

# KING OF THE JUNGLE

## SERMON TITLE: THE PRIORITY OF HEAVEN REVELATION 4:1-11

“Cribs” is a TV show that takes its viewers on a tour of somebody’s crib. And for folks not as cool as I am... “crib” means “house.” “Yo crib” is where yo live, man.

There’s actually several different versions of *Cribs*.

There’s an *MTV Cribs* for hipsters, and *CMT Cribs* for country music fans, and *Teen Cribs* for teenagers.

If you want to see Mariah Carey’s NY penthouse, or Carmelo Anthony’s country estate tune in to *Cribs*.

And if you want to see God’s Crib turn in your Bible to **Revelation 4**... For the Apostle John takes us on a tour of *the King’s Crib*. John is given a tour of heaven.

The curtain separating time from eternity peels away... A door opens from the physical world into the spiritual dimension. *This is an otherworld experience...*

Check out the first two verses, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven.

And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

John gets summoned to heaven. And now his wild ride begins, “Immediately I was in the Spirit...” Was this “a beam me up Scotty” moment? Or *James Earl Jones*

*vanishing in the cornstalks?* Did he dematerialize - get spiritually transported - then re-materialize in heaven?

*Who knows?* But when John opens his eyes “**behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.**”

John doesn't go into the extra-terrestrial mechanics of how it happened. He's too amazed by what he sees!

Here's the ultimate episode of Cribs... **Heaven.**

But I want to begin this morning with an idea that's even more remarkable... **You were made for heaven!**

Yes - weak, frail, flawed, insignificant, sinful, dirty little stinker you - were made for the halls of heaven.

Why do you think we like shows such as **Cribs**, or its forerunner, “**Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous**”? Why the fascination with these extravagant, other-worldly cribs? Next time you gawk at a mansion is it just whetting your appetite for an eternal, celestial home?

Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us God “**put eternity in (our) hearts...**” God has created you and I for heaven, and He's put a longing in our hearts for His heavenly crib.

Here's a question, **do you ever get homesick?**

Years ago I was overseas for three weeks, and toward the end of my trip I really wanted to get home!

I promised God if He would get me back to the good ole USA I would never complain about a pothole again.

Now I know why you see soldiers get off the airplane and kiss the ground. You can get extremely homesick.

My youngest son, Mack, is a college student who plays baseball. His extra-curricular activities keep him at school most weekends, *and Mack can get homesick.*

He made it home two weekends ago, and he made a funny comment to his mom. When Mack came out of the bathroom he told Kathy, “*Wow, I’d forgotten what real toilet paper feels like.*” Apparently, he and his college roomies have found a few ways to cut costs.

The blessings of home, can be taken for granted until you’ve been gone a while. It’s a sweet reunion to make it back to where you really always wanted to be...

I believe each of us was born homesick for Heaven.

It’s been said, “*We are born looking for something we’ve never really seen, and searching for a place we’ve never really been.*” Even when life is as good as it gets, we’re always wondering if there’s anything else.

It always puzzles me when I meet a person from Hawaii who’s moved to Georgia. *I can think of several examples.* They all say they were tired of Hawaii...

“*Okay, always 70 degrees, no humidity, warm water, slight breeze, sunshine...*” Apparently, you can get bored with Paradise. Could it be we were never intended to feel at home anywhere on this Earth?

Wherever we live we're still going to feel homesick.

I believe God has planted within every human heart a homing device - a transponder - to get us to Heaven.

We see this in the animal kingdom. Animals have a migratory instinct. The Pacific salmon swim many miles against the tides and currents to return to the riverbed where they were hatched to spawn a new generation.

Every year tourists flock to the mission at San Juan Capistrano to witness the return of the swallows.

Once I was at a church in San Juan Capistrano, and I learned that the swallows don't actually return to the mission. They land in the K-mart parking lot. For the poets and tourists the mission is a little more romantic.

Several years ago I heard about a family cat named "Clem." One day Clem decided to leave home. He just jumped off the chair, walked out, and never came back.

