



1. [about 5 minutes] George Bernard Shaw wrote, '... nobody has ever ventured to describe a whole day in heaven, though plenty of people have described a day at the seaside.' What do you think a day in heaven would be like?

2. [about 5 minutes] Read Revelation Chapters 4 and 5. It is suggested the whole group says/chants/sings in unison the five songs in 4:8 and 4:11 and 5:9-10 and 5:12 and 5:13. One person could read the rest. (Or different readers could take 4:1-7; 4:9-10; 5:1-5; 5:6-8; 5:11; 5:13; 5:14).

Revelation 4-5

a dramatic, dazzling view of heaven

Week 3 • Sunday 21 August 2016

Revelation 4 — Worship the Creator!

[spend about 20 minutes on this]

1. From here to there (4:1-2)

If Revelation were a movie, in the screenplay the camera now cuts from earth to heaven. John is in heaven 'in the Spirit' (4:2; see also 1:10, 17:3, 21:10).

2. Setting the scene (4:1-6)

John struggles to find words to describe his experience. What did John see and hear? What are the colours, shapes, materials, noises?

3. The cast of characters (4:6-9)

Describe 'the living creatures'. (They are similar, but different, to creatures described in Ezekiel 1). Describe 'the elders'. (They are representatives of all God's people). Describe 'the one on the throne'.

4. Lights, camera, action! (4:8-11)

Now the scene is set and the cast assembled, the action begins. What do the different characters do? What do they say? Why?



Looking ahead: Next week is Revelation Chapters 6 and 7. The focus will be on 6:1-7:10.

fold away here second

Worth remembering (from Revelation 5:12)
 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'

2. We've spent an interval in heaven. Now it is time to come back to earth. Having peeped into heaven, how is your outlook on life on earth different?

From there to here [spend about 10 minutes on this page]
 1. It has been said that Revelation 4 is one of the two most wonderful chapters in the Bible and Revelation 5 is the other one. What have these chapters evoked in you — wonder, awe, praise ... ?

fold away here first

Revelation 5 — Worship the Redeemer!

[spend about 20 minutes on this]

1. The scroll (5:1, 5:2, 5:3, 5:4, 5:5, 5:7, 5:9)

The scroll represents all history: past, present and future.

2. Sevens

'Seven' usually represents completeness or perfection. How does this understanding help interpret the seven seals (5:1, 5:5), horns (5:6), eyes (5:6) and spirits (5:6 — or 'sevenfold Spirit')?

3. Lion and Lamb

How is Jesus both lion (5:5) and lamb (5:6, 5:8, 5:12, 5:13)? This paradox lies at the heart of the gospel!

4. Zooming out

Observe the concentric worshippers introduced in 5:8 (two sets), 5:11 and 5:13. What is the significance of this progression?

