

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 19

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 4

THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



How is it that the four living creatures in Revelation 4 could do the same thing and repeat the same phrase, “*Holy, holy, holy...*” over and over again, day and night, night and day? Don’t they ever get “bored” or tired of it?

Not at all! **Because right before the eyes of the four living creatures and 24 elders is the beauty and splendour of the transcendent One who sits on the throne.** Every time they look upon the Lord, a new revelation comes forth to strike their hearts, filling them with awesome wonder, causing them to bow down and worship.

You see, worship is a response to the revelation of who God is. Before the throne of God, when we behold the splendour of our King, we will worship!

Revelation 4 gives us the highest revelation of the beauty of God in the entire Bible. It is the Mount Everest of the knowledge of God. It gives us 15 characteristics and descriptions of God.

Verses 1 to 7 of Revelation 4 talks about the Beauty of God around the Throne.

VERSES 1 AND 2 ARE ABOUT THE ULTIMATE REALITY.

There is a throne in heaven and there is One sitting on the throne. This is real and not symbolic. The spirit realm is real and so is our ultimate reality.

Verse 1 describes a door that is opened up in heaven. It has to be the divine initiative of God to open a door for us to encounter Him in a deeper measure, but we can pray for it and expect God to do so.





In Verse 1b, John heard a voice, “*Come up here...*”. It is **the divine invitation of God**. But we have to prepare, expect, and press in for our inheritance (Exo. 24:1-8).

*“Immediately I was in the Spirit; and **behold**, a **throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.**”* (Rev. 4:2)

Verse 2 tells us that John was in the Spirit. We need the revelation of the Spirit to encounter the Lord. It is in our spirit that we encounter God. There is a place where we learn to cultivate our spirit man to be strong so as to receive more of Him.

The word “**Behold**” is a powerful word. It’s like “**Woah!**”. It describes John’s response. He must be feeling something and his emotions were stirred up.

WHAT WAS JOHN FEELING?

He was awed, wowed, and overwhelmed! It's like Isaiah's experience in Isaiah 6:5 where the prophet was ruined and undone because his eyes had seen the beauty of the King.

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

He saw the throne and the glory of the One seated on the throne and he was overwhelmed. He was overcome by the realization that **this is the ultimate destiny of mankind — to stand on the sea of glass in eternity and feast upon the revelation of the beauty of God!**



The word “**throne**” is mentioned around 40 times in the Book of Revelation. It speaks of God’s kingship, rulership, and sovereignty. **He reigns and every one of His plans is certain and guaranteed to come to pass.** The word “**set**” means it is a throne that **endures forever.**

There is One who sat on the throne. John saw a real **Person on the throne.** God is a real Person. He is not just an idea, truth, power, or force. God, being a real Person, has emotions, feelings, intellect, and will. He thinks about us, cares for us, and longs for a deep relationship with us!

**VERSE 3 SPEAKS OF
THE BEAUTY OF WHO GOD IS:**

LIKE A JASPER STONE

Speaks of what God looks like
– His Person.

LIKE A SARDIUS STONE

Speaks of how God feels
– His Emotions.

LIKE AN EMERALD RAINBOW

Speaks of how God deals with men
– His acts and His deeds.



God is indescribable, unsearchable, unfathomable and incomparable (Ps. 145:3; Isa. 40:9-31). The word “*like*” is an attempt to **use what is known to bridge what is unknown. It gives us a glimpse and a faint picture of who God is.**

God is described as being like Jasper. Jasper is a diamond-like stone that dazzles and is radiant. **God’s majesty, splendour and glory shine forth like a diamond that releases an unapproachable, brilliant light** (Ps. 104:1-2; 1 Tim. 6:16).

The glory of God is more than light. It is associated with His attribute, His character and His nature. Moses asked God to show him His glory (Exo. 33:18-19). And when God passed by and proclaimed who He is, Moses had only one response — he bowed down and worshipped (Exo. 34:6-8)!

SARDIUS STONE IS A FIERY AND RED RUBY-LIKE GEM.

It describes the emotions of God. God has fiery emotions and burning desire. He has deep feelings and is passionate for us.

It is vital for us to experience and encounter the emotions of God. **We will never have more passion for God unless we encounter His passion for us.** And if we want to have deep intimacy with the Lord, we need to allow ourselves to have and experience sanctified feelings and emotions in our relationship with Him.

There is a rainbow around the throne with appearance like an emerald where it speaks of the mercy of God. **The way God deals with man is always tempered with mercy and gentleness.** His tender mercies are over all His works (Ps. 145:9).

VERSE 4 SPEAKS OF THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S PARTNERSHIP.

God could have chosen anything else, but He sovereignly chose weak men to be kings and priests to partner with Him. What a mystery!

There are 24 elders seated on thrones, clothed with white robes and having crowns of gold. **The 24 elders represent faithful believers from all of redemptive history.** 24 is the number of priesthood and "**white robes**" represent priestly robes. "**Seated on thrones**" is a picture of us ruling and reigning with Jesus throughout eternity and "**the crowns of gold**" are a type of reward which God gives to the saints.





**VERSE 5 SPEAKS OF THE
BEAUTY OF GOD'S POWER.**

"Lightning" speaks of the power of God.
"Thundering" speaks of the majestic voice
and the prophetic message of the Lord that
goes forth with authority (Ps. 29:2-3).
"Voices" speak of music and songs
emanating from the throne of God.

