

When the World Feels Out of Control

Do Not Be Afraid — Week 3

Text: Revelation 4–5

Supporting Texts: Isaiah 6:1–8; Ezekiel 2:9–10; Daniel 7:9–14; Philippians 2:5–11

Bottom Line:

When the world feels out of control, heaven shows us who is on the throne.

Key Idea:

Before John sees beasts, tribulation, judgment, and spiritual warfare, he is invited through an open door into heaven. He sees ultimate reality: God is on the throne, the Lamb is worthy, the prayers of God's people are held, and all creation is moving toward worship.

READ

Read **Revelation 4–5** aloud.

John sees an open door into heaven. At the center of everything is a throne, and on the throne sits the Lord God Almighty. Around the throne are elders, living creatures, lightning, thunder, a sea of glass, and unending worship.

Then John sees a sealed scroll in the right hand of the One on the throne. No one is worthy to open it, and John weeps. But then he sees Jesus: the Lion who has conquered, appearing as a Lamb who was slain. The Lamb takes the scroll, and heaven erupts in worship.

DISCUSS

1. When the world feels out of control, where do you go first: news, finances, politics, family, planning, distraction, prayer, or worship?
 2. Why do you think John is shown the throne before he is shown the frightening visions that follow?
 3. Revelation 4 does not begin with an explanation of everything happening on earth. It begins with worship in heaven. Why is worship more stabilizing than explanation?
 4. Jesus is announced as a Lion but appears as a slain Lamb. What does that reveal about the way Jesus conquers?
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COME AND SEE

The Throne Is the Center of Reality

Revelation 4 is organized around the throne. It reminds us that chaos on earth is not ultimate. Heaven is not panicked, confused, or unstable. God reigns in holiness, majesty, and authority.

See also: **Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalm 93; Psalm 97; Daniel 7:9–10**

The Scroll Holds God’s Final Plan

The scroll represents God’s complete plan to bring His kingdom fully to earth: judgment, redemption, restoration, and new creation. If no one can open the scroll, history has no resolution. Evil remains unanswered. Suffering has no final healing.

See also: **Ezekiel 2:9–10; Daniel 12:4; Revelation 21:1–5**

The Lamb Is Worthy

Jesus is worthy to open the scroll because He was slain and by His blood purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation. His worthiness is rooted in His cross, resurrection, perfect power, and perfect knowledge.

See also: **John 1:29; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 1:1–4; 1 Peter 1:18–19**

Our Prayers Are Held Before God

The golden bowls of incense are the prayers of God’s people. Our prayers are not lost, ignored, or wasted. They are precious in heaven and participate in God’s redemptive purposes.

See also: **Psalm 141:2; Luke 18:1–8; Revelation 8:3–5**

Worship Is the Destiny of Creation

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The songs grow until every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and on the sea joins in worship. The future of history is not panic, despair, or evil's victory. The future is all creation worshipping the One on the throne and the Lamb.

See also: **Psalm 150; Romans 8:18–25; Revelation 7:9–12**

FOLLOW ME

1. Let the Throne Recenter You

John isn't given a chart or timeline first. He is given a vision of the throne.

- What fear or uncertainty currently feels central in your life?
 - What would change if God's throne, not your circumstances, became the center of your attention?
 - Where do you need worship to put "cement in your feet" this week?
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2. Bring Your Grief to the Lamb

John weeps because no one is worthy to open the scroll. His tears are connected to the fear that the world's suffering might never be resolved.

- What suffering, injustice, loss, or brokenness makes you weep?
 - Where is it tempting to believe evil will get the last word by how it looks now?
 - How does the Lamb who was slain answer grief differently than raw power would?
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3. Trust the Worthiness of Jesus

"Worthy" means qualified, fitting, appropriate, and deserving. Jesus alone is qualified to carry history to its final redemption.

- Why is Jesus' worthiness good news when you cannot understand His timing or methods?
- Where are you trying to control what only the Lamb is worthy to carry?

Reflect:

Jesus is uniquely qualified, infinitely valuable, and completely deserving of ultimate trust.

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4. Believe Your Prayers Matter

The prayers of God's people are pictured as golden bowls before the Lamb.

- What prayer have you been tempted to stop praying?
- How does it change your view of prayer to know God holds them?
- What would you pray differently if you believed your prayers participate in God's plan?

Practice:

Write down one prayer that aligns with God's kingdom, justice, mercy, redemption, or restoration. Pray it daily this week.

GO AND BE

This week, practice living from heaven's perspective.

Look to the Throne

Each morning, pray:

"Lord God Almighty, You are on the throne. Heaven is not in a panic. Teach my heart not to be ruled by fear."

Name one anxiety and place it before the throne.

Pray Before the Lamb

Choose one burden you cannot fix. Write it as a prayer and offer it to Jesus each day.

"Worthy Lamb, hold this prayer before You: _____."

Trust that no kingdom prayer is wasted.

Join the Song

Choose one phrase from Revelation 4–5 to carry this week:

- **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."**
- **"You are worthy, our Lord and God."**

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- **“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain.”**
- **“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power.”**

Say it, sing it, or pray it when the world feels out of control.