



God, the Trinity, Worthy of WORSHIP

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

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Lesson 1

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Revelation is sometimes called the “Throne Book,” for the word *throne* is mentioned about 40 times. In this first lesson, we are introduced to the throne of God. His throne is eternal. God is on His throne and He is ruling over all. Take time to read the third chapter of Habakkuk and see a similar picture of the God of Light. Note especially Habakkuk 3:3-4.

The Apostle John was nearing the end of his life on earth. Can you imagine the thrill he had when God caught him up to see Heaven? John probably understood the symbols which God used to show him the future. Usually they will be clear to us if we check other Scriptures where the same symbols are used. For example, in this lesson we learn of 24 elders. In the New Testament, elders—the highest officials in the church—represent the whole church. (See Acts 15:6; 20:28.) It is likely, therefore, that these 24 elders represent all the redeemed. The elders are crowned with golden crowns. Here the Greek word translated as *crown* is the same as the word is used to refer to the believers’ rewards. (See 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 2

Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4.) They have white clothes as attributed to the saints in Revelation 3:5, 18. So we believe the elders represent all redeemed human beings—not angels.

If you have a *Pilgrim* or *Scofield* edition of the Bible, be sure to study all the footnotes for the book of Revelation. We urge you to get a copy of the New Testament section of the *Ryrie Study Bible*. This is available in paperback, with either the King James or New American Standard version. The notes throughout, and especially those on Revelation, will help make the verses clear.

Remember. . . beginning with this section and continuing through the end of the book, the events are all in the future. (“The things which shall be hereafter”—Revelation 1:19.) It was necessary for John to see the throne in Heaven before seeing the terrible judgments which will come to the earth. Go slowly enough so your students will have clear understanding of the things which will take place in the future.

Scripture to be studied: Revelation 4:1-5

The aim of the lesson: To teach that long ago, God showed John what He wants us to know about the future.

What your students should know: God always keeps His word, promises of reward and warnings of judgment.

What your students should feel: An expectancy of the fulfillment of God’s promises.

What your students should do:

Unsaved: Place their trust in Christ today.

Saved: Make certain they are living now to please God so when they face the Lord they will not have regrets.

Lesson outline (for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks):

1. A door to Heaven opened (Revelation 4:1).
2. God on His throne (Revelation 4:2-3).
3. Twenty-four thrones around God’s throne (Revelation 4:4).
4. Seven lamps of fire burning before God’s throne (Revelation 4:5).

The verse to be memorized:

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:11)

THE LESSON:

John, the beloved apostle, was a prisoner on the Island of Patmos, far away from his friends. Although he was alone, he was comforted by the presence of God. Also God showed him things which no one else saw. One of the most glorious sights was that of the Lord Jesus. John would never forget it. He had seen the shining face of the Son of God, His flaming eyes, His powerful hands, His glowing feet. And John had heard His majestic, mighty voice saying, “Write the things which you have seen, the things which are now, and the things which will be after this” (Revelation 1:19).

John was quick to obey. He wrote of having seen the Lord Christ. He wrote of things which were happening in seven of