It was eight years later, a cat appeared clawing at the front door. When the family opened the door the cat walked right into the house as if he owned the place, and sat in Clem's chair. After checking some old photos, to the family's astonishment, it was Clem.

The prodigal cat found his way home! And I believe God puts the same migratory instinct in every human heart. We were made for Heaven, and we'll never be satisfied until we get home. Augustine prayed, "Lord, our souls are restless until they find their rest in You."

I'll go one step further, I believe the very best of times on earth are merely foreshadowings of the thrills we'll experience the moment we get home to heaven.

*A baby's birth, a wedding day, a child's graduation, an unexpected inheritance, a gold medal* - take all the achievements and accolades this world doles out - roll them together - and it's a little like the taste of heaven.

CS Lewis wrote, "All the things that ever deeply possessed your soul have been but hints of heaven - tantalizing glimpses, promises never quite fulfilled, echoes that died away just as they caught your ear.

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. Earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy - but to arouse, to suggest the real thing." Trust me, you and I were made for heaven!

Yet tragically many people end up going to hell.

People ask me, "Sandy, if God is a loving God how can He send a person to hell?" Hey, God doesn't send anybody to hell. God made you for heaven, not hell.

In Matthew 25:41 Jesus warns, "He will... say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Hell was made for the devil and his demons!

Every human in hell is there because they chose to be there! People choose hell by rejecting Jesus.

2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

God made you for heaven, not hell. Jesus came to wash away your sin – and guarantee your admission.

Once three buddies died in a car crash. They all went to heaven. During the orientation all three men were asked the same question, "When your body is in the casket, and your friends and family are mourning over you, what do you want them to say about you?"

The first man replied: "I want to hear them say I was one of the great doctors of his day, and a family man."

The second fellow answered: "I want to hear them say I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a difference in the lives of our youth."

The last guy responded: "I want to hear someone say, *Look! He's moving!*" I don't mind hanging out on Earth until God is finished with me. But once He's done I'll be ready. I was made for heaven, and I'm longing to go there. I won't be fully happy until I get home.

And I know this, once I reach heaven the last trip I'll want to make is back to Earth. No round-trips for me.

Heaven is heavenly - *a crib that's out of this world.*

John's episode of *Cribs* begins in verse 1, "After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Here's a few questions we need to ask...

First, John is about to be shown *“things which must take place after **this...**”* What then, is the *“this”*?

Well, for the last two chapters in Revelation we’ve been discussing the Church. What John sees from here on apparently takes place after the church age.

And since we are the church, the events described in the rest of Revelation are yet future. Chapters 6-19 list a series of judgments known as *“Great Tribulation.”*

Which leads to another question, *if all this happens after the Church age what happens to the Church?*

John is a member of the Church, and look at what happens to him - *a door opens in heaven... there’s the sound of a trumpet... and John is invited to come up...*

This sounds like 1 Thessalonians 4. Jesus descends in the clouds and the Church is caught up into heaven.

I believe Revelation 4:1 speaks of the rapture.

Note, in Revelation 2-3 the term *“church”* is used 19 times, but not once does it appear in chapters 6-19.

The NT teaches, that before judgment comes down, the Church goes up. Jesus snatches away His Church.

The Church is in Heaven when great tribulation rocks this wicked world. And John is included in the Church. It’s from Heaven’s press box that John reports on the future. First though, he describes his surroundings in chapters 4-5. He takes us on a tour of the King’s crib.



John starts in verse 2, “Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne...” All this happened “Immediately...” Perhaps John experienced his own personal rapture...

So often we think of the rapture as a slow ascent.

Our feet feel light - we have lift-off - we float through the clouds... That’s not how it’s described in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15:52 tells us the rapture occurs “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” That’s immediate. A blink takes 1/50 of a second. A twinkle is even faster.

John was taken to Heaven “Immediately” - and when he opened his eyes he tells us what he saw... “behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne...”

Imagine what John could’ve written about...

Portals to the inner workings of the universe - vistas of unseen heavenly bodies - bizarre angelic creatures - detailed blueprints of the mansions we’ll inhabit - *streets of gold, saints of old, mysteries untold!*

But that’s not the feature that grabs his attention.

