

What Will You Do in Heaven?

International Bible Lessons

Revelation 4:1-2, 6b-11

Sunday, May 8, 2011

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created” (Revelation 4:11—NRSV).

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created” (Revelation 4:11—NASB-U).

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11—KJV).

When John first observed the worship of God in heaven, he saw four living creatures proclaiming that God is holy, all-powerful, and eternal. They praised and thanked God because He always used His power in right and loving ways, which included making both just and merciful decisions that will become more apparent to all as the Book of Revelation unfolds.

Next, John saw the twenty-four elders, who probably represented the kingdom of God in both the Old and New Testaments, join the angelic beings in worship. These elders fell before the throne of God in humble adoration. They cast their crowns before the throne acknowledging that all their achievements and rewards resulted from God’s precious gifts to them. They also voiced additional reasons to worship God beyond the facts of God’s moral excellence and supernatural perfection. They proclaimed that God was worthy to be praised because God had created all things. They acknowledged the truth that they existed and continued in being day-by-day, along with all creation, because God willed it so.

When God created the universe, our earth, and every being, God had good reasons. God did not need to create because He was lonely or lacked something. We owe everything we are and enjoy to God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift. When we consider the life that God has given us and what the Bible teaches, we have good reasons to join the heavenly host in declaring that God is worthy to receive the glory and honor that people so easily bestow upon mere mortals. — © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

You may reprint or reproduce this *International Bible Lesson* for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Series Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org

Thinking Further

1. How would you feel and what would you think if you saw an angel as John did or saw into heaven as he did? Think about any changes you would like to make in your life if you knew that you would be seeing an angel or into heaven soon. Ask Jesus to help you make these life changes.
2. In these verses, what are some of the characteristics of worship in heaven? How do these characteristics compare or contrast with the way you worship in your church? In light of the way worship is conducted in heaven, what, if any, additions or changes would you make in the way your church worships God?
3. Do you think heaven will be boring or exciting? Give some reasons for your answer.
4. What does it mean to give God glory? How do people give God glory in church worship? How can we give God glory daily and not just in church worship?
5. What is the most important lesson that you have learned from these verses? What important lesson would you like to share with an atheist, if you were given the opportunity to talk with one?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.