

they never stop singing

Revelation 4:1-8

May 13, 2018

They never stop singing ...

Because there is always something to sing about! When you are in the presence of God, when you are aware of being in the presence of God, when everywhere you look you see the manifestation of the glory of God, there is always something to sing about! Isn't there? Heaven is full of music!

There are three details in this vision of heaven, in this vision of the throne room of God, of which I want you to take special notice.

The first: What color is heaven? All kinds of colors! Heaven is not sterile or boring. There is jasper and carnelian, bright red, and emerald, bright green, white and gold, and a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

And there are sounds: rumblings and peals of thunder, and, of course, all the singing. There are flashes of lightning and flaming torches and creatures, strange and wonderful creatures. It's a scene of wonder and terror, rich and colorful and bright and loud and glorious.

The second detail: Who is singing? The four creatures are singing, the four strange and wonderful creatures, each with six wings, covered with eyes front and back, but each with different forms, different faces: one like a lion, one like a bull, one like an eagle, and one with a face like a human face.

Surely these creatures are meant to be symbolical figures, and yet, what do they represent? A lion ... wild animals. A bull ... domesticated animals. An eagle ... birds of the air. And one with a face like a human being.

Who is singing? All creatures are singing! All of creation is singing! All of creation is singing: *Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come!*

The last detail I want you to notice. Where are the people? Where are you and me? We are not there. We are not in heaven. I will say it again: heaven is the place from which God comes, not the place to which we go.

Where are we? We are here, where we've always been, on earth. And what are we doing? We should be singing! Jesus told us to pray: "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." What is done in heaven, we should be doing on earth. If they are singing in heaven, we should be singing on earth!

When we sing, when we sing in praise of God, we sing a song already being sung in heaven. We don't make up the song, we just make it our own. And when we sing, when we make music in praise of God, we bring heaven to earth. Music is heaven on earth ...