John’s eyes are fixated on a centerpiece. Everything in Heaven revolves around a throne and its Occupant.

As vast and beautiful and magnificent as Heaven must be it’s dominated by a single throne and its Ruler.

Listen to John’s description, “And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance...”



Jasper sparkles like a diamond. Sardius is ruby red. Vivid colors are bursting out of the throne of God.

“*And there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.*” A rainbow provides the whole spectrum of color. Here it’s framed in emerald green. On Earth we’re treated to half rainbows, but in heaven a circular rainbow surrounds God’s throne.

*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones (miniature thrones), and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes...*” And notice on top... “*they had crowns of gold on their heads.*”

John was not the only person in the Bible to be given a glimpse of God’s crib. Ezekiel and Isaiah received a similar vision of Heaven. But here’s what none of the OT visionaries saw... *these twenty-four elders.*

Ephesians 3 tells us that the Church was a mystery, hidden from the OT prophets. This is why in the OT visions of Heaven the *elders* were absent. *I believe these elders represent the Church.* Here they’re clothed in white robes – *the righteousness of Christ.*

In Matthew 19 Jesus promised His disciples that they would sit on twelve thrones. He promises all faithful believers that one of our rewards is to rule with Jesus.

I hope God rotates His elders in Heaven like we do at CC. Maybe after a 100-billion years I’ll get a turn.

Again, they wear “*crowns of gold on their heads.*”

This is the Greek word “**stephanos**” - it’s not the *kingly crown*, it’s the **victor’s crown** - it’s a gold-plated wreath placed on the head of the Olympic champion.

These crowns are **rewards** that Jesus passes out to faithful servants. The NT mentions five specific crowns.

1 Corinthians 9 talks about the **imperishable crown**. It goes to the person who exercises spiritual discipline.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 mentions a **crown of rejoicing**. It’s awarded to the witness who wins souls for Jesus.

James 1 speaks of the **crown of life** - which goes to the person who overcomes temptation for Jesus sake.

1 Peter 5 identifies the **crown of glory**. It’s awarded to leaders who faithfully serve the Body of Christ.

And finally, 2 Timothy 4, the **crown of righteousness** is allocated to those who love the Lord’s appearing.

The twenty-four elders all wear these golden crowns.

God also wants us to serve Him, and He provides us plenty of incentive. We too can win the same crowns.

And it’s vital we do so - *a little later we’ll see why.*

Verse 5, “**And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.**” Notice, God’s throne is not a peaceful, pastoral retreat. It’s a charged atmosphere.

Color radiates... Energy pulsates... It's as if the throne is plugged into an electrical outlet that's sending it high voltage current. Lightning cracks, and thunder rolls, and voices of all sorts shout from God's throne.

God's throne in Heaven is like Sinai on steroids. In the OT God's manifestation shook the mountain. Here, the glory of God shakes the foundations of Heaven.

Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (or the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit.) Before the throne *there was a sea of glass, like crystal.*" A huge sea sat motionless.

Imagine the acoustics as the lightning, and thunder, and voices reverberate off the reflective water.

This was a sensory experience unrivaled by anything John had experienced on Earth. Even today all the pyrotechnics in the world couldn't reproduce the scene.

Here's a color and light show complete with surround sound. God's throne is like an overheated reactor. It boils, and glows, and rumbles, and sparks, and growls.

It's a fitting throne for the King of the Jungle.

Starbucks prints quotes on the side of coffee cups.

Recently, they featured one from Joel Stein, an LA Times columnist. It reads, "Heaven is totally overrated. It seems boring. Clouds, listening to people play the harp. It should be somewhere you can't wait to go, like a luxury hotel. Maybe blue skies and soft music were enough to keep people in line in the 17th century, but

Heaven has to step it up a bit. They're basically getting by because they only have to be better than Hell."

Joel Stein envisions a Heaven that's boring and drab. Apparently, Stein never read of the real Heaven.

