

Sermon Guide - Sunday, September 6, 2026

Current Series: The Revelation

The Antichrist. Armageddon. The Beast. 666. For centuries, the book of Revelation has fascinated, frightened, and confused Christians, but what if we've been so focused on decoding its mysteries that we've missed its main message? *The Revelation* is a 3-month journey through the Bible's final book, exploring its controversial prophecies, warnings to the Church, and breathtaking vision of the future. Along the way, we'll separate Scripture from speculation and discover that Revelation wasn't written just to make us afraid of what's coming. It was written to reveal **Jesus Christ** - the King who reigns over all other powers, the Lamb who conquers evil, and the Savior who promises that pain, death, and darkness won't have the last word. **The future belongs to Jesus, and that should change how we live right now.**

Today's Message: Part 4 - Thrones and Crowns

What does *worship* mean to you? How do you express your *worship*?

Revelation 1:19 - "Write, therefore, what you have seen, *what is now* and *what will take place later...*"

Revelation 4:1 - After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

What do we know about the circumstances that John was facing when he wrote *Revelation*?

When was the last time you remember feeling like nothing makes sense and life is meaningless? What made you feel that way?

Revelation 4:2 - At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

What was the original meaning of the word "throne"? Why did it become a symbol of royal power and authority?



Throne of Charlemagne (8th Cent.)



King Edward's Chair (14th Cent.)



Throne of King Tut (c. 14th Cent BC)



St. Peter's Chair (6th Century)

What is the significance of there being a throne in Heaven?

3 THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN'S THRONE

1. WHO _____ THE THRONE?

Revelation 4:3 - And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

How did John describe the one who sat on the throne? Why did he use such elaborate and figurative language?

What is the significance of the rainbow encircling the throne?

Ezekiel 1:28 - Like ... a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

Why should it be a source of comfort and relief for us to know that God sits on a throne above all thrones?

3 THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN'S THRONE

2. WHO IS _____ THE THRONE?

Revelation 4:4-8 - Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings.

Who were the 24 elders?

What did the lightning and thunder represent?

What is the meaning of the seven spirits of God?

And what about those four living creatures?

What is the important takeaway from all of this supernatural imagery?

How does John's description of God and the throne challenge the common, comfortable idea that God is simply *the man upstairs*?

How does the idea of an "uncomfortably big" God on the throne bring us real comfort in the trenches of everyday life?

3 THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN'S THRONE

3. WHAT IS _____ THE THRONE?

Rev. 4:8-9 - Day and night they never stop saying: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.*" Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and 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.

What did the four mysterious creatures give to the One who sits on the throne? What did the elders offer Him?

Rev. 4:10-11 - They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

What did the elders' crowns represent? What was the significance of them laying their crowns before the throne?

If you had a crown - a symbol of your wins and achievements in this life and/or the gifts that God has given you - what would it really mean for you to "lay your crown" before the throne of God?

What words would you use to describe the kind of worship described in Revelation 4? How does it differ from the sort of worship most Christians are accustomed to today? What keeps us from worshipping more like those who surrounded God's heavenly throne?

Think of one way that you can worship the Lord differently to give the King what He deserves.

Your Notes: