

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP MEMBER GUIDE

Week 4 - January 29-February 24 - *Revelation 4-5*



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

Jesus is worthy.

Revelation 4:1-5:14

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings[a] and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

1 “Worthy are you, 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.”

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,
“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016),
Revelation 4-5.

STUDY NOTES

John's words, "After this," refer to the letters to the churches God instructed him to write. At the start of chapter 4, John's vision turned from the seven churches to a glimpse of heaven.

As John entered, he saw a heavenly throne. The concept of a throne room conveys the idea of God's kingship, majesty, and holiness. Like Isaiah, John saw "the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne" (Isaiah 6:1). John did not describe God; rather, he described the majesty surrounding Him. God's majesty surpasses the ability to describe it. Other images in John's vision, such as the stones of jasper and carnelian, lightning and thunder, point to the power and holiness of God. God must be worshiped for who He is.

The heavenly creatures (angels in the forms of a lion, ox, man, and eagle) sing God's holiness in His presence throughout all time. Holy refers to something that is set apart, in this case, referring to God's nature, which is uniquely set apart from everything else. The repetition communicates that God is utterly other than anything or anyone. Additionally, these angels drew attention to God's power ("Almighty") and His eternal quality ("who was, and is, and is to come").

In chapter 5, John saw more activity surrounding the scroll with seven seals. This scroll is not specifically identified, but we do know that this scroll ushers in the judgment of God and end of time. The scene is dramatic as everyone waits to see who is worthy to open the scroll. Who could it be other than Jesus Christ? No one except Jesus can open the scroll because He has conquered through His own blood.

There are three thoughts to consider:

- 1. Our reaction to seeing God should always be worship.**
- 2. Jesus alone is worthy to be King.**
- 3. Heaven displays the work of the trinity (Father, Son, Spirit).**

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- John struggled to describe what he saw. What aspect of God or your relationship with Him do you have the hardest time putting into words?
- Look at the heavenly creature's song in verse 8. What specific aspects of God the Father's nature did they praise? What specific attribute of God do the elders praise in verse 11?
- What specifically about the character of God the Father motivates you to worship?
- Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll?
- What part of your life is Jesus worthy to control that you have not allowed?