When I imagine Heaven, I think of Jesus' promise to the thief on the cross. Jesus said, "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise." The Persian term, "*Paradise*," referred to a walled garden in the midst of the desert.

Rich sheiks would build a wall around their oasis.

Outside the walls was nothing but sand. But within the garden was lush vegetation, delicious fruit trees, shady palms, underground aquifers, springs turned into fountains, please arbors where people sat and relaxed.

When Jesus talked about Heaven He referred to it as an oasis in the midst of the desert - a beautiful garden.

For the most part, I think this world is a gorgeous place. Drive through North Georgia over the next few weekends, and watch the leaves turning color. You'll see beauty galore. This world has some spectacular sights. But God created the Earth in just six days...

Just before He ascended, Jesus told His disciples He was going to prepare a place for them. That means Jesus has been working on Heaven for 2000 years.

Imagine, if Jesus made this world's beauty in a mere six days can you imagine what Heaven will be like after 2000 years of construction? Heaven will be heavenly!

God's crib boggles the brain. It blows away mythic notions that heaven is a long chain of cumulus clouds.

Or a maze of white, sterile hospital hallways and waxed tile floors - to the contrary Heaven explodes with the color, light, sound of a big budget rock show.

Trust me, Heaven will blow away the stereotypes.

And John doesn't just describe the **appearance** of God's throne – He's also impressed with the **activity** going on around that throne! There's perpetual motion.

Heaven is eye-popping, and feet-hopping! Heaven is a happening place. No one stands idly by. No one has his hands in his pockets, or is twiddling his thumbs.

No one is bored, or confused about what they should be doing. No one says "*duh, I don't know*" in heaven.

There are no "*duhs*" and *dumb looks* in heaven.

All heaven is consumed with one activity...

John reports in verse 6, "**And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.**" Here's a creature with its head of a swivel. It never dozes off - it never takes a nap. It's eyes are always on target.

These eyes never shut or get distracted.

It's interesting to me, that what has been all but forgotten by the vast majority of people on earth – *the throne of God* – is all these creatures care to gaze at.

Not once do these creatures look up the latest Gallup tracking poll on the Presidential Election - or tune it Fox News for an update - or check the scores on ESPN - or see how their stocks did that day - or check their Facebook feed - or even browse Pinterest.

They're mesmerized by the glory of God alone.

At the time of this vision John was still an earthling.

His feet were still planted on terra-firma. John still had earthly interests. But when he saw into Heaven all that he look at and talk about was God and His throne.

And when he returned from heaven to Patmos I can promise you he never saw life the same way again. The jungle isn't as fearful, or important, or appealing, or foreboding after you see the King and His throne.

I don't know who'll be President of the United States on November 7 - *and yes you should vote to help decide* - but I guarantee you Jesus will be sitting on the throne in Heaven. We should trust Him wholeheartedly!

The creatures John sees not only have eyes in the front and back, but they have faces... **"The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."**

These four faces represent attributes of God...

Here's a 4 x 4 advertisement for the glory of God.

God is like **a lion** - His power and majesty... He's like **a calf** - His service and sacrifice... He's like **a man** - His creativity and intellect... He's like **an eagle** - His wings glide through the heavens and He is sovereign over all.

Verse 8 continues, **“The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.”**

In the Bible there're two types of angels - **cherubim and seraphim**. Both warrior-type creatures. There're fearsome. Men see them and melt like wax. In the OT a single angel killed 186,000 soldiers in one night.

Ezekiel saw **cherubim** with four faces like in verse 7.

Isaiah saw **seraphim** with six wings like in verse 8.

John sees a hybrid - a **cheru-phim** or a **sera-bim**.

Evidently, these four living creatures were special-op angels that guard the throne of God. Call them the Secret Service of the Heavenly Armed Forces.

And notice their movement - their vigilance - they never stop - they're always on duty. Verse 8, **“And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”**

These angels praise God for His holiness. Three times they shout **“holy”** in deference to the Triune God.

