

Rev 4:⁸And 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!"⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the 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."

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

John was privileged to see the ascended Christ in heaven. I am firmly convinced that in order to understand who Jesus really is, you have to see him through the eyes of John as you read the book of Revelation. There you see Jesus in all his glory. John was privileged to see Jesus sitting on the Throne in all of Jesus' ascended glory. This is the all-powerful one in the fullness of Deity and still marked with his humanity. It is your view of Jesus the Christ that will determine how far you grow in the Christian faith. We have no pipsqueak God. It is essential and vital to who you are in Christ to see Jesus as victorious over death and sitting on the Throne reigning over the universe holding all things together in this universe by the power of his Word. The visions John received, recorded in Revelation give to us the clearest view of how Jesus reigns supreme over all the creation and heaven itself. There is no power higher than Jesus. He is the higher power. No, he is the highest power. It is your view of Jesus that will determine how far you will grow in the Christian faith. This is no infant meek and mild. He is Jesus and every knee will bow down to him and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It is time for us to see Jesus for who he truly is. Many, if not all of my struggles in my walk with the Lord can be summarized like this. I make Jesus out to be pretty small and not very powerful. I

think Jesus is less powerful than what I am personally facing. I begin to doubt his perfect love. I begin to walk by what I see and not by faith in the One who is all powerful, Jesus. I put my focus on people and dark circumstances to my detriment. I just confessed to you one of my sins and may the Lord Jesus please forgive me.

If every Christian could see Jesus reigning supreme as John did, all the churches would be so full people we would have waiting lines outside the door for people wanting to come in, kneel down, and worship Jesus with God's people. The sin of our day is our having a puny view of Jesus. May our view of Jesus increase greatly by God's grace and truth.

Friends, I want to see all of us grow closer to Jesus. For this church to experience renewal by the Holy Spirit it is essential for all of us to be growing in our relationship with the Lord. In my sermons for these next few months, I hope to state principles that will help us all grow in the Christian faith, and I am asking for all of you to take these principles with the utmost of seriousness. I just shared with you one of my biggest sins. My view of Jesus can be too small and then I sink in the ocean of my doubts until somehow my faith is strengthened again so I can walk on water. And the only way you can walk on water is by seeing Jesus for who he truly is. It is called walking by faith and trust in the One who has everything that you need and more. I also know that one huge key in growing closer to Jesus is to confess your own debilitating sins not only to Jesus but also to a person that you trust in the Lord Jesus. I have three very close friends that I share my worst of sins with, and they pray for me, they love me, and they hold me accountable, so I do not keep repeating those sins. There is something very powerful, good, and even healing when you can be that honest with a trusted Christian friend. It is one of God's ways of setting us free from habits that can do us in. It is essential that we die to our sin before our sin destroys us. I am very serious about this.

John, in his Gospel, zeros in on who Jesus was and is, proclaiming Jesus to be God on every page especially as John brings out the I am statements of Jesus. In the Old Testament

God calls Himself "I am" from which we get the term Yahweh. Jesus calls Himself "I am" in John's Gospel. Jesus Himself claims to be God.

John is the only Gospel writer that takes us back in time to see Jesus in his former glory existing before time in eternity past. Jesus had no beginning. John writes, In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus was eternally preexistent. Please do not think that Jesus came into existence when the virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus. No, this is when Jesus lowered himself as the Father sent Jesus from heaven to save us from our sins. This is what we call the incarnation, God taking on human form. But the preexistence of Jesus is something that is unquestionable. The term "was" as "In the beginning was the word" is in the Greek imperfect tense. The verse could read like this, "In the beginning was continuing the Word, and the Word was continuing with God, and the Word was continually God." This is where it helps to know just a little bit about Greek grammar, or you could twist these words to mean anything that you want them to mean as do various cults today that deny the Deity of Christ. Jesus has no beginning and of course He has no end. He is eternally God.

This is one reason reading John thrills the socks off me as I read the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. John reveals Jesus the Christ to us most clearly for who Jesus is. John sees Jesus from an eternal perspective in his Gospel taking us to eternity past and in the book of Revelation taking us into eternity future. What an incredible vision of Christ. We cannot survive today in these difficult times without such a magnificent view of Jesus. Sometimes we struggle and wrestle and agonize so much because our view of Jesus is so small and inaccurate. This is one of the main reasons we want all of you in Bible study so that which is eternal can be revealed to you and encourage your soul.

