

# **Pastor Mark Mikels - March 29, 2020**

## **"TWENTY-TWENTY VISION"**

### **HOPE-GENERATING REVELATION THREE: "THE REVELATION OF THE CREATOR HIMSELF"**

(Revelation Chapter Four)

**Intro ...** So how have we all been doing? Have you been letting all this stuff get to you? Have you been listening to every news update and having your emotions swing up and down based upon what has been reported?

Or have you been **distinguished** and **stabilized** and even **energized** by the **HOPE** that **OUR ABBA FATHER** wants to find in the hearts of all those who are **HIS**?

I trust that it has been the latter of those two possibilities and I'm delighted to report that I have found it true of every one of our members that I have communicated with these past days.

We are indeed a **HOPEFUL** and **HOPE-FILLED** people.

And, I believe, that's (to some degree at least) because we are working our way through ...

**THE BIBLE'S MOST HOPEFUL, HOPE-FILLED BOOK:  
THE BOOK OF REVELATION!**

Three weeks ago, I announced that I had discovered  
**'Twenty-Two Hope-Generating Revelations'**  
contained within it.

So far, we have identified ...

#### **THE FIRST TWO OF THOSE HOPE-GENERATING REVELATIONS:**

1. **"THE REVELATION OF THE EXALTED LORD JESUS CHRIST"**  
- What an incredible Hope-Provider He has become -  
and
2. **"THE REVELATION OF JESUS OVERSEEING HIS CHURCHES"**  
- How awesome and Hope-Inspiring it is to know that He with all His Divine Power and Might is Overseeing our every move and need-

Today, I would share with you:

**HOPE-GENERATING REVELATION THREE:  
"THE REVELATION OF THE CREATOR HIMSELF"**

The Apostle John was the first living human to be granted this 'Hope-Generating Revelation.' He was then authorized to pass that Revelation on to us. And that's just what he has done!

The '**Revelation of the Creator**' fills the entire Fourth Chapter of the Book of Revelation; I trust it will fill our minds and hearts with a tremendous sense of **HOPE** ...

Prepare to '*Breathe in*' and be '*Energized By*' this Ultimate Truth we share together this morning ... Allow me to '**Read it out loud**' to you.

**REVELATION CHAPTER FOUR ...**

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said ...

*"Come up here and I will show you what must take place after this."*

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

Also, in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a **lion**, the second was like an **ox**, the third had a face like a **man**, the fourth was like a flying **eagle**. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night, they never stop saying:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

In that image-filled passage is contained:

**"THE REVELATION OF THE CREATOR HIMSELF"**

## (A Five-Part Revelation)

Here's **Part One** of this '**Revelation**' ...

### **1. THE CREATOR IS THE HEAD OF ALL CREATION**

*"You created all things" (vs. 11)*

Surrounding the Creator's Throne are the most awesome Celestial Beings: Twenty-Four Glorious Elders and Four Incredible Living Creatures. Their Attention and Adoration is Focused completely on Him.

*"Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks ... the Twenty-Four Elders fall down ... and worship Him ..." (vs. 9-10)*

And it's those 24 Worshipping Elders who declare:

***"You created all things."***

And that is the most fundamental thing that we must know for there is absolutely NO HOPE ... NO HOPEFULNESS ... in a Creator-less world. There's no **purpose** - no **meaning** - no sense of **destiny** in a purely naturalistic world.

But the Apostle John would say to us:

*"There is a Creator - there is a Purpose - there is a Person, and I have seen Him and I pass on the Revelation to you."*

Let the very fact that there is a Creator stir **Hope** in your Heart!

Here's now the **second part**:

### **2. THE CREATOR DWELLS IN SPECTACULAR SPLENDOR**

*"A rainbow encircled the throne" (vs. 3)*

What a glorious sight that must have been!  
John said that it '*Shone like an emerald.*'

*"From the thrones came flashings of lightening, rumbles and peals of thunder." (vs. 5)*

That's the way it has always been. When Moses met with God on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments and the Directions for building the Tabernacle and all the Laws and Regulations for the Nation, we read that ...

*"There was thunder and lightning ...  
and everyone in the camp trembled."  
(Exodus 19:16)*

Heaven is not a very quiet place ... nothing hush/hush about it. There's exuberance and praise; splendid displays.

The mighty Cathedrals on earth - beginning with the houses of worship that the Creator Himself designed - were never intended to show off the wealth of men but rather they were intended to reveal the Glory of God.

*"Before the Throne, seven lamps were blazing." (vs. 5)*

Do not confuse these '**Lamps**' with the '**Seven Golden Lampstands**' of chapter one. John uses a different word here.

These are blazing bright lights; these are lamps that never go out; they are found directly in front of the Creator's Throne.

Picture them as the brightest searchlights you have ever seen - Imagine them to be Lamps of an Eternal Lighthouse showing the way through the storm.

