

Small Group Leaders' Guide

Revelation 4 | Hereafter

Revelation 4

Main Idea: Revelation 4 lifts our eyes from “the things that are” to “the things to come.” The goal of prophecy is not merely to satisfy curiosity about the future, but to lead us to deeper worship of the God who holds the future.



Warm Up

Question: When you think about the future, what emotion do you feel most often; excitement, fear, curiosity, confusion, hope or something else?

Leader's Tip:

Keep the focus from the beginning on worship, not speculation. Revelation is meant to reveal Jesus Christ and strengthen the church, not simply provide a timeline for curiosity.

Greek Note:

The word “Revelation” comes from the Greek word apokalypsis, meaning “unveiling,” “disclosure,” or “revealing.” Revelation is not meant to hide truth from God’s people but to unveil Christ’s victory and God’s plan.



Know It

Things That Are

The Hereafter material identifies three parts of “the things that are”: the Age of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24), the 70 × 7’s (Daniel 9:24–27), and the Church Age (Resurrection to Rapture).

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the Age of the Gentiles, the 70 × 7’s, and the Church Age help us recognize about God’s plan?
2. Why is it important to understand where we are in God’s plan without becoming focused only on predicting the future?
3. How should knowing that we are living in the Church Age shape the way we live and serve Christ today?

Leader's Tip:

This is a good place to remind the group that faithful Christians have different views on end-times timelines. Encourage humility. The main point of Revelation 4 is clear: God is on the throne.

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Greek/Hebrew Notes:

- Gentiles in Luke 21:24 comes from the Greek word *ethnē*, meaning “nations” or “peoples.”
- In Daniel 9, the phrase often translated “seventy weeks” or “seventy sevens” is based on the Hebrew word *shabu'im*, meaning “sevens.” The prophecy refers to seventy units of seven, commonly understood as seventy “weeks” of years.
- The word often associated with the rapture is *harpazō* in Greek, meaning “to seize,” “snatch,” or “catch up.” It appears in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 where believers are “caught up” to meet the Lord.

Things to Come

Revelation 4 brings John into the throne room of heaven. The scene includes the 24 elders, the seven Spirits of God, and the promise of John 14:1–3. Heaven is filled with worship as God’s holiness, authority, and worthiness are proclaimed.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out most to you about the throne room in Revelation 4, especially the 24 elders, their white garments, and their crowns?
2. What comfort do you find in Jesus’ promise in John 14:1–3 that He is preparing a place for His people and will come again?
3. What does the worship of heaven—especially the elders casting their crowns before God—teach us about how we should respond to God today?

Leader’s Tip:

The 24 elders likely represent the redeemed people of God, while the “seven Spirits” may symbolize the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The focus is not on either group, but on their worship before God’s throne and the majesty and completeness of His presence.

Greek Notes:

- Elder is the Greek word *presbyteros*, meaning “older one,” “elder,” or “leader.” In the New Testament, it is used for respected leaders among the Jews and leaders within the church.
- Crown in Revelation 2:10 is *stephanos*, referring to a victor’s wreath or reward crown, often given to winning athletes. This is different from *diadēma*, which refers more specifically to a royal crown. The elders wear crowns, but they cast them before God, acknowledging that all victory and reward belong to Him.
- Spirit is *pneuma*, meaning “spirit,” “breath,” or “wind.”
- Seven is *hepta*, a number frequently used in Revelation to symbolize completeness.

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Share It

Personal Reflection Question

1. What part of Revelation 4 most strengthens your faith?
2. How does seeing God on His throne change your perspective on current events?

Leader's Tip:

Some people may be anxious about Revelation or end-times teaching. Encourage honest sharing, but gently redirect fear toward worship. The throne room is meant to anchor us.



Live It

Application Questions:

1. What would you change in your daily life if you lived more aware that God is on His throne?
2. What “crown” or achievement do you need to lay before the Lord?

Leader's Tip:

Application should move from information to surrender. Revelation 4 calls us not merely to know more, but to worship more deeply and live more faithfully.

Closing Thought: The future is not merely a matter of obtaining information; it is about knowing the God who holds the future.



Prayer

Prayer Focus:

Pray that we would see God clearly as holy, sovereign, and worthy of worship.

Key themes to pray:

- That our hearts would be filled with awe before God's throne.
- That we would remember God is reigning, even in uncertain times.
- That our worship would be sincere, humble, and wholehearted.
- That we would lay our pride, plans, and crowns before Him.
- That our church would not be lukewarm, but fully surrendered to Christ.