



Purpose In Life

Revelation 4 & 5

If you asked your neighbour's, friends, work colleagues what they thought their purpose in life was, what things might they say? (and what do you think drives these responses?)

Putting it in perspective

The Revelation given to John was to be passed on to the seven churches in the province of Asia (1:4). What do the following verses tell us about what life is like for these Christians?

- 2:3
- 2:12-13
- 2:8-10
- 3:8-9



If you lived in the first century AD, your purpose in life was clearly set out for you - to worship the Emperor of Rome. At the core of everyday life was the acknowledgment that the Emperor was Lord, he was god.

It's no wonder life would have been difficult for Christians in that situation. These verses in chapter 4 have a lot to say about our *true* "purpose" in life – one that goes beyond any earthly allegiance. Whether we face persecution or not, it's good to be reminded of what that purpose is.

A Glimpse Into Heaven

Read Revelation 4:1-11

In the vision, what does the one on the throne look like?

What impression does this give?



Around the throne are four living creatures (with some unusual extra bits of anatomy!) What do you think they might represent? What are they doing and what's significant about that?

We get a picture of this main throne surrounded by 24 smaller thrones. How are those who sit on *these* thrones described?

Have a look at these verses and note what they tell us about the “white clothes” in Revelation.

- Rev 3:4-5
- Rev 7:13-14

It is most likely these 24 elders represent the 12 Tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and the 12 Apostles in the new. Those who are, in a sense the leaders of God’s people in both the Old and New covenants.

What do the 24 elders do (9-11)? What does this tell us about the heart of worship?



Why is God worthy to receive glory, honour and power?

Since this Revelation is given by God himself (1:1) that means that it is God who is saying that he is the greatest and deserves to get all the glory.

Can you think of reasons why this might not sit well with people?

But Wait – there’s more!

Read 5:1-14

In chapter 5, the “lamb that was slain” (Jesus) is introduced to the scene in heaven.

What things are said about the lamb?

Jesus is given the same honour, glory, praise, power – the same worship as God!

Purpose in Life!

In one sentence, how would you describe your purpose in life? How is that different from our goals in life?

How does that *purpose* shape all you do?

Spend some time giving thanks and praise to God and the Lamb that was slain.