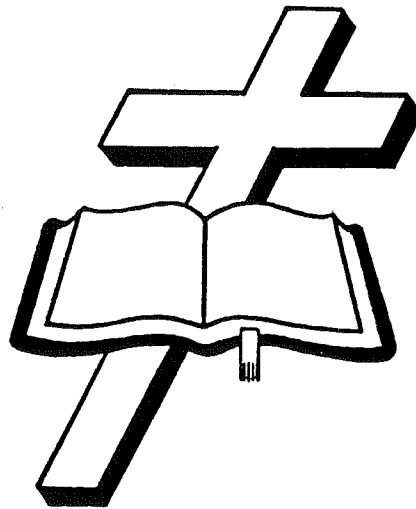


# FOR “THY” PLEASURE

(Why We Were Created By God)  
Revelation 4:1-11



## “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

- ◆ The Picture of Jesus
- ◆ The Prize of Jesus
- ◆ The Pulling of Jesus

“...For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11)

# “FOR THY PLEASURE”

**Text:** Revelation 4:1-11

**Subject:** “Why We Were Created By God”

## Introduction

(It Is No Secret That...)

**Fact:** God has a plan that includes you!

**Fact:** God has a purpose for your existence!

**Fact:** God has a personal involvement with you individually!

## (Grasp The Setting Of Revelation 4)

- ◆ In Revelation 4, John sees the throne of God.
- ◆ The One sitting upon the throne appears to be God the Son.
- ◆ This awesome vision of this Jesus, overwhelms John.

## (John Experiences 5 Things)

- #1. John sees a door open in heaven (the rapture has occurred)
- #2. John hears a commanding voice.
- #3. John is called to “come up” to heaven to see what will take place.
- #4. John has a deep spiritual experience with God.
- #5. John gets a view of the One sitting upon the throne of God.

**Question:** Why is the Lord pictured as sitting upon a throne?

**Answer:** To remind us of something we can forget:

- #1. That the Lord is still the Supreme Authority in the world.
- #2. That the Lord is reigning over everything that touches your life.
- #3. That the Lord is the only one authorized to orchestrate end-time events.

**Question:** What exactly does John see in heaven?

**Question:** How does it speak to me today? (and)

**Question:** What difference does it make in my life today?

## I. The Throne Reveals A Picture Of Jesus

**Question:** What does Jesus look like and what does it mean to me today?

(Notice Vs. 2&3) “And immediately I was in the spirit, and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne”

“And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone, and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald”

## (In Other Words)

- ◆ It is impossible to describe what God is fully like.
  - ◆ But, we’ve been given some comparisons that speak to our hearts.
- Question:** What does John see and what is Jesus compared to?

### #1. A Jasper Stone

- ◆ A jasper is diamond like stone.
- ◆ It looked (to John) like a transparent crystal.
- ◆ There was a vision of radiance, and light and brightness in Jesus.
- ◆ To John, what he saw was a picture (of a flawless diamond of perfection in Jesus).

## (What Is The Application?)

- #1. That like a flawless diamond, Jesus is flawless and perfect.
- ◆ He makes no mistakes in your life. (And never slips up)

- ◆ He can be trusted and relied upon at all times.
- ◆ What you might think is a mistake, or a misprint is really under the Lord's control.

**Question:** How many of you have ever gone through something (and asked "what good will come out of this"?)

**Fact:** The jasper stone speaks of the Lord's perfection and rightness at all times.

**Fact:** Full of wisdom and worthy to be trusted.

### What does John see in Jesus?

#### #2. A Sardine Stone

- ◆ While the jasper stone is crystal clear, the sardine stone is a deep red.
- ◆ It is a beautiful cut ruby that gives off a fiery red glow.

#### (What Is The Application?)

- #2. That like the value of a deep red sardine stone, there is greater value in the deep red blood of Jesus that was shed (for you and me).

**Question:** How can we look upon a God like a jasper stone (perfect and holy)?

**Question:** How can we approach a righteous God in prayer (one who cannot tolerate sin)?

**Question:** How can we be right with God, have our sins forgiven and be at peace with God?

**Question:** How can God even admit us into heaven when we've all sinned on earth?

**Fact:** The sardine red ruby reveals the price Jesus paid to declare us not guilty!

But you don't know who I am, what I've done and how I've failed.

#### (Lets All Read Exodus 28:17-21)

- ◆ Both the jasper stone and the sardine stone are of great importance. (why?)
- ◆ Each tribe of Israel had a representative stone on the breastplate of the high priest.
- ◆ There was one stone for each of the twelve tribes.

**Question:** Pastor, why did the high priest wear a breastplate of 12 stones?

**Answer:** He wore the breastplate to encourage God's people that all twelve tribes were included before the presence of God and under His care.

**Fact:** Whenever the high priest functioned in his priestly office before the altar, each person from each tribe knew they were being represented before the Lord.

**Question:** Pastor, what does this have to do with me? (what is the significance?)

- ◆ In Revelation 4:3, John sees Jesus as a sardine stone and a jasper stone.
- ◆ The first stone in the top row of the breastplate was the sardine stone (Ruby)
- ◆ The last stone in the bottom (4th) row of the breastplate was the jasper stone. (Simply)
- ◆ The sardine stone represented Reuben (the first of the 12 tribes since Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob)
- ◆ The jasper stone represented Benjamin (the last or youngest of the 12 sons of Jacob)

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ The 2 stones represent the first to the last.
- ◆ These 2 stones encompass all those in between.
- ◆ These 2 stones reveal that God's plan includes you.

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ As the Old Testament High Priest carried the stones upon his breastplate.
- ◆ So the Lord carries you upon His heart (and intercedes for you before the Father).