**Verse 5b to verse 7 speak of
the Beauty of God's Fire.**



The seven Spirits of God, the sea of glass, and the four living creatures all speak of the fire of God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of fire who empowers, beautifies, and releases revelation. The sea of glass or sea of fire (Rev. 15:2) is the highest and final destiny of mankind. In eternity, every nation, tongue, and tribe will be standing there, beholding the Beautiful One on the throne, feasting continually on the revelation of God, even as the Spirit of fire falls upon us...

The four living creatures are the seraphim mentioned in Isaiah 6. The word “seraphim” means **the burning ones**. They are fiery beings surrounding God’s throne who reveal God’s passion and fire

VERSE 8 TO 11 SPEAKS ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S HEAVENLY SYMPHONY.

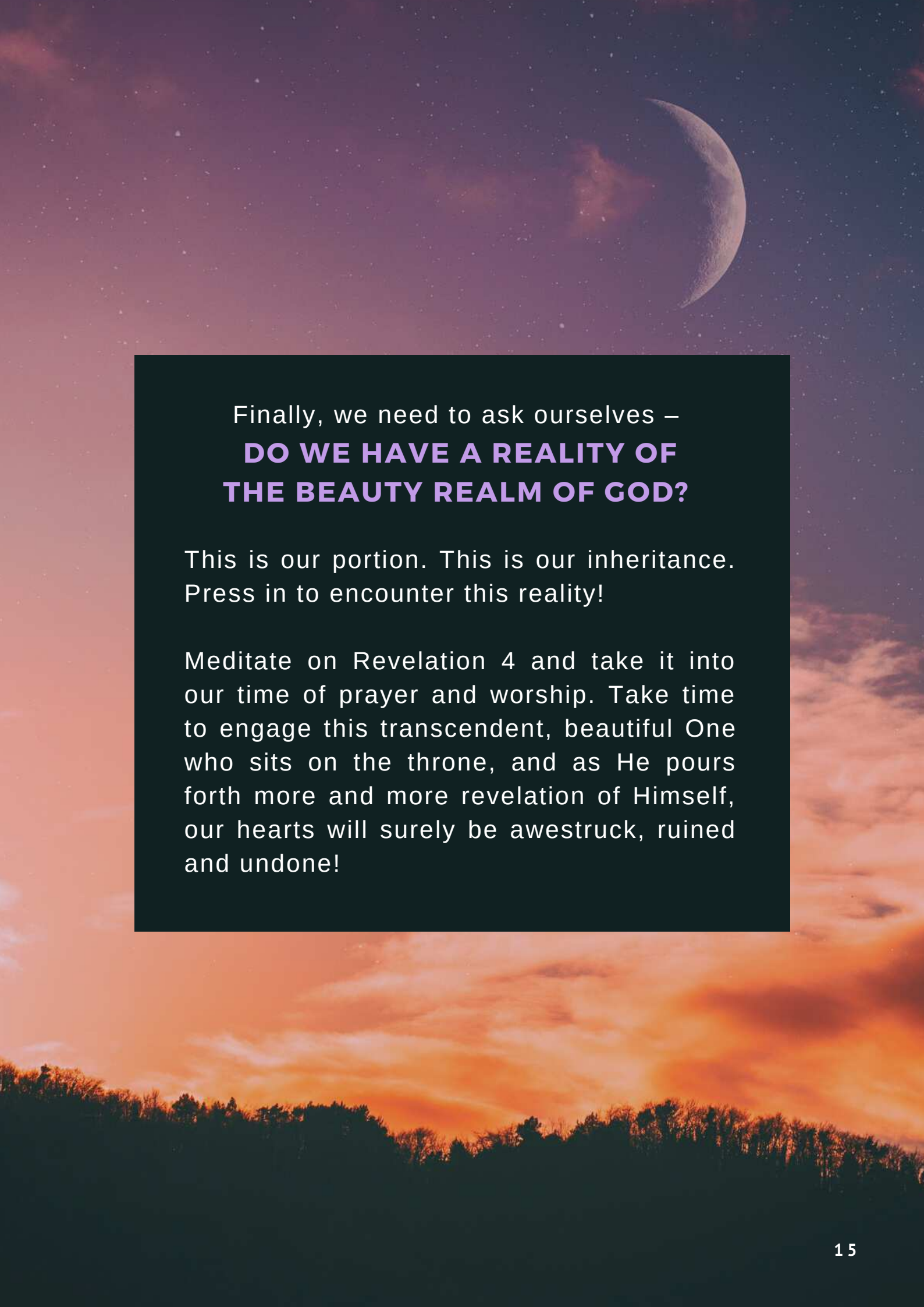
It gives us a glimpse of how worship is being done in heaven. Worship is a response from our hearts as we encounter God. It starts with us beholding God. As encounter the awesomeness of who He is, we will bow down and worship. That is why the seraphim never cease to declare, *“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

And when we realize how great and worthy God is, we will want to offer something to Him. We will willingly cast down our crowns before the throne.





Biblical worship is done responsively. **Responsive or antiphonal worship or singing** is where an individual or a group responds dynamically to what the other person/group is saying about God, and sings forth his/their response. In Rev. 4, we see the elders responding to what the seraphim declare. We also see this pattern in the book of Psalms, e.g., Psalm 24, and in Isaiah 6 (Isa. 6:3).



Finally, we need to ask ourselves –
**DO WE HAVE A REALITY OF
THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD?**

This is our portion. This is our inheritance.
Press in to encounter this reality!

Meditate on Revelation 4 and take it into
our time of prayer and worship. Take time
to engage this transcendent, beautiful One
who sits on the throne, and as He pours
forth more and more revelation of Himself,
our hearts will surely be awestruck, ruined
and undone!



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