



A VISION OF THE THRONE

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation

Intro:

*catch up on our ongoing "Unveiled" series at www.betheltab.ca/sermons

The central conviction of the book of Revelation is: *Things are not as they seem*

Genre of Revelation: Apocalyptic Literature - vibrant imagery and symbolism meant to reveal/unveil hidden spiritual realities.

How should I live now in light of the hidden spiritual realities of heaven?

1. A door (v. 1)

Heaven refers to another dimension of reality that is right here, close at hand, all around us, intersecting the visible, tangible dimension.

2. A throne (v. 2-6)

The throne of heaven is occupied!

3. The Response of Creation (v. 4, 6b)

24 elders are the 12 tribes of Israel + 12 apostles = the complete people of God.

The four living creatures represent the whole of sentient creation.

They are constantly worshipping (v. 8)

Psalm 19:1

Creation simply worships God, but humanity has the ability to understand why.

"Worship is a meeting at the center so that our lives are centered in God and not lived eccentrically. We worship so that we live in response to and from this center, the living God. Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren. Without worship we live manipulated and manipulating lives. We move in either frightened panic or deluded lethargy as we are, in turn, alarmed by spectres and soothed by placebos. If there is no center, there is no circumference. People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purpose." ~Eugene Peterson

Conclusion:

The single most reliable evidence that our vision is clear is that we are a worshipping people.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Were you around for either of the previous “Unveiled” sermon series? What do you remember of them?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday’s sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. When you think of heaven as it is now, what thoughts or images come to mind? Does it feel close, or far away? Do your thoughts and ideas about heaven impact the way you live your life? How so? Or why not?
2. Re-read the passage from Sunday (Revelation 4:1-11), and comment on the imagery of v. 1-7. What stands out to you? What meaning do you attribute to images like the rainbow of v. 3 or the thunder and lightning of v. 5?
3. Read John 4:21-24. What is Jesus saying about worship? How would you define “worship”? What is a true worshipper? Why is worship so important? How does this connect to Revelation 4?

Application:

1. Answer this question: “What is my “why” for worshipping God?”

Prayer:

- Pray for a clearer vision of the hidden spiritual realities of heaven.

Other Requests

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