

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

Who is God? Revelation 4:8

What is your earliest memory? Some of us can remember snippets and scenes from early childhood, but we cannot recall our birth or earliest of days. And no one can recall every moment of his or her life. Now, think about how strong you are. What's the most you can lift? I read about the world record for power lifting was over 2300lbs. That's pretty impressive, but human strength still has its limits. As impressive as humans are, we are limited and finite.

As we turn our attention to Revelation 4:8, we see a God who is not finite, who is not limited. He is eternal, He is all powerful, and He is sovereign: He is God.

GET FOCUSED

Someone once said the best gift we can give ourselves is time alone with God. When we go to the scripture, we should go expecting to hear from God. So, let's revere that opportunity and focus our hearts and minds. Quiet the noise within and without and prepare to spend time with God.

READ

Studies have shown that reading out loud helps with retention and understanding. If you're able, try reading Revelation 4:8 out loud, particularly focusing on the last part of the verse, the part in quotations. That is where we will draw our focus in next step.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. We see that Revelation 4 starts with the writer, John, being given a vision of God's throne. And we see some strange creatures gathered around the throne. These creatures are worshipping God and saying these words. And they never cease to say these words, showing us how important they are.

Now, let's **observe** the key words and phrases in the quoted part of verse 8: Holy, Lord God Almighty, was/is/ is to come

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. Holy is a word that's used a lot in the Bible. It means something is sacred and separate. This word is used to describe beings and things that are different and distinct,

unlike the rest. People and objects can be holy, in that they can be set apart for special or sacred use. Here God is described as “holy, holy, holy.” With the word “holy” being repeated 3 times, it was a way of saying that God is altogether separate from the rest. He is distinct in a way that makes Him different from all other things. Although we are made in His image, He is not like us. We are limited and finite; He is not. He is Lord God Almighty. “Lord” means that He is sovereign, the ruler over all things. “Lord” is a term that means the one to whom a person or a thing belongs, the one that has power to decide and control. “God” is a term for a supernatural being; a being that is not limited by earthly constraints. “Almighty” means omnipotent; He who holds sway over all things. So, taken together, we see a God who is over all things, who rules over all things, and who has power over all things. If you look down at verse 11, we see this in creation. He is the One that has created all things and it is by His will that all exist. God is God because of this ruling power and because He is eternal. He “was,” He “is,” and He “is to come.” As Psalm 90:2 states, He is from everlasting to everlasting. God has no creator; rather He is creator of all things. God has no equal, for all other beings and creatures are finite. This is what God is like; this is who God is.

So, what’s the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? God is God because He is not like us. He is eternal, holy, and Sovereign.

WORSHIP

Remember, “reading the Bible is not where your engagement ends It is where it begins” (Heiser). How will we live this out? Consider what v11 states, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.” We must respond to who God is by worshipping Him, by giving Him glory and honor in all things. We must give Him power in our lives by fully submitting to Him. So, take time to meditate on this. Are there parts of your life that are not yielded and submitted to Him? How can you give God glory in your home, in your work, in your hobbies, in every aspect of your life? How will our lives declare, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty?”