

Church Street church of Christ Newsletter

10 Church St. Bayswater VIC 3153

03 9729 6034

www.churchstreetcoc.org.au

Issue Number 427

09/07/17

Revelation 4: 1 – 11 – THE ONE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE

The book of Revelation presents an exciting message of overcoming and ultimate victory for God's people. Jesus Himself overcame (Revelation 3:21), and He promises eternal blessings to those who via His blood overcome their adversary, the devil (Revelation 12:11). As we read the message of the Bible's last book, before we come to John's visions of challengers to the Lamb and those who serve Him, the contents of chapter four help us focus our minds on the One Who sits on the throne.

In Revelation 4:1,2 it is written:

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

So, John was allowed in the Spirit to see heavenly things. The apostle saw a throne, someone sitting on the throne, and heard several descriptions of the throne-sitter. What did John observe?

♦ Location of the throne – The throne which John saw was “set in heaven” (4:2). When we think about a throne, we think about royalty, authority, and ruling. In the eleven verses of chapter four, we read the word “throne” at least ten times (4:2,3,4,5,6,9,10). As you and I read this book and as we go through our life on earth, we need to keep our eyes on the heavenly throne and the One Who sits on it!

♦ Identity of the One on the throne – In verse two we learn that One Being sat on the throne in heaven. Who is that? He is identified as “Lord God Almighty” (4:8). The revelation of Jesus through John to the seven churches of Asia was given at a time when the Roman Empire ruled over the territory of the Middle East. The emperor who sat on the throne in Rome was a powerful person in world affairs. While God's children submit to earthly monarchs and other civil authorities (1 Peter 2:13,14), our first allegiance is to the One Who sits on the throne in heaven!

Roman Emperors may have expanded the territories over which they ruled and crushed nations into submission, but our God “is Lord of heaven and earth” (Acts 17:24). Jehovah rules in the kingdom of men (Daniel 4:17; 2:21). When immorality abounds, when God's word is ridiculed and abandoned, and when His people face challenges from the forces of Satan, let us not fret: our God rules on His throne! Each day we need to keep our eyes on “the big picture,” which

means that our eyes must not lose sight of the throne and the One Who sits thereon.

♦ Description of the One on the throne – Heavenly beings praise God by proclaiming, “*Holy, holy, holy. Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!*” (4:8). He is perfect in every attribute, and in Him there is no unrighteousness (Psalm 92:15). He calls on His children to imitate His holiness: “*Be holy, for I am holy*” (1 Peter 1:16).

The holy God on the heavenly throne is also Almighty (4:8). He is “*the Lord God Omnipotent*” (19:6). Mere men who sat on the throne in ancient Rome flexed their political muscles, but they were not all-powerful like our great God is. There are mighty political regimes in modern times as well, but we tremble not at their puny efforts to exalt themselves and oppose God's way of righteousness. Take comfort, my brothers and sister. Our God lives! He rules! What happens when we are on the same side as the Almighty? “*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*” (Romans 8:31). That is correct: the Lord's Cause always wins. The first-century saints needed to remember that encouraging truth. So do we.

The One on the throne is eternal – God “*was and is and is to come*” (4:8). He “*lives forever and ever*” (4:9). No one will remove or replace Him as Ruler. He cannot be voted out of office or run out of town or out of the country. He is God “*from everlasting to everlasting*” (Psalm 90:2).

♦ What the One on the throne deserves – “*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*” (4:11). John witnessed other heavenly beings “*give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne*” (4:9). What should be our response to the Bible's clear message about the Almighty Creator? Each one of us should bow before Him in humility, giving Him thanks, glory, and honor. He is worthy to be praised above everyone and everything. After all, He alone is the eternal God!

Revelation 4 is a passage that points our hearts to the throne in heaven, the One who sits on the throne, and His eternal, exalted nature. In view of this awe-inspiring message, may it be our constant desire to be people whose thoughts and lives are throne-centered, heaven-centered, and eternity-centered.

-- Roger D. Campbell

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”

Romans 15: 4 - 7

Attendance 02/07/17: AM – 53; PM – 17
Contribution: \$829.65. Building Fund: \$380.00

If you are visiting with us today, we wish you a warm welcome and thank you for being with us to share in our worship to God. If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please ask one of our members or feel free to take any of the tracts and leaflets that are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS	UPCOMING EVENTS
05/07: Ruth – Birthday.	10/07: Ladies Devotional Night, 7:30pm at building.
12/07: Jo Anne – Birthday.	16/07: New start times commence for morning services.
14/07: Raymond – Birthday.	
26/07: Heng – Birthday.	

TRAVELLING/SICK – Please keep in your prayers:

- Continue to pray for Abigail Williams and her family in Adelaide.
- For Sis Sharon Chan in Singapore. We thank God for the good news regarding her condition.
- For Joshua Stokes in Hobart. His cancer has recurred, so please pray for him and his family. He is now in a 12-month ongoing period of chemotherapy (1 week of treatment, 3 weeks off).
- Brett Rutherford in Tasmania.
- Wally Crous from the Central North congregation in WA. Please pray for him as he recovers from a stroke.
- Ray French, one of the elders from the congregation that oversees the support of Charlie and Mary. He has had further surgery to ease his back pain.
- Greg Shea in Launceston. He is looking to raise funds to work full-time with the brethren at Launceston.
- Please pray for Charlie and his eyes and the PMR he is being treated for.
- Please pray that Robyn remains well enough to maintain full time community work. In recent years, several positions have been terminated due to health issues.
- For Augustine as he continues to recover from his recent surgery.
- For Bro Ron Gilbert in the US. He is suffering from a rare condition that has caused him severe pain in his arms and legs. He is slowly recovering and undergoing rehab. He has for many years conducted regular mission trips to Asia and Africa.
- Please pray for Mabel McPherson from Devonport. She is recovering from surgery that she had last week.
- For the Tang family who are away on holiday in Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- For Jo Anne who is in Singapore and due back later this week.
- For Joan who is in Malaysia.
- For Charlie and Mary who away working with the brethren at Central North in Perth. Lord willing, they will be returning tomorrow.
- For Mary and that her new medication will assist her.

BUILDING PLANS:

The men are considering building works as we are blessed to be growing in number. Han has kindly drawn up a proposed plan to increase the seating capacity and have additional class room space. A proposed plan has been placed on the notice-board, please feel free to examine this and make any suggestions or comments about this. Any questions are also welcome as we seek to cater for our increasing numbers.

NEW CLASS AND WORSHIP TIMES:

The men have decided to change our Sunday morning bible class and worship times. As of next week, Sunday 16th July, the children's song time and bible classes will commence at 9:30am and conclude at 10:15am. There will then be a short break of 15 minutes and our morning worship will commence at 10:30am, concluding at 11:30am. Please note these new times.

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT:

Thank you to the Chin family for opening their home to the congregation for our fellowship night. A wonderful time was had by all, including those who were bold enough to try the chili Pak-Tjun provided!

LADIES DEVOTIONAL NIGHT:

All the ladies are invited to attend their monthly devotional night tomorrow evening at the building. The night will commence at 7:30pm.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDIES:

Please continue to remember and act on our goal for every member to be able to set up 1 personal bible study with someone they know this year. If needed, there are several members who are willing to conduct the actual study as required. Please also keep in your prayers those that are currently doing bible studies at this time.