



Message Two: REVELATION AND RESPONSE
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What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.

-- A. W. Tozer
Knowledge of the Holy

Since worship is our response to the revelation of God, a proper perception of God is vital to proper worship. Worship becomes a mighty force when it is the spontaneous result of our realization of who God. Today, we will turn our attention to last book of the Bible for insight into this dynamic.

A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT

John, the **last surviving** apostle, was on Patmos because of his testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:9, I, John...was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. (NLT)

Although he was on Patmos, he also experienced a different **dimension** of reality.

Revelation 1:10, *On the Lord's day I was in the Spirit, and I heard a loud voice behind me that sounded like a trumpet. (NIV)*

AN OPEN DOOR AND AN INVITATION

Revelation 4:1, *I looked and saw a door that opened into heaven. Then the voice that had spoken to me at first and that sounded like a trumpet said, "Come up here! I will show you what must happen next." (NCV)*

The open door represents **access** to the experience of spiritual realities beyond the time/space dimension.

God invites us to experience a different reality--one that is transcendent and eternal.

John, like us needed a new perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18, *We have small troubles for a while but...we set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever. (NCV)*

AN OCCUPIED THRONE

Revelation 4:2, *Immediately I was in the Spirit, and before me was a throne in heaven, and someone was sitting on it. (NCV)*

Here is the key to history!

There is a throne in heaven, and it is not empty.

The sovereign control of all things is not **up for grabs**. Not only are there two realms of reality, but also one controls the other.

The **invisible** holds sway over the **visible**.

A CONTINUOUS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Revelation 4:8-11, *Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. He was, he is, and he is coming." These living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. Then the twenty-four elders bow down before the One who sits on the throne, and they worship him who lives forever and ever. They put their crowns down before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, because you made all things. Everything existed and was made, because you wanted it."* (NCV)

The revelation of God's throne produces the response of worship.

True worship is indicative of a **recognized Lordship**.

When we see God as he is, we will worship him as we **should**.