.
 - 1. The things which thou hast seen are the view of God in all His glory. Rev. 1:4-18 and possibly an enlargement in chapters 4 and 5.
 - 2. The things which are evidently speak of the whole of the Church Age as revealed in chapters 2 and 3. This view ends with Jesus being forced out of Christianity. God is then through with the church as His witness to the world.
 - 3. Chapters 4-22 reveal the things which are yet to come.
- B. It seems that chapters 4 and 5 give a view of God's Command Headquarters for the last great battle of the war for control of God's creation.
- C. It does no harm to the interpretation to set forth chapters 4 and 5 as an enlargement of chapter 1 on "the things which thou hast seen."
- D. What is seen in chapter 4 God showed to Moses on Mount Sinai. Hebrews 8:5 and 9:23 record God having shown Moses the heavenlies to use as a pattern for building the tabernacle and arranging the furniture and personal that all would focus on the Holy of Holies, Gods abode on earth.
- E. Also, Ezekiel 1:4-28 and Isaiah 6:1-5 both gave us a view of God's creatures waiting on Him around His throne. These two sections of Scripture seem to be a like view of Revelation 4:6-11.
- F. It seems that verse 1 records God calling John to come up and view His Command Headquarters – where the battle plans would be formulated and from where orders would be issued and personal would be sent forth to fight.
- G. What are some lessons to learned from all this?

I. LEARN THAT WE ARE GIVEN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE CONCERNING GOD AND HIS CREATURES.

- A. Verses 2 and 3 reveal God upon His throne.
- B. The remaining verses reveal created beings in differing appearances and activities; but all centering on one primary concern – worship of the One on the throne.
- C. We mortals would all do well to learn that worship of our God is the primary activity God desires of us – in work, in play, in all we do each day of our lives.

II. LEARN OF GOD'S GLORIOUS PRESENCE.

- A. No man has seen God at any time.
- B. As men in visions past recorded their views, the mystery of His glorious presence deepens.
 - 1. Moses at the burning bush
 - 2. Ezekiel 1:26-28
 - 3. Isaiah 6:1-5
- C. Revelation 4:11

III. LEARN SOMETHING OF THE MYSTERY OF HIS ATTENDING CREATURES.

- A. The 24 elders and the four living creatures all seem to be a part of a spiritual entourage created to wait upon their Creator.
- B. Many teach that the 24 elders are symbolic of the glorified church brought into heaven to escape the tribulation to follow. They point out the language of verses 9 and 10 of chapter 5 as proof. The King James translation is one of a very few that use this language. The vast majority translate verse 9 *“for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us (men) to God”* verse 10 *“And hast made us (them) unto God kings and priests: and we (they) shall reign on the earth.”*
- C. Hebrews 7:5 Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount. The all things included the personnel as well as the building and the furniture. All these we see in Revelation chapter 4 were included in what God showed Moses.

IV. LEARN THAT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

- A. Verse 3 reveals the throne of God circled by the rain bow. At best we never see more than half of a rainbow. Here the whole bow is seen.
- B. More than 4,000 years have passed since God promised man that He would never again destroy the earth with water. Genesis 9:13-17.
- C. Now as God again prepares to judge the whole human race, He shows us the proof of His keeping His promises.
- D. Many Scriptures contain God’s promise to bring destruction upon His creation and in connection deal with each individual.
- E. Lost sinner, back-sliden child of God, the end is coming soon; How do you want to face Jesus? Better make ready, He is soon to come.

V. LEARN WHAT IS MAN’S PRIMARY OCCUPATION.

- A. Verses 8-11 reveal the sinless creatures of heaven engaged in worshipping their Creator who sits upon His throne. That is true also of the creatures we viewed in Ezekiel and Isaiah.
- B. A great lesson is here for us to learn – whatever we do and the way we do it should be designed so as to recognize God in our doing.
- A. Nothing will help control our actions, our going and our speech as much as our knowing that God is present and our dedication to pleasing Him.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. The end time is fast approaching, are you ready to meet all that is coming upon the earth?
- B. If you are yet lost, you need now to ask God to forgive you of your sin and trust the saving of your soul to Jesus Christ.
- C. If you are saved and know that your life is not pleasing to God, now is the time to ask God’s forgiveness and begin living for Jesus.