



Revelation Series: The Real Throne Room

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In Revelation 4 and 5, John sees a vision of the heavenly throne room, where God is sat on his throne surrounded by elders, living creatures and angels. John then sees a lamb who looks like he's been slain, but standing up – representing Jesus after his crucifixion and resurrection. He alone is worthy to take the scroll from God the Father's hand and to outwork his purposes in the world. The chapters are packed with worship songs, as all of heaven and earth worship God and the Lamb as uniquely holy and worthy.

Zoom Out

These chapters reference other heavenly visions (e.g. Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Daniel 7) where God is on his throne. The context of those visions was similar to John's: God's people lived under the oppression of huge empires and tyrannical emperors. Rome took this to new heights in organizing worship of the Caesars, who claimed absolute power and that their kingdom would never end. Some, like Domitian, even accepted titles "Lord and God".

Zoom In

In defiance of Caesar's claim, John's message is that:

1. Jesus is **the True King in the Real Throne Room**.

Rev 4:1-3: Only God is truly eternal, the creator, and the one who will lead history to his desired conclusion. "Caesar's throne might be in Rome - but there's another throne that stands alone." Rome, like all empires before, will eventually crumble, but God's kingdom will go on forever.

2. Jesus is **the Crucified King** (the Lamb on the throne)

Rev 5:5-6: Jesus is the "Lion" (the victorious Messiah), yet his victory is not through violent action but sacrificial love: through laying down his life, through his death and resurrection. And it is through him that God's purposes in the world unfold. This contrasts with the oppressive ways of the Caesars.

3. Jesus is **the Worthy King**

Rev 5:8-14: Because of who God is as the True King and the Crucified King, he is therefore worthy of all worship and praise. "The worship of God is the heartbeat of the cosmos, even when we humans on earth do not see it, participate in it, or value it" – Michael Gorman.



Press In

We've cycled through six Prime Ministers in the last sixteen years. There are wars and proxy wars happening around the globe between nuclear powers. There's the cost of living crisis and climate change. There are increasing political divisions in our country. Things can feel unstable. But Revelation shows that there is a real throne in heaven and sat atop it is no earthly ruler, but God. And so God is worthy of our worship – worship with our voices, our bodies, our whole lives.

For Reflection

1. Have you found yourself asking questions recently like, "God, where are you?" How would John of Patmos want to encourage you today?
2. How does your view of God match up with what John sees: the self-sacrificial Lamb on the throne?
3. How have you approached worship recently? Feeling defeated or deflated? How does the reality that you're joining in with all of heaven when worshipping change your worship posture?
4. Who has been sitting on the throne of your heart recently? A political leader? A celebrity? A sports person? Yourself? How can you dedicate your life to King Jesus afresh today?