

GOD'S TRIUMPHANT KINGDOM – REV4

In this sin-cursed world there is much that would cause the one who believes the gospel and seeks to follow Christ to be downcast. We are living in what Paul described to Timothy (2Tim3:1) as *perilous times*. Satanic deception is at an all time high and true faith is a very rare thing. Rebellion against God by huge numbers of people is widespread; good is counted as evil and evil as good. Lies and deception abound. But God's kingdom will triumph over all that is evil. Satan and his followers will be defeated and bear the just punishment for their sin. Those who seek to follow Christ need not be downcast but, rather, confident in their glorious God because he has revealed how it all ends in eternal glory.

In Revelation 4, John is summoned up from this earth, this fallen creation, into heaven and he describes the vision he was given of God's triumphant kingdom in eternal bliss. However terrifying the powers of evil appear to be, God sits on the supreme throne of creation. The vision of Revelation 4 is one without any sin or influence of evil. The church of Christ has been kept from *the evil* (John17:15) whilst journeying through life in the sin-cursed world of Satan's kingdom and now, in Revelation 4 it is portrayed as resting in the accomplishment of eternal salvation in intimate communion with God in the new creation. This is divinely given, non-fictional "time travel" to the eternal triumphant state of God and his blood-bought people. Have you been brought to believe that you are numbered amongst them? If you have, then be comforted and assured, heaven is your eternal destiny. Even now, the peril of these

days in this world is all subject to the restraint of Almighty God; whatever believers might have to experience in this world, not one of them shall be hindered from attaining to heaven. Their God is *for them so who can be against them?* (Rom8:31).

AJ

SALVATION FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL

How can I know that I am numbered with the people of God who will surround his throne in eternal bliss when his Kingdom is finally triumphant? How can I be assured that I am saved from eternal condemnation? The prophet Joel stated, "*whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered*" (Joel2:32). At Pentecost in Acts2, Peter repeated that text to the crowd and, in Rom10:13 Paul was inspired to quote it in his epistle. This is the Word of God; whosoever, without distinction of age, race, intelligence, prosperity, WHOSOEVER shall call on the *name of the Lord* SHALL BE SAVED. The LORD is Almighty God, revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ; holy, strictly just, intolerant of sin, all powerful and sovereign, yet gracious and merciful because of the redemption he has accomplished in the Person of his Son. If I ask him to show me who he is and what I am as a sinner, justly condemned, and if I then call on him to show me that he has saved me, his Word assures me that I shall be saved.

AJ

NOTICE – Next Sunday 26th March UK clocks will have moved forward 1 hour so our service will be at 11:00 GMT+1. If in doubt check the World Time clock for London on a smart phone.

Biblical Gospel Church

Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8

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Sunday 19th March 2023

11:00 am (GMT) Service

Revelation 4

"A Door Opened in Heaven"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible.

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Reading Ezekiel 1:1-14

90 to tune 485 *J Langford*

1 Now begin the heavenly theme;
Sing aloud in Jesus' name;
Ye who his salvation prove,
Triumph in redeeming love.

2 Ye who see the Father's grace
Beaming in the Saviour's face,
As to Canaan on you move,
Praise and bless redeeming love.

3 Mourning souls, dry up your tears;
Banish all your guilty fears;
See your guilt and curse remove,
Cancelled by redeeming love.

5 When his Spirit leads us home,
When we to his glory come,
We shall all the fulness prove
Of our Lord's redeeming love.

7 Hither, then, your music bring;
Strike aloud each cheerful string;
Join, ye saints, the hosts above;
Join to praise redeeming love.

Prayer

Reading Revelation 4

Prayer

481 to tune 364 *I Watts*

1 Descend from heaven, immortal Dove,
Stoop down and take us on thy wings,
And mount and bear us far above
The reach of these inferior things;

2 Beyond, beyond this lower sky,
Up where eternal ages roll,
Where solid pleasures never die,
And fruits immortal feast the soul.

3 O for a sight, a pleasing sight,
Of our almighty Father's throne;
There sits our Saviour crowned with light,
Clothed in a body like our own.

6 When shall the day, dear Lord, appear,
That I shall mount to dwell above,
And stand and bow amongst them there
And view thy face, and sing thy love?

Sermon

995 to 73

T Kelly

1 From Egypt lately come,
Where death and darkness reign,
We seek our new, our better home,
Where we our rest shall gain.

2 To Canaan's sacred bound
We haste with songs of joy;
Where peace and liberty are found,
And sweets that never cloy.

3 There sin and sorrow cease,
And every conflict's o'er;
There shall we dwell in endless peace,
And never hunger more.

4 There, in celestial strains,
Enraptured myriads sing!
There love in every bosom reigns,
For Christ himself is King.

5 We soon shall join the throng
And all their pleasure share;
And sing the everlasting song
With all the ransomed there.