

Lesson 3 Participant Study Notes

The Throne and the Rainbow

God's Authority, Holiness, and Covenant Faithfulness

Key passage: Revelation 4:1-11 | King James Version

Study approach: Observe the passage → Compare Scripture → Respond.

John sees an occupied throne surrounded by a rainbow and a worshiping heavenly assembly. This vision directs our attention to God's authority, holiness, and faithfulness, and calls us to worship and trust Him.

1. The Throne Reveals God's Authority

God reigns as King and Creator. His throne is occupied even while His people experience hardship. His rule gives us reason to remain faithful through difficulty.

Read: Revelation 4:2; Psalm 103:19.

2. The Rainbow Recalls God's Faithfulness and Glory

In Genesis, the rainbow is the sign of God's covenant with Noah and every living creature: the waters would never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. Ezekiel connects rainbow-like brightness with God's glory. These passages help us understand the rainbow around the throne.

Read: Revelation 4:3; Genesis 9:12-16; Ezekiel 1:28.

Study carefully: Revelation describes the rainbow; its connection with covenant faithfulness comes through biblical comparison. The promise in Genesis does not mean freedom from all suffering.

3. God Is Holy Just and Merciful

Heaven declares, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" in Revelation 4:8. God's authority reflects His righteous character. Psalm 89:14 associates His throne with justice, judgment, mercy, and truth.

Read: Revelation 4:8; Psalm 89:14.

4. God Deserves Our Worship

The twenty-four elders fall down and cast their crowns before the throne. Their worship acknowledges God's supreme worthiness. He deserves glory and honor because He created all things. We honor Him by submitting our abilities, achievements, and influence to His service.

Read: Revelation 4:9-11.

5. Through Jesus We Can Approach God

Jesus is our great High Priest. Through Him, we can come confidently to the throne of grace to receive mercy and help in time of need. We approach with both confidence and reverence.

Read: Hebrews 4:14-16.

My Response This Week

Bring one concern before God in prayer. Choose one action that expresses trust in His authority: receive correction, seek reconciliation, serve someone, or obey a clear instruction in His Word.

Remember: The throne calls for reverence. The rainbow recalls faithfulness. Heaven's worship calls us to humility. Through Jesus, we can seek God's mercy and help.