Friends, in order to survive these days of incredible evil, it is absolutely essential for you to have a steady diet of God's Word. I don't know how any of us can miss a day or two without being in the Word. This church offers weekly Bible studies all week long and at various times.

For this church to grow we do not need more small groups, we need more people attending the groups that are already in place. The goal is for everyone to be in the Bible every day and attend a Bible study every week. That may be too high of a goal, but if you shoot for nothing you usually hit nothing. Sunday school is a prime opportunity and I know each class is open for new people every week. Your quality of life is determined by how you see God and how deeply you know God. When the Bible makes sense, life makes sense.

God the Father and God the Son have always dwelt together in perfect unity. They are separate from each other as far as personhood, but completely one in essence. There is a relationship of continued joyous intimacy. The Holy Spirit is not mentioned here but elsewhere in Scripture we see this perfect fellowship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Verse 3, "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." Jesus is God the creator. Jesus is not part of the creation. Jesus is not a created being. Jesus is above the entire creation for He himself is the creator. There is nothing that is made that he did not make. The Bible says, "For by Him all things were made." The creation itself is one of the biggest God pointers that we have. The creation points to creator God. People instinctively know that there is a God by looking at the creation. The problem with those who deny the existence of God or who refuse to believe is that they suppress the truth of God's existence for a lie. Sadly, they are very much deceived. The Bible says, "The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

In my studies I came upon this quote, "There are about 100 billion stars in the average galaxy, and there are one hundred million galaxies in known space. Einstein believed that we have scanned with our largest telescopes only one billionth of theoretical space. This means we have probably something like 10 octillion stars in space which is 10 with twenty-seven zeros behind it. And Jesus created them all (R. Kent Hughs, John pg 17). All of this points to God's

existence. The universe shouts the existence of the creator, but people have dull hearts, sinful hearts that tune those shouts of God out. The Bible calls this dullness of hearing. All things are held together by the power of his Word. He is the force that holds all things together, from the smallest atom to the greatest galaxy.

Verse 4 answers the question, "Where did life come from." Those who deny that God exists, such as the atheists, can never fully answer the question of where did life begin? They of course will say certain atoms or elements came together and we will ask, where did those atoms come from or how were those elements developed? The problem of origins can not nor will ever be answered by those who see no God. There is an Intelligent Designer behind the whole process and His name is Jesus. Life comes from Jesus. That is the answer to the origin of life. Where did life come from or where did life originate? The answer is Jesus. "In him was life." Life is a precious gift from God. Life is a sacred gift from God. I have been in birthing rooms and seen children take their first breath. Yes, I certainly sense that this life came from God. I have been in the room when persons have taken their last breath and gone on to be with Jesus. Eternal life is a sacred gift from Jesus. Life comes from Jesus as does the gift of eternal life. Jesus came that we might have eternal life with Him. Your life and my life points to Jesus who has given us the gift of life. Your body shouts forth the existence of Jesus because it is Jesus who gave you life. May God give us ears to hear what His creation has been singing and shouting of God's glory.

Jesus is the originator of life and Jesus is the light. The Bible says Jesus lives in unapproachable light. When we see Jesus, we will finally see the light in all his glory and the brightness of His light is indescribable. But I believe John is referring to the light of Jesus in a spiritual way; that Jesus is full of truth. There is no darkness in Jesus. Jesus has no dark side. He is pure and holy light, full of grace and truth. The light of Christ brings with it warmth and truth, no lies, or deceptions.

John the Baptist was chosen to bear witness to the light, to point out that Jesus was the true light from heaven.

These verses are rather sad indeed. John 1:10-11(ESV) 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Jesus full of love, full of light, full of grace and truth, came to his own and they rejected him. And people still reject him to this day.

John looked at Jesus, straight into his eyes, and saw an ocean of grace. John looked at Jesus and saw heavenly light. John looked at Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration and saw Jesus in his former glory. John writes, we have received grace upon grace. God's grace in your life leads to further grace which in turn leads to further grace and this too leads to further grace upon grace upon grace and all the way into heaven. His grace will lead you home. This is why John wrote his Gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Amen and Amen.