

March 27, 2011  
"The Chief End (or PURPOSE) of Man"  
Revelation 4

I. We are created for a life beyond this world –

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. ... (Revelation 4:1A NKJ)

1. This life is admittedly somewhat mysterious, yet not unknowable –

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJ)

2. We are commanded by God in His Word to make this OTHER LIFE, our priority –

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Colossians 3:1-2 NKJ)

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

3. This spiritual life is REAL, enduring, even eternal!

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20 NKJ)

4. This spiritual world is around us even now, people have seen it, John saw Heaven opened, He got a glimpse of a REALITY we do not typically see –

Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. <sup>15</sup> And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" <sup>16</sup> So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." <sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:14-17 NKJ)

5. This other world is not only spiritual but moral and enjoyable – for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17 NKJ)

6. We are not really "alive" without a connection to, a desire for, a knowledge of this moral and spiritual, invisible (to our natural eyes) Kingdom of God –

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)

7. This is why Jesus says, "You must be born again!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5 NKJ)

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:7 NKJ)

II. We are created for a relationship with the LIVING GOD!

This is what I love about Revelation 4! It calls us to a higher level of fellowship, communion with God! It calls us to delight in His glory!

1. The REALITY is; God is on His throne! John may be on Patmos but God is on His throne –

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. (Revelation 4:2 NKJ)

King Uzziah may have died, but God was on His throne –

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. (Isaiah 6:1 NKJ)

2. Our God is dazzlingly wonderful –

And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; ... (Revelation 4:3A NKJ)

3. *Yet He is GRACIOUS –*  
... and *there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. (Revelation 4:3B NKJ)* *The rainbow is a symbol of His grace*  
Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Revelation 4:4 NKJ)  
*The twenty-four elders represent all of us who have benefitted from His grace! 12 Sons of Israel / 12 Apostles of Christ represent ALL of the true people of God!*

Before the throne *there was a sea of glass, like crystal... (Revelation 4:6A NKJ)* *This was for their cleansing, even for service! This represents the MEANS of God's grace*

4. *For God, though gracious, is also fearfully righteous –*  
And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Revelation 4:5 NKJ)

The fear of the LORD *is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)*

*III. We are created to LIVE for HIS GLORY –*  
"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."  
(Revelation 4:11 NKJ)

1. *All things were created for His glory –*  
"For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NKJ) *This Flies in the face of atheism and evolution!*

2. *The four living creatures are representatives of creation and specially designed for close communion with God and quick, powerful service of God –*  
Before the throne *there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.* <sup>7</sup> The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and

within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:6-8 NKJ)

- A. *Full of eyes that they might walk by sight, in front and in back so they never miss God's glory! "Around and within" that they may be humble before God!*
- B. *Like a LION for strength, like a CALF for patient service and self-sacrifice, like a MAN for intelligence, like an EAGLE soaring the Heights of Heaven!*
- C. *Six wings that they might FLY to do God's will!*
- D. *Resting not day or night, for how could they being in such close proximity to the LIVING, EXCITING and HOLY GOD?*
- E. *They are created / fit for close proximity to God as a polar bear is for ice or as fish is fit for the sea!*

3. *We too, represented by the elders, are also created for His glory –*

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: <sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."  
(Revelation 4:9-11 NKJ)

1. *We are created to walk by faith not sight –*  
For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

2. *We glorify and LOVE a God we do not see –*  
<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls. (see 1 Peter 1:3-9 NKJ)

3. *We glorify God in weakness, trial and the rough and tumble, even at a relative distance from God -*  
**1 Corinthians 1:25-31; 2 Corinthians 11-12**