

The Revelation

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Revelation 4:6b-11

Vss. 6b-8

- The four living creatures are always found near the Lamb (5:6, 14:3). They are constantly worshipping and praising God (5:8, 5:14, 7:11, 19:4). Of their duties, they invite the visions of God's wrath to appear (6:1,7) and one of them hands over the vials of wrath from God (15:7).
- Ezekiel also saw four living creatures and describes them each having the faces of a man, a lion, a bull, and an eagle (Ezk. 1:5-10) and he associates them with the cherubs and seraphs.
- What do the four creatures represent? It seems that together they represent all the noblest, strongest, smartest, and swiftest in creation. All of creation, represented here by the best of creation, is praising God (Ps. 19:1-2).
- The implication is that when God's creatures, humans included, are living out life as they were *INTENDED* to live, then by merely living out their lives they are daily and continually praising God. Work and worship become one and the same.
- There have been many interpretations. The four creatures have been said to represent: the four gospels, the four covenants (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ), etc.
- The doxology the creatures continually sing (for Creation never sleeps and does sing continually) emphasizes three qualities of God: His holiness (Isaiah 6:1-3); His omnipotence, for He IS the Almighty (Gen. 17:1; Luke 1:27); and His everlastingness, for He is eternal (Ps. 90:1-2).

Vss. 9-11

- For a sovereign to cast their crown down before another is to show the superiority of the Other and complete submission to Him. To truly worship God, one must fully surrender to Him.
- To say God is “our Lord and our God” to us sounds a tad redundant, but to John’s people it was an act of strong political defiance. The Roman Emperor Domitian, most likely the emperor whose persecution led to John’s banishment to Patmos, had proclaimed that he should be called “our Lord and our God.” So for the church, there was only One who they would give that title to. This would cost many their freedom, such as John, and cost many others their lives.
- Beyond any earthly power, God alone is THE power, for He is the Creator.
- By God’s will and for His purpose, He spoke, and through His Word all things came into being. Only God can create something out of nothing. There is nothing that we have that He has not given to us.