**Question:** How many of you are glad that God's plan includes you?

**Question:** How many are glad that God has you upon His heart?

#1. John sees Jesus (as a jasper stone)

#2. John sees Jesus (as a sardine stone)

**Question:** What else is Jesus compared to?

### #3. The Rainbow

“...and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald”

**Question:** Pastor, what is the significance of the rainbow?

**Answer:** It is found in Genesis 9:11-17:

(V. 11) “And I will establish my covenant with you”

(V. 12) “And God said, this is the token of the covenant between me and you”

(V. 13) “I will set my bow in the cloud”

(V. 17) “And God said to Noah, this is the token of the covenant which I have established”

**Fact:** The rainbow reminds us of God’s faithfulness towards His own.

**Fact:** The rainbow is a sign from God (that as God remembered Noah, so God remembers you).

(Ever Feel Like Noah?)

- ◆ Genesis 6:9 tells us that Noah was upright and walked with God.
- ◆ Yet, Noah had reasons to be weary:

(Why?)

#### #1. The comparison syndrome:

- ◆ He only averaged one convert in preaching for every 17 years of service for 120 years.

**Question:** Ever compare yourself with someone else?

#### #2. The isolation fatigue:

- ◆ Noah was in the minority alone in the wilderness.

**Question:** Ever had to walk alone to take a stand for Jesus?

#### #3. The prolonged waiting:

- ◆ Noah spent 411 to 438 days on board the ark.

**Question:** Ever had to wait and wait and wait “on hold” for something?

#### #4. The unexpected disappointments:

- ◆ When Noah sent out the dove to find dry land (the dove returned in disappointment).

**Question:** Ever been disappointed by unfulfilled expectations?

**Question:** What is the word that encourages us in the midst of Noah’s rainbow story?

**Answer:** 4 words found in Genesis 8:1.

“And God Remembered Noah”

(Do you know why?)

- #1. Because God knew where Noah was and what Noah needed.
- #2. And God knows where you are, and what you need today!

#### #1. The Jasper Reveals...

- ◆ That the Lord is flawless (perfect) and worthy to be trusted.

#### #2. The Sardine Reveals...

- ◆ That Jesus took our place to satisfy God’s justice (and redeems us to Himself)

#### #3. The Rainbow Reveals...

- ◆ That hymn #12 is true:

“All I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness unto me”

## II. The Throne Reveals The Prize Of Jesus (Vs. 4-7)

**Question:** What does John see around the throne?

**Answer:** He sees 24 elders clothed in white robes with crowns upon their heads.

- ◆ These 24 elders represent all of the redeemed.
- ◆ 12 Patriarchs (from the tribes of Israel in the Old Testament).
- ◆ 12 Apostles (from the New Testament).

**Question:** What is their prize (or reward) for being faithful to God?

**Answer:** What you can expect as well if you are saved and born-again by the Spirit of God.

#### #1. There is accessibility to God:

- ◆ The elders are in a permanent place in God’s presence for ever.

#2. There is acceptance of us by God:

- ◆ (V. 4) "Clothed in white" means righteous and holy we stand before the Lord.

#3. There is reward for service to God:

(V. 4) "...and they had on their heads crowns of gold"

- ◆ Crowns represent reward and authority to rule.
- ◆ It means we'll be doing something for God in heaven,
- ◆ And, we will receive compensation for living now in light of eternity.

Crowns Promised To Believers

#1. The believer's crown for all who were saved. (Revelation 4:4)

#2. The martyr's crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

#3. The crown of glory for faithful pastors. (I Peter 5:4)

#4. The crown of righteousness for those looking for Christ's return. (II Timothy 4:8)

#5. The soul winners crown for those who win others. (Daniel 12:3)

#6. The crown of life for those faithful in trial. (James 1:12)

#7. The incorruptible crown for those disciplined. (I Corinthians 9:25)

#4. There is rest in the Lord:

(V. 4) "And before the throne there was a sea of glass"

- ◆ The word "sea" in the Bible is symbolic, picturing the restlessness of mankind.
- ◆ Yet the sea in heaven is motionless like a sea of glass. (why?)
- ◆ It is a picture of you and me (the redeemed) at perfect rest in the presence of God.

(The 4 Beasts Of V. 7)

Fact: There are 4 beings (not beasts as in animals).

Fact: In Ezekiel, chapters 1 and 10, these beasts refer to the cherubims (angelic beings created by God).

Fact: The 4 living beings represent the 4 portraits of Christ that we find in the 4 Gospels.

#1. The Lion (pictures Christ as king of the Jews - Matthew)

#2. The Calf (pictures Christ as the obedient servant - Mark)

#3. The Man (pictures Christ as the Son of man - Luke)

#4. The Eagle (pictures Christ Divinity - John)

Fact: These 4 beings in heaven will forever remind us of the work of Christ here on earth.

III. The Throne Reveals The Pulling Of Jesus

Question: What are the angels doing in heaven? (Vs. 8-11)

Answer: (V. 8) "Crying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty, which was, and is (what?)  
"Is to come"

(V. 9) There is Thanksgiving in Heaven

(V. 10) There is Honesty in Heaven (As we cast our crowns at His feet)

- ◆ No polishing our halos or showing off!
- ◆ No feeling cheated or having regrets for giving and serving God.
- ◆ But giving it all back to the One it is due.

(V. 11) There is Invitation in Heaven

"...and for thy pleasure we were created" (means)

- ◆ God created us for His pleasure, purpose, plan and destiny.
- ◆ God formed you in your mother's womb for His pleasure on earth.
- ◆ I have no right to think that my life is my own!!!

Question: Do you live your life now fully for the pleasure of the Lord?

Question: Am I enslaved to anything that is not God's will?

Question: Am I being true to my convictions?

Question: Am I presently living in prayer and the Word?

Question: Does anything I do cause weaker believers to stumble?

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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