



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 2.

God the Father; who He is (His being)

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-5, Psalm 100, Revelation 4: 1-11 & John 14: 1-4

Prayer & Praise

Begin by praising God with Psalm 100 and meditating upon Him within His throne room in Revelation 4: 1-11

God is Sovereign

Consider God's Sovereignty depicted in Revelation 4: 1-11: His throne room's location in heaven (vs. 1); His authority over sin (vs. 3b); His power over chaos (vs. 6); His powerful presence (vs. 5a); and His authority over all (vs. 8-11). Discuss/meditate upon the meaning of these symbols, what it tells us about God and how this effects/changes our view of Him. What implications does God's sovereignty have for our lives?

What aspects of God as 'judge' do we see in this week's scriptures (Is 11: 3b-5 & Rev 4: 3b)? The rainbow is a covenant symbol of salvation for all living creatures (Gen 9: 8-17). In Revelation it denotes the ultimate salvation plan through Christ; after judgement comes the new beginning for creation. God tells us of future judgement (Matt 25: 31-46), an account giving (2 Cor 5: 10) and ultimate reconciliation (2 Cor 5: 17-21); here we see God's Sovereign Salvation plan. How does this aspect of God make you feel, do you think He is a fair Judge?

God's Character

In these passages we see a God who is accessible (Rev 1: 1), who is love (Ps 100: 5), who is creative (Rev 4: 11b) and who shares His authority (Rev 4: 4). Discuss these characteristics, identify others from the passages and decide what this tells us about God?

God is Spirit

The 'sevenfold Spirit' of God (Rev 4: 5b) can hold other meanings (Rev 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; and Zech 4:2, 10); what do you think these other references indicate and what do they tell us of God?

Clearly the Lord has poured His Spirit out upon Christ (Is 11: 1-5). We see the Spirit of God and three pairings within His Spirit (vs. 2); the sevenfold Spirit of God. What do these pairings reveal about our God, what other words of Scripture do they bring to mind? He is Spirit and shares His Spirit with us (1 Cor 3: 16); how does that make us feel, can we see aspects of God within us?

Some Questions that arise for us

- How do we view God? Is He truly God to us or simply a needs provider?
- How we view God effects how we view the world, our situations, our purpose and our relationships. Has this focus on Him altered our perception on life at all?
- God shares His power with His People and His Church (Rev 4: 4) and He pours out His Spirit upon us. Do we live as though this were a reality?
- God became one of us (Matt 14), for us. What of the God we have focused upon today do we see in Christ?

We have only touched on who God is through these meditations. What have we learnt about our **Real God** that will make our **Church** more **Real** so that we live **Real Lives**.

Real God, Real Church, Real Lives