

REVELATION 4:9-11


DISCUSSION GUIDE


STEP 1 - PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING

STEP 2 - READ TEXT

 Read the text: Revelation 4:9-11

STEP 3 - QUESTION AND ANSWER

 Romans 8:19 tells us “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of GOD”. What does this mean?

 **ANSWER:** “The creation” is everything GOD made except man. Paul tells us in Romans 8:14 that all who are being led by the Holy Spirit are the sons of GOD. Creation itself is waiting for GOD’s children to be manifested, to be revealed, to glorify GOD.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed anew. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the Son of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. We are part and parcel of creation, and we shall draw it along with us. There shall be new heavens and a new earth. The curse shall be taken from the garden, thorns and thistles shall no longer grow there; and there shall be no killing or devouring in all God’s holy mountain. The galling yoke, which we have laid on the whole of creation by our sin, shall be taken off from it by our Redeemer.” -- Charles Spurgeon

😬 Reason - Does our ability to reason get in the way of our worshipping GOD as HE truly deserves? Can we 'reason' ourselves out of truly worshipping EL SHADDAI (The All Sufficient GOD Almighty)?

Merriam Webster gives these definitions of reason (among others):

- the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking especially in orderly rational ways : INTELLIGENCE
- proper exercise of the mind
- SANITY

✅ ANSWER: There is no right or wrong answer. Encourage honest discussion.

STEP 4 - DISCUSSION

😬 DISCUSS: If we understand why we do things, and it is our instinct to worship our Creator, what makes it so difficult for us to glorify GOD as the elders do? It is easy for other created beings to follow the nature GOD intended. Why is it so difficult for us?

Could it be due to our ability to reason?

Could it be "because"?

- I don't worship GOD like that because I worry what others will think.
- I don't worship GOD the way HE wants because I might do it wrong.
- I don't worship GOD like that because I don't even know who HE is.

✅ ANSWER: Allow this question to simmer and stir the conversation.

😬 DISCUSS: Think of some of the 'crowns' Josh mentions that we might be storing up today.

✅ ANSWER: Examples: trials, sufferings, mocking, hard work, toil, hardships in preaching the Gospel, temptations, heart-break of loss and uncertainty in this evil world

STEP 5 - FINAL ACTIVITY

Final thoughts after discussion:

We must think about this the next time we are tempted to avoid our GOD given responsibilities:

- Ask GOD to help us be so convinced of His glory that all we want to do is things that honor His name.
- Ask God to help us be reminded that every opportunity in this life to win a 'trophy' is another 'crown' we can lay at the feet of The Alpha and Omega!

The right response to ANY revelation is to fall before the Lord... broken and contrite; sensing our sin and our unworthiness... overwhelmed with a holy fear that translates into obedient selfless worship, obedient duty and a heart of gratitude filled with His mercy and love. Because on that day, we will see GOD for who He is...The One who sits on the throne. And we will wish:

- we had suffered more.
- we had made less excuses.
- we blamed others less.
- we resisted those temptations that we gave into.
- we weren't as silent as we were.
- we spoke up more.
- we had overcome more.
- we had more at our eternal disposal with which to praise Him.