These are Lamps dispelling all darkness - Lamps illuminating all God's Truth - These are Lamps declaring that all that can be known and should be known can be found right there at the Throne of the Almighty One - the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

And one day, you and I, along with all of God's Born-Again Children will stand in their light and we will '*know*' even as we are known (1 Corinthians 13:12). We will experience the splendor of our Heavenly Father - The Creator Himself!

Allow that coming reality to generate **Hope** in your Heart!

**Consider now** the third part of this Incredible Revelation:

### **3. THE CREATOR PERSONIFIES ABSOLUTE HOLINESS**

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty" (vs. 8b)*

This is a purity and perfection that defines  
the entire eternal realm.  
There is no room for anything unholy.  
The Father runs a tidy house.

For example, those angels who rebelled long eons ago ... those who joined Lucifer in his rebellion, were immediately cast out of heaven ...

There was no provision made for their sin nor could there be for there was no additional revelation that could save them. They had been exposed to it all. They had been in the Presence of their Creator Himself and they had chosen to rebel in spite of all they had known and experienced.

There was no longer any place in heaven for them.  
The Creator cannot tolerate sin;  
He is the very personification of **Holiness**.

How marvelous to know that there is a place where sin does not exist where only those who are **HOLY** are allowed to dwell.

This is a **Key Part** of the Revelation that John received on that marvelous day when the Exalted Lord Jesus said: "**Come up here.**"

Someday that call will come to each of us who trusts in Christ and who have been **declared** 'Holy' by our Creator Himself.

And on that day, we ourselves will enter our Creator's Holy Presence and we will know that we belong there!

Now isn't that a **Hope-Generating** thought!

I don't know how John was able to stand it. I feel like I have already been swept away by a Tidal Wave of Hope-Generating Truth.

I could easily just relax in its flow and say:  
*"It's more than enough to satisfy my quest."*

But there more in this **Hope-Generating Revelation** that John personally experienced and was directed to share with us.

**Here's Part Four ...**

#### **4. THE CREATOR PERSONIFIES UNCHALLENGED WORTHINESS**

*"You are worthy, Our LORD and GOD, to receive glory*

*and honor and power **for** you created all things ..."* (vs. 11a)

There's the culminating statement ... there's the underlying truth. Our Awesome Abba Father is the living breathing embodiment of worthiness - the ultimate recipient of our Worship. And it's because He is the **ONE** who has **CREATED** all things.

**Keep in mind** ... The celestial beings (these 24 Elders) making this statement of adoration are also part of the **Created Order**.

They owe their existence to The Creator just like we do ... They acknowledge Him as the ONE who has brought them into being and given meaning to them just as we should.

They are awesome beings - they are magnificent in nature and function ... Their eyes and minds are open and filled with all the wonder and splendor to which the Apostle John was being newly exposed in that incredible moment. Never will they ever lose their sense of awe and wonder in the Creator's Presence.

Nothing and No One can challenge our **Creator's Worth** - Nothing and No One deserves our Worship other than HE.

The Son and the Spirit honor and praise and bring ultimate Glory to the Father. So do all the heavenly hosts ... So should we.

He is **worthy** of the best that we have ...  
He is **worthy** of the adoration of the Entire Creation ...  
**Worthy** to receive all the glory and honor and power that He has received.

And we **belong** to Him - We can even add to the accolades that flow to Him from all corners of the Universe. And some day He will acknowledge our contributions to this chorus of worship.

Allow His Unchallenged Worthiness to **Generate Hope** within you!

And there's still one more part - a **fifth** and final part - to this overwhelming '**Revelation of the Creator Himself**' ...

## **5. THE CREATOR DETERMINES EVERYTHING BY HIS WILL**

*"You created all things and **by your will** they were created and have their being."* (vs. 11b)

The Creator is no haphazard Being ...  
The Creator did not '*get the ball rolling*' and then just '*Let it roll.*'

*"You created all things and **by Your Will***

they were created and **have their being.**"

Even as our Exalted Lord Jesus oversees His Churches, so the Father oversees all of Creation. **His Will** determines everything, and His Will is not something to fear or become anxious about.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans chapter 12 describes God's will as being: **Good, Pleasing** and **Perfect.**

Think about that ...

**Our Creator's Will** - the Will by which He created and sustains all things - **is:**

**GOOD** (not bad)  
**PLEASING** (not distressing)  
**PERFECT** (not problematic)

This is the **WILL** by which our Heavenly Abba - the Creator Himself - is determining the circumstances of our lives ... even the circumstances that we are faced with this very day.

For us who know Him, who have given our lives to Him, these circumstances will turn out for us to be '**Good** and **Perfect** and even **Pleasing ...** Allow that reality to **generate Hope** within you.

And now as we wrap up this lesson, let me draw your attention to today's final thought ...

**Final Thought ...**

What could possibly generate more **HOPE** in our hearts than the **REVELATION** of the glorious **ONE** who has brought all things into **BEING** and who has all things **UNDER CONTROL?**