And they acknowledge His timelessness. God dwells outside the time domain. He's the God of the past. *History* is **His Story**... He's the God of the present - the Great I



am... And He's the God of the future. The world is spiraling headlong to a climax that fits His purpose.

He "*was and is and is to come*" all at the same time.

Heaven is full of activity - and John notes that it's not all spontaneous - rather it's a synchronized response.

Heaven is all abuzz, but its *an orderly buzz*.

John describes it in verse 9, "*Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever...*"

That's the cue... For at that moment, "*The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever...*" The whole chapter has been leading up to verse 10...

Here is the big idea in today's message, write this down, "*The priority of Heaven is the worship of God.*"

And notice, worship is not passive. The twenty-four elders *fall down on their faces and lift up their voices*.

Sadly, I've been to churches that were more like a morgue. Here's an illustration that's out-dated, but I could think of none better. Some Christians worship like Jed Clampett's dog - a hound called "*Ole Blue.*"

This dog looked like an empty sack. It rarely budged. It floated back and forth between comatose to dead.

In contrast, have you ever seen an energetic puppy?

There's enthusiasm, expression, expectation, joy, and response - as well as, awe and respect. Dog gone it, when we worship God we should act like puppies!

Author Ron Allen writes, "Worship is not passive, but participative. It's not simply a mood; it's a response. Worship is not just a feeling, it's a declaration."

Worship is not a time of the week - or a place to meet - or a program the church follows. Worship is a verb! It's something we do. Worship is an action word!

Bud Wilkerson, former coach of the Oklahoma Sooners, described college football as "55,000 fans, desperately needing exercise, sitting in the stands watching 22 men on a field, desperately needing rest."

Sometimes our Sunday worship resembles what happens on Saturday. We come to watch... or be entertained by people who can sing and play... and we fail to realize God wants us to participate in worship.

Understand what worship looks like in Heaven...

These colossal, battle-hardened angelic creatures, who if you met in a dark alley would strike fear in your heart - are jettisoning back and forth, hovering like a Blackhawk helicopter over the throne. They never rest.

Distinguished elders - heroes of the faith - fall on their faces, and cast down their crowns. Grown men cry like women in labor as they utter God's greatness. I mean, **worship is Heaven's most serious business.**

There's no such thing as a spectator-mentality...

Heaven is into it... There's nothing half-hearted about the effort. The biggest, baddest creatures aren't in the gym sharpening up their martial arts. They're into worship. Raising hands, lifting voices, giving back to God the glory due Him. Responding to His greatness.

What if I came home one night, walked through the front door... Here I am, *the revelation of Sandy Adams*.

And my wife just shrugged... mumbled hello... dinner is on the stove... then turned away and went upstairs.

I'd be insulted - hurt - disappointed... That's certainly not the response I'd be looking to receive. How about a hug... a kiss... or both... at least a pleasant greeting...

It's like the guy who said to his wife, "I told you I loved you on our wedding day, and if anything changes I'll let you know." Ladies, you want more out of your husband than that! You want daily affirmations of his love. And so does God. This what we call worship!

The elders fall on their face, and notice what they do next... they "cast their crowns before the throne..."

1 Corinthians 3 tells us that all believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and our works will be tried. We're saved, but our motives are screened.

Did we serve the Lord to promote ourselves? Was pride or selfishness involved, or did we do it for Jesus?

And crowns will be rewarded to us accordingly...

Now, I've heard Christians say, *"When I'm in heaven I'll just be glad I'm there. I'm not worried about rewards. Heaven is heavenly with or without a crown."*

And that my friend, is a short-sighted perspective.

Worship is the reason I work and serve the Lord. I'm trying to rack up as many rewards as possible because I don't want to get caught with nothing to give Jesus.

For all of a sudden you're going to see Jesus. You'll be face to face with the King of the Jungle. You'll see the nail prints in His hands, and the scars on His brow..

And you'll be instantly overwhelmed with what He's done for you. It will reduce you to tears. You'll be lying there before Him, nothing but a pile of melted gratitude.

Then, out of the corner of your eye, you'll see them. The elders will be casting their crowns at Jesus' feet.

