

(1) Read aloud through Revelation 4. When you look around at the world in chaos with all its political turmoil, sexual immorality, idolatry, war, and economic uncertainty, does it make you wonder if God is still in control? How does this chapter bring assurance to your heart that as bad as it may currently appear, God will win and bring all his purposes to their proper conclusion?

(2) What affect is there on your heart when you hear John's description of God on the throne? Does it strike you as abstract and irrelevant to your life? If so, why? If it instead stirs your soul and inflames your heart with joy and praise, explain why. Also, what is the difference between understanding this chapter as, on the one hand, photographic reproduction, as over against, on the other, symbolic imagery? If it is the latter of these two, does that in any way detract from the glory of who God really is?

(3) As you read and reflect on the beauty of God in this chapter, how do you think it should affect the way you worship on Sunday morning or in your private devotional times?

(4) Talk about the extended time devoted to worship in heaven. Talk for a moment about the extravagant and uninhibited way in which the four living creatures, twenty-four elders, and myriads of angels praise God. Should we imitate them? Given the fact that we are redeemed by the gracious and precious blood of Christ, shouldn't our worship be even more intense and passionate and expressive? If so, how does this help you evaluate what happens in a Sunday morning service at Bridgeway?

(5) Finally, what are the practical effects of this chapter? Be specific. How does knowing this about God help you in your battle against temptation? What are some of the other practical benefits from meditating on this majestic portrait of God on his throne?