Worshiping Christ, the Lamb Who is Worthy

When the world tries to squash our faith and it seems like evil is winning, Christians can find encouragement through their participation in and reflection on worship. Studying John's visions of heavenly worship in Revelation can still be a source of great encouragement and comfort for believers today. These visions paint a picture of the worship happening right now in heaven, remind us of who sits on the throne, and confirm that there is an end to the spiritual battles we face. Join *Groundwork* as we discuss the truths these visions convey and why they offer valuable assurance for our faith.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What are your favorite genres of literature to read? Why?
- What is worship? Why do we do it?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Worshiping Christ, the Lamb Who is Worthy

READ Revelation 4-5

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Have you ever been at a loss for words when you try to describe something you saw or experienced? What do you remember about how that felt? How does that help you relate to and understand John's effort to describe what he saw of heaven in Revelation 4:1-11?
- Reflect on, host Scott Hoezee's statement from segment 2, "I think, when we read Revelation 4 and 5, we think that John is seeing the future; but it is pretty clear that he is seeing the worship in the throne room of God that is happening right now...when we worship God, we are participating in something that is already going on in heaven." What was your reaction to learning that John is seeing the worship in heaven happening now? What does it mean to you that when we worship we're also joining in and participating in the worship of heaven?
- As host Darrell Delaney describes what is occurring in Revelation 5:11-14 he says, "They are thinking about what Christ has done, they are reminding each other all the time of what Christ is doing, and they actually worship. That is the appropriate response for those who remember who God is and what God has done; and all of creation is doing that." How does Darrell's insight impact your perspective on or understanding of your weekly worship?
- Are there situations in your life that seem hopeless to you? Remember, that like God came to John while he was exiled on Patmos, God can find you anywhere! Reread Scott's words from segment 3 to encourage yourself when you feel discouraged: "God is always in control...when we encounter difficult days and seasons of loss and tragedy; seasons when the powers that be in this world seem to be preeminent. We too, along with John, can remember: No; it is the Lamb on the throne. Right now; that is who is really in charge of the universe."

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Philippians 1:20-21, John 11:25, Ephesians 6:10-18

CONCLUSION

What battles in your life do you need to keep in perspective? Read <u>Ephesians 6:10-18</u>. Which piece of spiritual armor could you put on to help you? Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and help you. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you that the Lamb is on the throne and that Christ has already won the victory. Then find a psalm, hymn, or worship song and join the heavenly beings in worship.

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