

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (September 8, 2024)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

If I received a phone call and the person on the other end of the line said, “This is the President of the United States, can you come over for dinner?” I would not believe it. “Is this Tom Oliva?” The President, honestly Tom Oliva too, has much more important things to do. The President’s dinner list is full of “A-list” celebrities, athletes, heads of state, elected officials, donors ... out of a population of 340 million Americans I’m close to, or at, the bottom. In reality, the President is just another person, full of flaws, but by vote given incredible power. His position and title put him “out of my reach.” Christians have as their authority One who is so far beyond the powers of the U.S. President. The comparison is ridiculous. He created the world, the universe, us, simply by speaking. Do we understand the power-differential? Do we tremble in His presence? How do we, how can we, approach ALMIGHTY GOD? If I am unworthy of a dinner invitation from the President ... how can I believe I am worthy and able to approach the One True Living God? Do we know who He is? What right do we have to be in His presence?

Worship: The Otherness of God (Exodus 33:17-23, Rev 4:8-5:14 ESV)

“Exodus 33:17 And the Lord said to Moses, ‘This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.’¹⁸ Moses said, ‘Please show me your glory.’¹⁹ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name “The Lord.” And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.’²⁰ But, he said, ‘**you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.**’²¹ And the Lord said, ‘Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock,²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.’²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

“Rev 4:8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, ‘**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!**’

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ ‘**Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to**

receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’

(Revelation 5:1-10 omitted here due to space. Please read this entire passage)

... ^{5:11} Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, ‘**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**’
¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!**’

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “**Amen!**” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Describe Moses’ relationship with God? (Read Ex 33:1-16)
2. How does the writer of Revelation describe God, heaven?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. What does, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live” mean? (Exodus 33:20)
4. What does, “they cast their crowns before the throne” mean? (Revelation 4:10)

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. Who is the most “famous” person you have ever met?
6. If you could have dinner with one person who would it be?
7. What are three words you would use to describe your relationship with God?
8. How does God describe Himself in the Bible?
9. How would you answer if someone asked you why you worship God? What does the word “worship” mean to you?
10. How do you, how can you, approach God?
11. How does God want us to worship Him?
12. What will you do in the next few weeks to increase your reverence of God?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be a natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to help you see Him and know Him. Ask Him to convict you with His “otherness.” Ask God to increase your reverence of Him. He will ... because He loves you.