



## Part 10: Hope of an Occupied Throne

Revelation 4

*We have hope because God the Father is on the Throne working His good and loving will for His children.*

### A WISE SUSPICION OF POWER

- In 57 A.D., Nero began feeding Christians to the lions; Peter and Paul were executed
- In 95 A.D., Domitian expanded his "reign of terror," having more than 40,000 Christians killed
- The Roman throne was a source of terror, fueling fear and anxiety

### SPIRITUAL SIGHT IS NECESSARY TO SEE REALITY (REVELATION 4:1-2)

Jesus opens the door into reality. The door into heaven is opened from heaven, not earth. Spiritual reality is seen through Jesus and the Holy Spirit (Revelation 1:10, Matthew 11:25-30, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

Good news! There is a Throne! God the Father is ruling from His Throne (Revelation 4:2). There is a control center for the universe. Control over the universe is not up for grabs!

The throne is the most dominant image in Revelation. John refers to it 47 times, and he uses other related terms 77 times.

*"The throne of God – the fact of the throne, and the fact of God enthroned – is the Revelation of the Bible. The throne is the supreme Revelation of Scripture. ...All the pictures of the early times are pictures of men setting their lives into relationship with the throne of God and thus finding peace, or rebelling against the government of God and thus perishing." Eugene Peterson, Reversed Thunder*

God the Father is sovereign over the evil and chaos swirling around His children (Revelation 4:6, Romans 8:28-39).

### GOD'S GLORY FUELS OUR HOPE (REVELATION 4:3-11)

God, the Father, is the most beautiful and glorious person in the universe.  
Those who see God with clear vision worship Him!

He is the ultimate source of all beauty, goodness, love, wisdom, and joy. Jesus' greatest desire was for us to know the One He calls Father (John 17).

Everything in the world operates best with Him at the center (Revelation 4:2, 4-6).

*"In worship God gathers his people to himself as center: 'The Lord reigns' (Ps. 93:1). Worship is meeting at the center so that our lives are centered in God and not lived eccentrically. We worship so that we live in response to and from the center, the living God. ...Without worship we live manipulated and manipulating lives. ...People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purpose. ...People who do not worship live in a vast shopping mall where they go from shop to shop, expending enormous sums of energy and making endless trips to meet first this need and then that appetite, this whim and that fancy." Eugene Peterson, Reversed Thunder*

### OUR RESPONSE IS WORSHIP (REVELATION 4:8B-11)

- Acknowledge God's Worth
- Consecrate our Lives to Him
- Worship Him Daily