

Worship: Greatness and Worth of God

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 4-5.
- B. Worship is the fundamental difference between animals and humans.
- C. True worship changes us.

II. Only a handful saw into heaven, and even fewer were caught up: Elijah, Malachi, Paul, and John. (II Corinthians 12)

III. Most see heaven only as a fulfillment of all their earthly desires.

- A. There is much that we will carry on to heaven. (II Corinthians 12)
- B. When time stops, heaven begins.
- C. Heaven is a realm just beyond our senses.

IV. What John saw.

- A. A throne, which is the center of all existence.
 - 1. There are absolutes in life, which man cannot break.
 - 2. There are moral absolutes, and if they are broken, they bring a penalty.
- B. John saw incredible colors at the throne.
 - 1. The jasper pictures God's holiness, which is wholeness.
 - 2. The Sardis pictures Jesus' death
 - 3. The rainbow pictures the Spirit who comforts us.
- C. The sounds and sights of Sinai.
 - 1. There was lighting, thunder, and trumpets that were associated with judgment. (Revelation 8:5; 11:13; 16:18)
 - 2. Other sounds and sights speak to God's holiness, etc.
- D. The cherubim picture the judgment of God over earth.
- E. God is worshiped by the heavenly creatures for His work in creation and redemption.

1. Worship in heaven will not be a boring experience.
2. There will be ministry in heaven.
3. Heaven is designed to be an endless adventure of discovery.

V. Worship changes a person.

- A. God is put in His proper place, and the worshipper discovers the center of life.
- B. When one worships, he is in agreement with God and others about the great themes of creation and redemption.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that heaven is nothing more than sitting on a cloud? Explain.

2. What stood out to you about the portrayal of heaven in Revelation? Why does it strike you?

3. What impact does worship have on a person? How can one make true worship a central part of his or her daily life?
