

The Revelation to St. John

The Throne of God and His Heavenly Court: Revelation 4:1-11

“Amid all the hell-let-loose that surrounds and threatens [the Church] she is to remember [that the God in whom she believes is enthroned in heaven]; her business now is the heavenly business of filling God’s throne room with adoration and praise.” –Martin Franzmann, *The Revelation to John: A Commentary*, p.56

Understanding the Text

Read Revelation 4:1-3.

1. What is the significance of the open door and the voice that speaks to John? (v.1)

2. What does John see first? (vv.2-3)

Read Revelation 4:4-8.

3. How are the twenty-four elders described? What is their significance? (v.4)

4. What is the significance of the seven torches of fire? (v.5)

5. What is the significance of the sea of glass? (v.6)

6. How are the four living creatures described? What is their significance? (vv.6-8)

Read Revelation 4:8-11.

7. What are the four living creatures singing? (v.8-9)

8. How do the twenty-four elders join in the song? (vv.9-11)

Applying the Text

Heaven is heaven because the one true God is present there.

1. In all the wonders that John sees, what is central to it all? (Revelation 4:2-3)

2. How is God's majesty made known in His mercy? (Revelation 4:5-6)

The Church joins in the song of eternity even here on earth.

3. When do we sing the Sanctus in our liturgy? What does confess about the gap between heaven and earth during Holy Communion? (Revelation 4:8; Isaiah 6:1-3)

4. How does our heavenly song of praise strengthen us during times of earthly trouble? (Revelation 4:11; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)