

Worthy

Revelation 4:1-2

Worthy

- Last week Blaine Anderson delivered a powerful message on **Exodus 20:3 NIV**, “You shall have no other gods before (*besides*) me”
 - It is the first command, not just the first listed, but in importance and impact on your life
 - The one that all other commands get their importance and meaning from

Worthy

- So many times, we are like the typical 4-year old's response when told to do something—Why?
 - “Go pickup your room before supper—Why?”
 - What do they mean?
 - “I’m busy coloring, I will determine if that is more important”
 - “Why put them up if I’m just going to get them out later”
 - “If I stay here long enough, will you do it”

Worthy

- So, the question on my mind all week was, “Why is this first command so important?”
 - “After all I’m already saved so, does it really matter?”
- So often we attribute worth onto God because of what He does for us
 - “What a friend we have in Jesus”
 - “God really loves us”
- What happens to God’s worth when our life stinks or when God does not seem to do what we expect or want, or even respond at all?
 - Is He still worthy?

Scripture

- **Revelation 4:1-2 ESV**, 1 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.
 - Behold – Be sure to fully see, grasp, and comprehend, don’t miss the details
 - To thoroughly hold something
 - **John 1:29 ESV**, The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Scripture

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 - We would all like to have more detail about heaven
 - Charles Spurgeon, “It is very little that we can know of the future state, but we may be quite sure that we know as much as is good for us. We ought to be as content with that which is not revealed as with that which is. If God wills us not to know, we ought to be satisfied not to know. Depend on it, he has told us all about heaven that is necessary to bring us there; and if he had revealed more, it would have served rather for the gratification of our curiosity than for the increase of our grace.”

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- The Apostle John has experienced so much in his life with Christ, even in the first three chapters of Revelation
 - He has seen the risen Jesus, Heard the voice of Jesus, Witnessed the church scenes, Trying to grasp what it all means
- With all of that cluttering his mind he notices something that takes his breath away, a door standing open in heaven
 - Can you hear him say, “Behold” with a mixture of excitement, fear, apprehension

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- He is witnessing with his eyes, heaven is a real place
 - It's not some pie in the sky type of thinking that just describes our feelings, desires
 - But understand, so is hell
 - And we are preparing ourselves for one of those two eternal places today so do not be distracted

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- He is witnessing that heaven is a sealed place
 - Unlike our country's borders, the borders of heaven are sealed, secure, impenetrable
 - No sneaking through when no one is looking, paying someone off, hiring someone to take you there
 - **Genesis 3:23-24 NIV**, 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- He is witnessing that heaven is a sealed place
 - **Luke 16:26 NIV**, And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.
 - Because it is secure it is also a place of hope, peace, security, prosperity

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- He is witnessing though heaven is sealed there is an open door
 - John knew heaven was real, but his behold moment is an open door into heaven
 - It is a single door
 - There is only one way into heaven, and it is only through this open door
 - **John 14:6 NIV**, Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - **John 10:9 NIV**, “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- He is witnessing though heaven is sealed there is an open door
 - **John 19:30 NIV**, When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
 - **Matthew 27:50-53 NIV**, 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- But notice, there is a door into heaven, but John cannot reach it
 - He must be called up to go through
 - **Vs. 1** A voice like a trumpet – clear, loud, understandable
 - “Come up here”
 - **1st Thessalonians 4:16-16 NIV**, 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Behold, a door standing open in heaven!

- Why no other gods than Jehovah?
 - Heaven is God's realm
 - It is His door that is open to heaven
 - It is only God's voice that can call you up into it
- As Jesus asked, "Do you have ears to hear and eye to see?"

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- Once inside heaven the first thing that impresses John is a throne
 - It wasn't the radiance of God's glory
 - It wasn't the beauty of Heaven
 - It wasn't all the worship of God Almighty
 - It wasn't all the other created beings around the throne
 - It is the centerpiece of this vision
 - John was fixated on the throne, and everything else is described in relation to this throne

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- Once inside heaven the first thing that impresses John is a throne
 - The bottom line of atheism or materialism is that there is no throne, there is no seat of authority or power that the entire universe must answer to
 - The bottom line of humanism is that there is a throne, but man sits upon it
 - If man de-thrones God, he will inescapably place himself or some other man, government, or cause upon the throne

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- John said the throne “stood” in heaven
 - In the Hebrew language the word stood means - to stop, settle, fix, appoint, confirm, establish, endure... it's the idea that these things stand firm
 - It ain't going nowhere
 - No force can remove it, no power will overcome it, no authority can overrule it

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- Not only is there a throne standing but it is not an empty throne
 - God occupies the throne in Heaven
 - The throne represents absolute authority given to the one sitting on it
 - The throne is a powerful declaration of not merely God's presence, but of His sovereign, rightful reign, and His prerogative to judge
 - G. Campbell Morgan, "We can't think rightly about much of anything until we settle in our mind that there is an occupied throne in heaven, and the God of the Bible rules from the throne. While there may be many differing interpretations, the fundamental truths are self-evident. At the center of everything is an occupied throne

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- This speaks to the sovereignty of God
 - If you were to look up the word “sovereign” in the dictionary, you would find words and phrases like “superior,” “greatest,” “supreme in power and authority,” “ruler,” and “independent of all others” in its definition
 - But the way I like to explain God’s sovereignty best is simply to say, “God is in complete and total control.”

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- This speaks to the sovereignty of God
 - There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God's influence and authority
 - As King of kings and Lord of lords, God has no limitations
 - God is above all things and before all things. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He is immortal, and He is present everywhere so that everyone can know Him (**Revelation 21:6**)
 - God created all things and holds all things together, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible (**Colossians 1:16**)

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- This speaks to the sovereignty of God
 - There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God's influence and authority
 - God knows all things past, present, and future. There is no limit to His knowledge, for God knows everything completely before it even happens (**Romans 11:33**)
 - Not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered (**Matthew 10:29-30**)

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- God's Sovereignty calls for our submission
 - Just as peasants always bowed before their king for fear of offending the one who had the authority to take their life, God's sovereignty compels us to bow before Him
 - But unlike corrupt earthly kings who abuse their authority to terrorize their subjects, God rules in love
 - He loves you and desires the best for you

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- God's Sovereignty provides us with comfort, peace, security, hope
 - Because God is sovereign and He loves you, nothing will ever come into your life that He does not either will or allow
 - Consequently, no matter what you face in life, you can take comfort in the fact that God is sovereign
 - When God promised to never leave nor forsake you – His sovereignty secures it
 - When Jesus promised no one can pluck you out of God's hand - His sovereignty secures it
 - When Jesus promised to raise you up on the last day - His sovereignty guarantees it

Behold, a throne stood in heaven!

- God's Sovereignty inspires us to worship him
 - Because God is completely good and completely sovereign, he is completely worthy of worship
 - Very simply, God is the only one worthy of your worship, your praise, your absolute trust, and to occupy the place of God in your life
- We worship God because of what He has done in our lives
 - But we must also worship Him simply because He is God

Worthy

- God is worthy of our worship because of His supreme authority, power, knowledge
- If you have a hard time grasping the Sovereignty of God, worship Him because of His supreme love
 - **Philippians 2:6-11 NIV**, 6 have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Worthy

- God is worthy of our worship because of His supreme authority, power, knowledge
- If you have a hard time grasping the Sovereignty of God, worship Him because of His supreme love
 - **Philippians 2:6-11 NIV**, 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- What more can He do to demonstrate His awesome love for you personally?

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