*"Yea, that's what I'll do. I'll show Him my gratitude and love. I'll give him my crowns."* But what if you don't have any crowns? What a sad, empty feeling to finally be in the position to give back to Jesus a little of the grace and love He's given you and come up empty.

I can't imagine a more humiliating, embarrassing, shameful spot. You got no tangible way to say thanks!

One year for Christmas my brother and I agreed not to exchange gifts. We usually buy each other piddly-little junk anyway, so why not save the money?

Well, apparently his wife didn't get the message. So on Christmas Day she hands me a present – *and I have nothing with which to reciprocate.* I felt like a heel!

And it was Ken who should've felt heel-ish, not me.

But if I felt that way before my kid brother – imagine how you'll feel before Jesus! Never forget even our work and service will ultimately be turned into worship!

Verse 11, the twenty-four elders *“cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power...”* He is worthy!

It reminds me of the millionaire explaining his success, *“When I came to town all I had was a nickel to my name. But I used that nickel to buy an apple.*

*I polished it for hours, and the next day I sold it for a dime. Then I bought 2 apples, polished them until they were sparkling, and sold them for 20 cents. On and on this went, day after day, until I had accumulated \$3.20.”*

An admirer asked him, *“Wow, that's inspiring. You're a self-made man. But tell us, what happened next?”*

The rich man replied, *“The next day my father-in-law died and left me \$20 million.”* So much for self-made.

This is the realization we all should draw. None of us a self-made people. We're all trophies of God's grace.

Pardon and peace - forgiveness and freedom - even the material blessings we've gained didn't come because we deserve them. God authors our gifts and opportunities. He should *“receive glory and honor...”*

And then the elders cry again, “For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

I love the OKJ version, “Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.” You and I were created for God’s pleasure - not our own.

You were created for Heaven. You were created for God’s pleasure. And until you accept why you’re here, how will ever determine which way you should go?

“God is trying to call us back to that for which He created us – to worship Him, and to enjoy Him forever.”

The elders in heaven tell us we were created for God’s pleasure – *and you need to listen to you elders!*

Years ago, a computer company ran a magazine ad picturing a groggy fellow waking up in the morning crawling out of bed. The caption read, “Is it an alarm or a calling that gets you out of bed in the morning?”

That’s a good question for us. God has a calling for each of us. He created us for His plans and purposes.

This means we find our deepest fulfillment and highest happiness not when we reach *our* goals, or make *our* fortune, or achieve *our* ambition – but when we live for the pleasure to God, and bring Him glory!

Once I saw headline in the “*Lifestyle*” section of the newspaper. It read, “I Play, therefore I Am.” The article caught my attention. It declared, *life is all about leisure.*

But the headline was only one letter off. You need to substitute an “R” for an “L.” “I Pray, therefore I Am.”

The real reason you exist is to fellowship with God - to bring Him pleasure - and bring honor to His name.

You’ve seen the T-shirts, “Life is Soccer” or “Life is Baseball.” Well neither are true... “Life is Worship.”

I heard a fanciful tale of a scientist who bred a fish that could live outside the water. The scientist though wasn’t satisfied with his remarkable accomplishment.

He figured the fish still had a secret desire for H<sub>2</sub>O so he conditioned it to abhor the mere sight of water.

High humidity became the fish’s worst nightmare.

Until one day the fish was accidentally dropped into the lake. It drew in a tentative gill-full. Its eyes bulged.

It breathed again, and flicked a fin. It breathed a third time, and wiggled with glee. Finally it darted away.

The fish had discovered water!

And as that fish was made for water, so is man made for the presence of God – yet people have been bred and conditioned to live without God. This is tragic.

Until we come to Jesus we never really discover the reason for which we were created. Heaven proves our lives never make more sense than when we worship!



John's vision of God's crib provides us a spectacular view of sights seen by only a very few mortal men.

But its primary purpose is not so much to spotlight the *scenery of heaven* as it is to shed light on the *priority of heaven*. And Heaven's priority is worship!

May it be our priority in our lives and in our church!