



Attributes of God

The Holiness of God

Revelation 4 : 1 - 11

Teaching Aim

To show that God is holy.

Setting the Scene

The apostle John is an old man and God was showing him a vision of God's own greatness. In this passage he sees the creatures in heaven worshipping God.

The Throne in Heaven

Read Revelation 4:1-5

Q. What did John see and hear? - *An open door in heaven and a voice like a loud trumpet.*

When God wants to teach you something, He has no problem making himself heard even over the noise of your busy life. God was sitting on the throne in the middle of heaven showing that everything in heaven is centred on God just as our lives on earth should be centred on Jesus.

Q. What kind of things show that your life is centred on Jesus? - *Get the YP's to think of practical ways of showing that God is at the centre of their lives.*

The throne was surrounded by 24 elders. These elders represent the believers in both Old and New Testaments. There were 12 tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and 12 apostles in the New.

The Flying Creatures

Read Revelation 4: 6 - 8

Q. What did John see at the centre near the throne? - *Four strange living creatures, a lion, an ox, a man, an eagle. They had 6 wings and were covered with eyes.*

Q. What do you think the eyes and wings mean? - *These incredible creatures have eyes everywhere so that they can always look at the greatness of God and wings so that they can go anywhere to worship Him.*

Q. What did they say? - *Holy, Holy, Holy etc.*

These creatures were saying that God is pure and perfect and that because of that He is very different from us.

The Worshipping People

Read Revelation 4 : 9 - 11

Q. When the creatures praised God what did the elders do? - *They fell down and worshipped His holiness.*

God's holiness is so great that all anyone can do is worship Him. He never sins nor can He look at sin. His holiness speaks of

- a. His Majesty
- b. His will to declare Himself the only true God
- c. His wrath which causes Him to destroy all sin
- d. His righteousness which says that He is right and that you must be made right with Him through Jesus.

Summing Up

John saw everything worshipping God because God is so holy that He cannot have sin near Him. Everyone is a sinner. (Ask YP's to think of things they do which might anger God). All need to come to Jesus if they want to live in heaven with this great God. All need to show God reverence because of His holiness. That means living to please Him.

Resources

Discussion

The following additional questions could be used as the topic develops or at the end in small groups which report back.

- Why can a holy God not just ignore sin?
- If God is Holy, why can't men invent their own ways of pleasing Him?
- If God is Holy, is it possible for people to become His friend?
- Worship is the greatest thing anyone can do. Do you find worship exciting? What would have to change to make it more exciting? Does your heart need to change?

Prayer Points

Pray:

- That you might see God as Holy and live in the light of that.
- That non-Christian friends might see God as Holy and see their own sin.
- That they might come to Jesus and be saved.